

news

JANUARY 2025

“Every moment is a fresh beginning.”
-T.S. Eliot



From the Top

Dear Board Members and Academy Leaders,

Welcome to 2025 and Happy New Year!

As we step into January, we're excited about the opportunities this new year brings. Whether it's through innovative programs, inspiring classroom moments, or our shared commitment to student success, we are dedicated to making this year extraordinary for our charter school community. In our first newsletter of 2025, we will highlight the following: new staff, board training opportunities, showcase our talented and accomplished charter students and academies, provide finance, compliance, and board appointment information.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, let's make 2025 a year of growth, achievement, and connection!

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski
Executive Director

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WELCOME

Hometown: Sault Ste. Marie - 49 years

CSO Position: School Support Specialist

Family Information: I am the second oldest of 6 children. My mom was a housewife and my dad was an Electrical Engineering professor at LSSU for 43 years, retiring in 2017. I graduated from Sault Area Schools in 1993 and was married the following June at the mature age of 18. I had four children by age 25. I graduated with a B.S. in Education from LSSU in 1999 with a newborn, 1 1/2 year old, and 3 year old. My husband and I celebrated 30 years of marriage this past June.

We now have four adult children, three young grandsons, two labs, Ginger and LuLu, a few chickens, and a handful of Red Devon and Scottish Highlander cattle. My husband and I are empty nesters, we enjoy keeping busy with multiple projects and spending as much time with our children and grandchildren as possible. We operated a dairy farm for most of our 30 year marriage, selling our cows in 2018. We used to work 365 days a year, 16 hour days, and managed about 15 employees (in our backyard).

Today, we produce commercial organic big square hay, farming about 1200 acres in our short summer season that is trucked all over the country. In the winter, we store boats and campers in the barns that used to house 400 head of cattle. We are also involved in commercial snow removal and manage short and long term rentals on our farms. We love working with our children and are very grateful for the life we live.

Work Experiences: Elementary Classroom Teacher 12 years, Instructional Coach 7 years. Teacher, Admin, and Instructional Coach certifications. I am ABD (All But Dissertation) with a focus on Educational Leadership. I have been ABD since Fall of 2019, life circumstances continually have prevented me from finishing, now my primary focus is spending time with my grandsons and I do not envision myself ever devoting that much time to writing a dissertation. Life is too short. But maybe someday...I would not have been able to pursue a degree beyond the Bachelor's if it was not for remote education. I was one of the first graduates from MSUs completely remote Master's Degree.

In my years as a coach, I developed solid relationships with building administrators and have found that can be a very lonely job. I see administrator support as a gap in education. I hope in this role, I am able to support the administrators in our Charter Schools in any way I can.

Hobbies: Work - I actually love to be productive and busy and enjoy working. My husband and I operate many small businesses together. In our free time I love being outdoors, but hate being cold. Making my outdoor time quite limited in the winter. We enjoy boating, hiking, beach walks, and skiing in the winter. We both have work hard, play hard personalities. I am the type that needs a vacation from my vacation.

A Little Known Fact About You: A dream of mine would be to go on an extended boating adventure. Maybe boat around the world. I love meeting new people and places and engaging in new cultures. I did not know the job of anthropologist existed when I was younger, if I had, that probably would have been my life career. I do have a double major in geography and English and I loved my geography courses.

Random fact 2: Although married to a multi-generational farmer, I have zero farming DNA. I have delivered many calves, used to feed up to 30 calves twice a day, and engaged in many other dairy farming tasks. I still drive a tractor in the summer, but my primary role is emotional support and meal delivery. No matter how hard a task, situation, or job is, I always say it is not as hard as running a dairy farm, and at least we are not in the pit fixing the manure pump. Due to being raised on a farm, my children had a non-traditional childhood, they had to work hard and were not able to engage in as many extra curricular activities as I would have liked them to. I understand and have lived being a non-traditional student and my children have also been non-traditional students. My children are amazing hard workers, and creative thinkers, so I give myself credit now that what seemed so hard years ago has actually benefited them as adults.

