

2025-26 Student Affairs Annual Report

Brief Overview

The Division of Student Affairs continued our mission of celebrating, supporting, and inspiring students. In an effort to align our programming and services to best support student success, we focused on two key initiatives; developing a learning model for Student Affairs and embarking on a division-wide strategic planning effort.

Our Student Affairs Learning Model is taking shape, guided by our educational priority: *“By participating in the Student Affairs Experience, students will develop self awareness while exploring their purpose. They will thrive amid change and engage thoughtfully with others as lifelong learners.”*

Six goals support this educational priority, each goal representing one of the University values with specific outcomes related to these goals [see Appendix A]. The team who is guiding the division through the development of this learning model worked diligently over the past year to create these goals and outcomes along with rubrics for assessing their effectiveness. The team’s work continues into the upcoming year as they align programs and services throughout the division, create facilitation guides for these programs and services, and launch our learning model. This launch will begin with strategies toward the Tenacity Goal: Students will make ethical choices and persevere through all obstacles.

For our strategic planning initiative, each department within student affairs completed a benchmark survey, focusing on other R1 public universities. This survey identified areas of improvement and assisted in development of the strategic plans in each department. To date, Career Services’ strategic plan is in place and the Wahner Center for Student Success will finalize their strategic plan prior to the start of classes in the fall. All other areas are in some phase of development of their plans and will complete these plans by the end of the upcoming academic year.

Highlights from each department within Student Affairs not mentioned in the summary above can be found in Appendix B. Associated metrics can be found in Appendix C.

Top 5 Accomplishments

- Continued development of the Student Affairs Learning model.
- Completed a benchmark survey and began development of strategic plans for each department within Student Affairs.
- Launched the Husky Family Den portal for parents and families.
- Expanded opportunities for student-employer engagement through six Career Fests, four boutique career fairs, and numerous mixers, information sessions, and cross-campus engagement opportunities.
- Created a Student Disability Services Student Advisory Board.

Challenges/Obstacles to Success

There are a few factors creating obstacles to our success. The decline in International student enrollment and the anxiety our current international students are experiencing due to the climate in the United States regarding immigration issues will continue to be a source of concern for us. We are attempting to address these concerns by providing one-on-one support for both our current and incoming international students, particularly around their questions of visa approvals, renewals, and travel restrictions. Another challenge we are facing is overall uncertainty around our programming budgets. By instituting the new position management approach and requiring positions funded through the general fund to be funded at 100% at the start of the year, we are having to adapt our approach to funding many of the programs and services in Student Affairs. While this has been, and will continue to be a challenge, it has been a great exercise in fiscal responsibility for many of our directors. In the end, I believe we will be better stewards of the funds available, but it will be an exercise in change management to achieve this outcome.

Goals & Initiatives for 2026-2027

- Continue with the launch of the Student Affairs Learning Model
- Establish a committee whose charge will be to ensure ongoing execution of the Be Well Initiative and to establish a collaborative environment and working relationship for the occupants and students who will utilize the Chang K. Park Center for Student Wellness
- Health Promoting Campus Initiative
 - Continue advancing Michigan Tech's Health Promoting Campus (Okanagan Charter) initiative.
 - Establish a cross-campus Health Promotion Collective with representation from key stakeholder groups.
 - Develop a sustainable framework for ongoing implementation in future academic years.
- First Generation College Student Support
 - Enhance first-gen student celebrations like First-Gen Day and First-Gen Graduation Celebration for first-gen students and their families and explore ways to continue fundraising for these initiatives.
 - Increase awareness of First-Gen student issues by highlighting our first generation support programs in publications, presentation, and social media; including first generation student support resources in the new faculty orientation presentations, and conducting other awareness events across campus.

Appendix A

Student Affairs Learning Model

Educational Priority: By participating in the Student Affairs Experience, students will develop self awareness while exploring their purpose. They will thrive amid change and engage thoughtfully with others as lifelong learners.

Goal 1: POSSIBILITIES: Students will innovatively explore and create using their skills and knowledge.

Possibilities are discovered when trying new things and stepping into the unknown with curiosity and confidence. Students will learn to ask better questions, explore new opportunities, and imagine what's next. As students continue to discover possibilities, they clarify what matters to them and refine their values to guide their choices.

Outcomes:

1. Students will identify and refine a personal set of values.
2. Students will embrace a growth mindset.
3. Students will be able to articulate their skills and contributions.

Goal 2: SCHOLARSHIP: Students will engage in world-class academics, research, and continued learning.

