

Dear LSC Campus Community:

Here we are in Fall of 2022, ready for a new semester. Our buildings are polished and clean with many newly painted and furnished classrooms. Our new boilers are on their way here and other facilities improvements are underway. We have newly furnished active learning classrooms. We have big plans for even more improvements and new ideas for innovative academic programs. And best of all, we have hired wonderful new people in many areas of the campus, bringing new energy and excitement to the LSC community.

At the same time, we continue to be challenged by the twin pandemics of COVID and systemic racism and a general unease in the country, which has contributed to morale issues and a loss of civility on our campus. Our PACE data pointed to a growing feeling of uncertainty and even fear. That must be addressed by all of us, not just our leadership team.

Toward the end of spring 2022, I took steps to address these issues and to bring back a sense of family and safety here at LSC. I listened to the concerns, worked with our campus leadership team, sought input and advice from committees and individuals who came forward with observations and suggestions. The Campus Leadership Team and I have already implemented some of the suggestions. And we will do more as the semester unfolds.

For example, there is a new **suggestion box** added to our website where LSC employees can drop comments, ideas, suggestions, etc. and may do so anonymously or can receive a direct answer by leaving their name and email. Go to the [LSC Portal Page](#) under Faculty/Staff and find the **LSC Suggestion Box** button below the "Submit a Ticket" list. We also added a more user-friendly calendar that provides weekly and monthly schedules for various events and happenings. Go to the main web page, scroll down to "CALENDARS" and click on "[LSC master calendar](#)." You can also find it on the [LSC portal page](#) under "Meetings and Events."

I continued these efforts this year, starting with a mandatory respectful workplace training session on August 9th with our Campus Leadership Team. This training, offered by MMB, will also be available to staff and faculty sometime during this coming year. Watch for announcements.

We are also in the process of forming a new **Task Force on Civil Discourse** to develop the LSC civil discourse statement. The purpose of this task force is to demonstrate LSC's ongoing commitment to the institution's values, which include free inquiry, equity and diversity, trust and respect, integrity, collaboration, and community. This statement will guide how best to have civil discourse in an educational setting that is committed to the principles of free speech. The task force will include 8-12 members from across the campus community. Please see the attached form for details. If you are interested in signing up for this task force please click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/U0RbDuYmTi>.

In addition, this is the year that we shift our HLC work into high gear.

The work we do to make LSC more welcoming, friendly, safe, and inclusive is intimately connected to our Mission, Vision, and Values. This Fall, we will begin looking closely at all five Criteria for Accreditation. Criterion 1 is all about Mission, Vision, and Values!

Our task this Fall is to have the campus community (staff, faculty, students) either **reaffirm or reimagine** the following:

Mission

Lake Superior College serves the community and supports the economy of Northeast Minnesota and beyond by providing high-value accessible higher education and advanced training in a supportive environment.

Vision

We will strengthen our community by anticipating and meeting its needs for innovative education and training.

Values

LSC values:

- lifelong learning
- equity and diversity
- innovation and initiative
- trust and respect
- academic freedom and free inquiry
- integrity and stewardship
- collaboration
- community

There will be a process for providing your input for reaffirmation or reimagination of our Mission, Vision, and Values that you will hear about very soon. But I wanted to get you thinking about this now as we move into the new semester and all the very busy activities that Fall start up brings.

Does the Mission still represent LSC? What about Vision and Values? How have recent societal events impacted our Mission, Vision, and Values and do they still resonate as true and aspirational for LSC in 2022 and for the next 5 to 10 years? Do they speak to our students and potential students as relevant, inclusive, and appropriate?

I am certain many of you will generate more ideas and questions and I envision lively campus-wide discussions this semester.

Be well, be safe, and have a wonderful start up for Fall 2022!

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
President
Lake Superior College

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers -- [More about pronouns](#)