LSSU & CSO Office: I am deeply committed to the University and recognize its vital role in serving the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan regions. In this position, I hope to support the university and promote our unique, historic institution to charter school students statewide, encouraging them to consider it as a valuable postsecondary option. I hope to think outside the box on ways we can engage LSSU and Charter School opportunities for the students we serve.



Tammy Bell
School Support Specialist

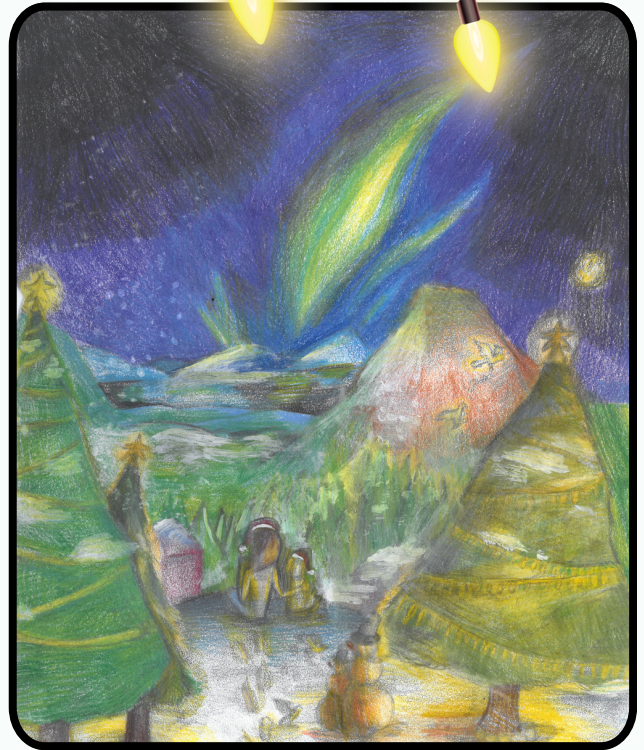


Submitted by
Tammy Bell

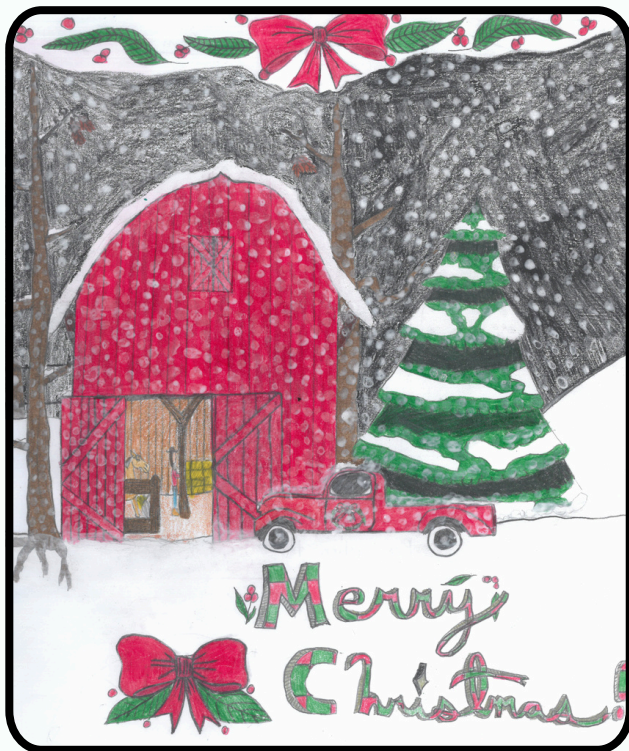
Holiday Card Contest- WINNERS



BETH HALLADAY
9TH-12TH WINNER



PENELOPE GARRIS
6TH-8TH WINNER



ELLA HOFFMAN
3RD-5TH WINNER

Each year, the LSSU CSO hosts a holiday card contest. Any student attending an LSSU authorized academy is eligible. Winners are chosen in the following categories; Kindergarten, 1st-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th, Judge's Choice, and LSSU Spirit Award. We look forward to this event each year and are always amazed at the quality of the submissions. The artwork of the winners is not only featured on our holiday card but each winner receives a box of goodies that includes LSSU Swag. Congratulations to this years winners. We are so proud of you.

