

Dear LSC Campus Community:

This is the start of a new and exciting year for LSC. This year is also the final year that I will serve as your President. I have been in conversations with Chancellor Olson and have let him know that I plan to retire at the end of my contract on June 30, 2025.

My career at Minnesota State started as a fixed-term professor at Bemidji State in 1996! I moved through the ranks, becoming a full professor, and in 1999-2000 had a short stint in the system office as a system director for instructional technology. In 2001, I moved to Iceland for a time while serving as a Fulbright Scholar, designing and teaching online graduate courses. Later, after returning to my post as a professor, I took a leave of absence to be the founding Dean of the School of Education and Graduate Studies at Valley City, North Dakota. I soon came back as an interim Dean at Bemidji State, then became a full Dean for a number of years. In 2013, I left Bemidji State for Winona State when I became the Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs. In 2019, I left Winona State for my capstone experience and the privilege of serving as Lake Superior College's President.

Through all of this hopping around the state in service to students, Wendy, my wife of 39+ years was with me, supporting me, and enjoying the various locations and homes we were privileged to own for a time. Though we no longer have adventures together, her spirit lives on. One of the things she very much wanted was to donate our beloved children's book collection to the LSC library. That brought her (and me) great joy knowing our students and their children would enjoy these stories and images for years to come. Thank you to Kate and Suzi for taking these and other beloved books into the LSC collections.

Everything we do here is so very important and focused on the success of our students. I love that about LSC and I love working with all of you so very much. Yet after five and now going on six years as your President, I know it is time to step aside to make way for the next person who will bring new energy and ideas and who, together with all of you, will take LSC to that next level of excellence.

As a community, we have accomplished so much over these years. We made it with grit and grace through the COVID years, we survived the huge remodeling of our main campus and a couple of internal floods, we moved our downtown center, and we are in the process of building a state-of-the-art integrated manufacturing addition. We have a new library with TRIO and TLC and IT together creating a fantastic hub for student success. We built Hawks Landing and the new Icehawk Café.

But more importantly, we have supported our students, ensured their well-being, strengthened their skills and abilities to succeed, and made LSC a desirable and welcoming destination for all. Programs at our campus locations provide the best preparation for workforce success. Our enrollment is up, our partnerships are strong, and we have plans for new ventures through grants. You did that!

I want to thank each of you for your dedication to students, your hard work, your love for this College, and for the amazing spirit you bring with you every day. Based on my experience in the Minnesota State system and as a long-time HLC reviewer, I can say with a great deal of credibility that Lake Superior College is a jewel...and it is a jewel particularly because of people like you who care so much about students and each other. It has been an honor to have had time with you in this important work, and we will keep the pedal to the metal in the coming year. My sincere thank you for the opportunity, and I plan to stay in touch after I retire. Truly, I'll always be an Icehawk!

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