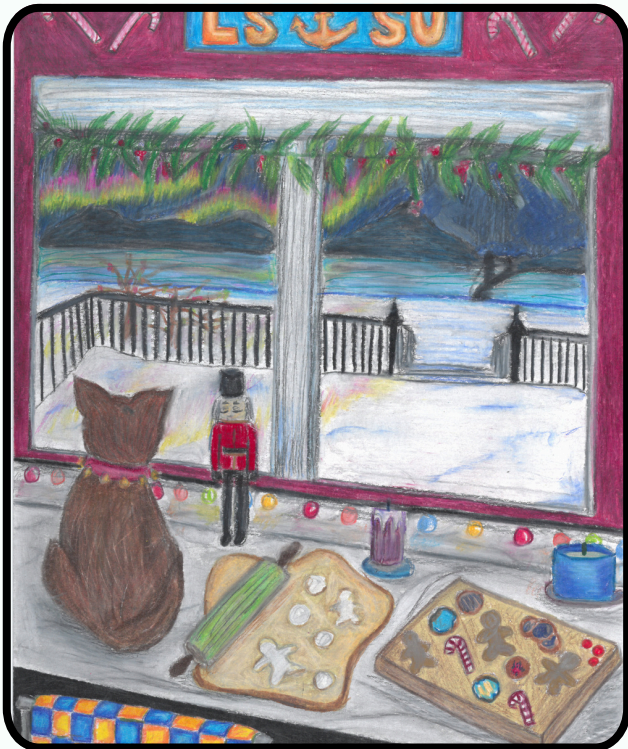
Holiday Card Contest



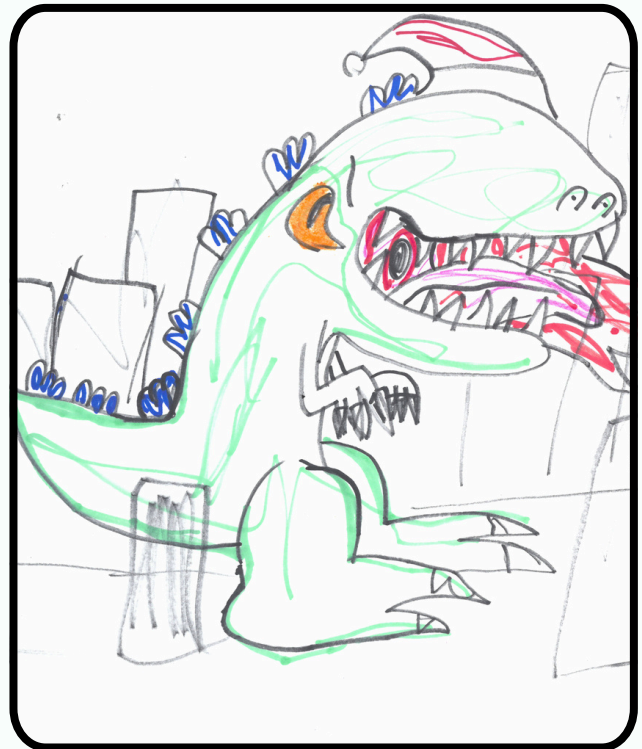
GRACE GERING
1ST-2ND WINNER



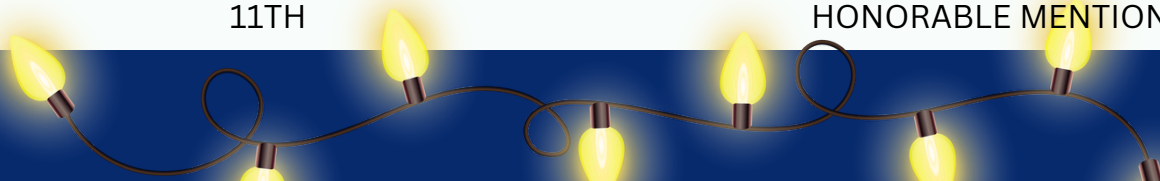
BELLA PFENNING
JUDGE'S CHOICE WINNER



EMILY NEEDHAM
LSSU SPIRIT WINNER
11TH



AABWED MORSEAU
JUDGE'S CHOICE
HONORABLE MENTION 1ST

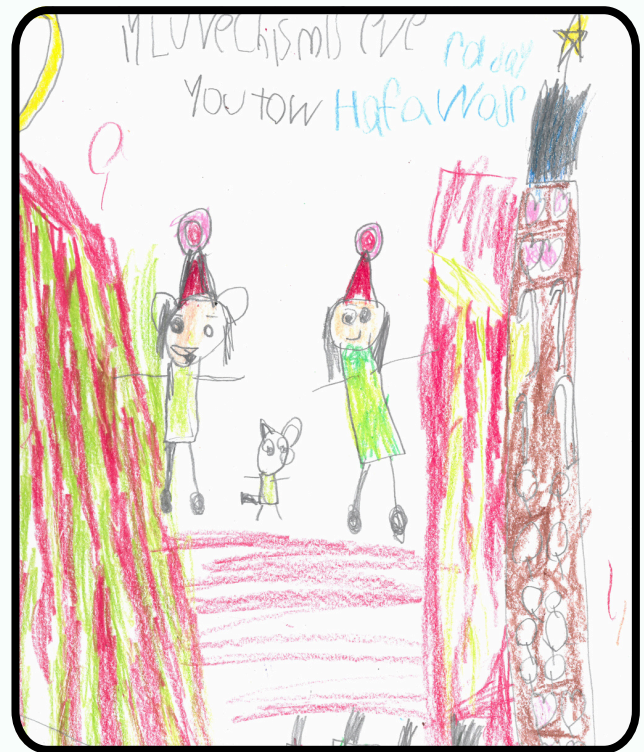


Holiday Card Contest



HANNAH TYLER
JUDGE'S CHOICE

HONORABLE MENTION KINDERGARTEN



VASHANTI NESBITT
HONORABLE MENTION

1ST-2ND



OLIVER FULTZ
HONORABLE MENTION
3RD-5TH



EMBER LAUZON
HONORABLE MENTION
6TH-8TH

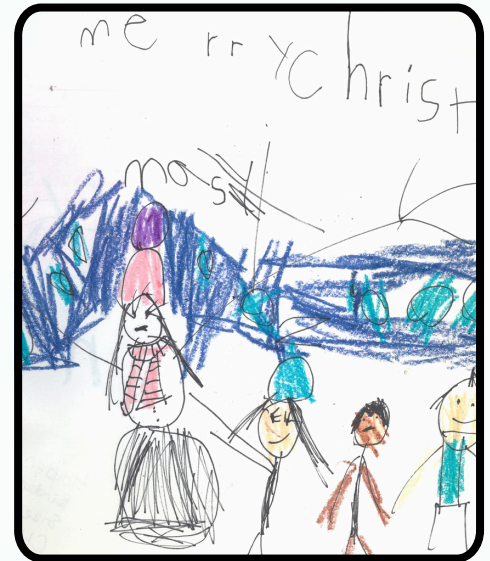
Holiday Card Contest



OLIVER JANKA
HONORABLE MENTION
9TH-12TH



CHLOE MELL
HONORABLE MENTION
LSSU SPIRIT



HAYDEN RANDALL
HONORABLE MENTION
JUDGE'S CHOICE



ABIGAIL HENION
HONORABLE MENTION
6TH-8TH



ADALINE WINBERG
HONORABLE MENTION
3RD-5TH

Board Member Learning Opportunities

Professional Development Options Virtual

- **Sept. 3:** Navigating your Role as a New Board Member – Part I (Format: Zoom)
- **Oct. 1:** Why Can't we all Just get Along? (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Nov. 5:** Establishing a Positive Board Culture (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Dec. 3:** Board President Interaction (Format: Zoom)
- **Jan. 7:** Bringing Order to Meetings (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Feb. 4:** The Role of the Board Treasurer (Format: Zoom)
- **Mar. 4:** Acquainting Yourselves with Board Policy (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **Apr. 1:** Cultivating Relationships as part of Good Governance (Format: GoToWebinar)
- **May 6:** Navigating Your Role as a New Board Member – Part II (Format: Zoom)

Please look for an email from AirWin Educational Services for registration information. All virtual sessions will be held the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in September, running through May, with a start time of 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Oshelski, coshelski@lssu.edu.

NEWS

WORLD POLITICS BUSINESS SPORTS SCIENCE

The LSSU CSO newsletter is published quarterly. (September, January, April, and July) In each edition, space is set aside to feature all of the good things occurring in our public school academies. Our academies are assigned a particular month to be featured, however, may also submit articles during other months. If space permits, we do our best to honor the request. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Buchholtz at jhopper@lssu.edu.



“If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed.”

-Mark Twain

2024-25 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICADEMY GLOBAL• INNOCADEMY ZEELAND• MOMENTUM• WAY FLINT• WAY DETROIT
	ARTICLE DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 6, 2024
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONCORD BOYNE• ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY• DSLA, RSLA, OSLA• DATA• TIPTON
	ARTICLE DEADLINE JANUARY 6, 2025
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHARLTON HESTON• INNOCADEMY ALLEGAN• RIDGE PARK• MACOMB• AMERICAN INTL.
	ARTICLE DEADLINE APRIL 4, 2025
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GRAND TRAVERSE• CONCORD PETOSKEY• REGENT PARK• BAY CITY• NORTH CENTRAL
	ARTICLE DEADLINE JULY 7, 2025

-NOTE-

EMAIL ARTICLE TO JHOPPER@LSSU.EDU

Governor's Youth Volunteer of the Year



Congratulations to GTA freshman Piper Shumar, who received a 2024 Governor's Service Award as a Youth Volunteer of the Year on November 14 at the Detroit Opera House. Piper started collecting returnable cans at the age of eight, using the proceeds to purchase and donate bicycles to NW Michigan Marine Toys For Tots. As of December 2023, she had donated a total of 1,000 bikes for disadvantaged children (including an adaptive bike for special needs). She expects to add another 100 and a second adaptive bike by the end of this year. What an amazing effort, Pipers Project This Girl Can!

Photo credit: Kimberly Shumar
#myGTA #caringissharing #
Michigan Community Service Commission

Submitted by Grand Traverse Academy



7 Benefits of Riding Bikes for Kids

1. *It's great for physical development.*
2. *It helps kids sleep better.*
3. *It's beneficial for mental health.*
4. *It's a great way to bond with friends and family.*
5. *In towns, it's often faster than driving.*
6. *It's great for the planet.*
7. *You experience more of your surroundings.*

Source: <https://www.littlebigbikes.com/7-reasons-riding-a-bike-is-great-for-your-kids/>



LSSU EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

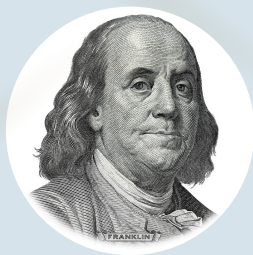
Congratulations to CSO's Associate Director/Finance and Governance Specialist, Becky Clawson, for being nominated as one of the finalists for the 2024 Academic Professional of the Year at Lake Superior State University.



Becky has worked at LSSU for eleven years. We are fortunate to have her on our team. Becky is hard working, reliable, meticulous, and a team player. We are proud of you, Becky. Your nomination is a well deserved honor. Way to represent the Charter Schools Office!

Academic Professionals Employee of the Year Nominees

- Marc Boucher
- Bruce Buckley
- **Rebecca Clawson**
- Jeffrey Friedt
- Katie Kelsey
- Shelby Mackie
- Barbra Marsh
- Eric Richardsen
- Jody Schopp



"An investment in knowledge
pays the best interest."
-Benjamin Franklin-



Finance Corner



DUE DATES

Budget Revision Resolution
1/31/2025

2nd Quarter Financial Statements
2/13/2025

Financial Audit Letter of Engagement
3/29/2025

ABC's of Board Reappointment

It is that time of the school year that we at the Charter Schools Office start the procedure of reappointments for board members whose terms are expiring this June. Here is a quick reminder of the process. Your field supervisor will advise your board at the next board meeting who is up for reappointment this June. If the board member would like to serve another 3 year term, these are the steps that are required to be completed:

Step 1: The school board will need to nominate the board member for another term. The board member will accept the nomination and the board will take a vote to approve.

Step 2: The Board member will complete an application for reappointment. This will be provided by the Field Supervisor. This is so the Charter Schools Office has permission to conduct a background check as required by law. These steps and paperwork must be completed on or before **April 1 st , 2025.**

Step 3: With the above steps completed, the LSSU Board of Trustees will then vote to appoint this person to serve another term with the academy board. This will occur at the spring meeting.

Step 4: The board member will receive an email notifying them they were approved by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

Step 5: At the June meeting, the Board member will take an oath of office. An oath will be provided by your Field Supervisor and must be notarized. Your Field Supervisor can help with that as well. The new term will take effect as of July 1 st , 2025.

Thank you everyone for your continuous time and commitment to helping our charter schools. We could not do all that we do without you.

-Melissa Weisberger, Supervising Field Officer



2025 Charter Week May 12-18

Activities each week including nominate an Unsung Hero and a Change Maker. Charter Day at the Capital will take place on May 14.



DeTour Arts & Technology Academy

Academy Spotlight

DeTour Arts and Technology Student Council sponsored a Food Drive War the weeks leading up to Christmas for DATA Elementary and Middle School and DeTour High School. This is an annual tradition the students look forward to each year; and this year, over the course of 10 days, almost 800 food and household items were collected and donated to a local food bank to assist families this holiday and winter season. When all classroom and individual grade donations were collected and counted, the following classes were announced as the winners: the DATA Elementary 4th and 5th grade classroom, the DATA 6th grade, and the DeTour High School Senior class each won at their respective levels. These groups will be rewarded with a special lunch of pizza and ice cream in January. DeTour Arts and Technology Academy wants to again thank all who donated and helped make a difference in our communities.

Submitted by Sara Galarowic



Front Row Sitting (LtoR): Paytyn Bourque, Jersey Postula, Adalyn Gray, Lily Fountain, Zayden Potvin

Back Row Kneeling (LtoR): Allison Spohn, Isabell Sherlund, Morley Galarowic, Mack Galarowic, Alice Reou

“Service to others leads to greatness.”

-Jim Rohn

Advanced Technology Academy

During the 24-25 first semester, ATA families and students strengthened the Home-to-School-to-Real World CONNECTIONS. To keep families and students engaged in our educational program, we continue to provide opportunities that link classroom instruction to our students' future experiences.

The Academy hosted an 8th Grade Parent Symposium to focus on the benefits of attending our high school - Early Middle College, Virtual Reality Career Classes, Career & Technical Education Program, and Dual-Enrollment opportunities. In addition, parents gained valuable insight on the inner workings of the "ATA Advantage", highlighting the simplicity of the program enabling our students to earn up to 60 college credits and an associates degree in their 13th year. Both parents and students learned how all 11th grade students in good academic standing receive the benefits of the "ATA Advantage."

Families participated in Game Night where critical thinking skills were highlighted by playing popular board games. Parents reported that this event gave them the chance to slow down and have meaningful time with their children.



Advanced Technology Academy



Our Mechatronics students visited the Great Lakes Water Facility in Detroit for Manufacturing Day and were able to see the full process on how the filtration process works. Students were also introduced and encouraged to apply for a new summer internship opportunity starting in the summer of 2025.



Right, **Nolan Lawson**

Sophomore Nola Lawson was chosen to participate on the MDE Student Advisory Council. She meets monthly with State Superintendent Michael F. Rice and other department leads. Nola is working on the topics related to mental health services of youth.



Philosophy

We believe in authorizing through the lens of an educator, realizing students are more than academic performance or financial incentives. True authorizing takes into account the whole child, whole academy, and whole community while recognizing the importance of increased performance and sustainability.

Mission

To ensure quality oversight and support to our authorized charter academies resulting in students who are prepared for the next phase of life whether it be attending college, joining the military, or entering the workforce.

Vision

We envision an educational system in Michigan that provides families with diverse educational opportunities that allow each child to flourish and find their place in the global community.



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