Students will learn the skills needed to navigate the complexities of their academic journey; allowing them to explore opportunities, participate in experiential activities and engage with support.

Outcomes:

1. Students will intentionally choose experiences that enhance their personal and professional development.
2. Students will utilize their resources and support systems appropriately to thrive academically.

Goal 3: COMMUNITY: Students will engage with others and actively seek improvement through acceptance and understanding.

While engaging with campus and community members, students have the opportunity to increase their understanding of the world around them. Embracing community contributes to feeling valued and accepted while also fostering a commitment to growth.

Outcomes:

1. Students will develop meaningful relationships.
2. Students will explore diverse perspectives.
3. Students will cultivate empathy.

Goal 4: ACCOUNTABILITY: Students will act with integrity, honesty, and diligence.

Accountability is fostering the skill of taking responsibility for actions and decisions. It emboldens you to think before acting and to reconcile missteps with honesty and integrity.

Outcomes:

1. Students will manage their emotions.
2. Students will take responsibility for their actions.

Goal 5: TENACITY: Students will make ethical choices and persevere through all obstacles.

Michigan Tech's academic rigor and rural location require a unique type of tenacity. Students will build the skills and determination to advocate for themselves. They will make ethical choices and persist through challenges and obstacles.

Outcomes:

1. Students will advocate for themselves.
2. Students will persevere through challenges.
3. Students will make ethical choices.

Goal 6: LEADERSHIP: Students will boldly push everyday boundaries while serving others.

Leadership is a collection of qualities and skills unique to each person. Students will refine their leadership potential as they dare to be innovative problem-solvers and push barriers. They will emerge as confident, capable leaders ready to transform the community around them.

Outcomes:

1. Students will communicate effectively.
2. Students will work collaboratively with others toward a common goal.
3. Students will effectively manage conflict.

Appendix B

Top Achievements in Student Affairs Departments

Academic & Community Conduct

- Created a public-facing report to ensure compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act.
- Decreased the number of failed 3rd attempts from 20% to 12%.
- Visited 6 academic departments and 1 college to discuss academic integrity.

Career Services

- Over 5,100 students engaged with Career Services during the academic year, with over 80% of first-year students attending a Career Fair.
- 498 unique employers recruited at Michigan Tech and three additional employers joined the Career Services Partner Program.
- Launched the Husky Careers Unleashed podcast, developed a comprehensive Career Path, and began revamping educational video content to increase access to career guidance beyond in-person interactions.
- Held three Career Fairs, six Career Fests, four boutique events, two interview days, and numerous mixers, information sessions, and cross-campus engagement opportunities.
- Deepened academic partnerships and continued building the foundation for a cross-campus Career Champions Network.

Center for Student Mental Health & Well-being

- Secured a \$42,000 grant through the Jamie Daniels Foundation to expand and support substance misuse prevention initiatives.
- Assessed telehealth partnership options and selected an enhanced provider, Mantra, to better meet student needs.
- Launched the process of becoming a Health Promoting Campus through stakeholder engagement and identification of potential collaborative initiatives.

Dean of Students - Student Development

- Launched the Husky Family Den portal and newsletter with exceptional results, achieving an engagement rate of over 90% among participating parents.
- Securely administered the Sixty by 30 Barrier Removal grant. Funds from this grant and the Husky Emergency Fund totaling \$41,429 were distributed to 70 students.
- Strengthened relationships with campus and community partners to distribute 14,226 pounds of food—nearly doubling the volume from the previous year. Recorded an all-time high of 4,484 visits to the campus food pantry, representing a 190% increase over last year's 1,542 visits.
- Achieved an 8.79% decrease in student absences, indicating that our efforts to clearly communicate attendance expectations to students, faculty, and staff were effective.

International Programs & Services

- Created the Talk A'Latte podcast focused on the needs of our international population. With 31 episodes (so far), it has generated over 916 streams across several platforms.
- IPS expanded into including faculty and staff immigration services, as well as consular support for admitted students in the visa approval process.
- Re-branded the Parade of Nations to be the Festival of Nations, an expanded multicultural festival which will take place on the Houghton waterfront pier as well as Dee Stadium.

Residence Education

- Successfully opened East Hall, adjusted to a larger professional and student staff team.
- 199 students applied to be RAs this year; the highest number ever. This reflects the intentional work of staff to create a professional, supportive, and engaging environment in our residence halls. .

Student Leadership & Involvement

- Launched the HuskyGOLD leadership pathway program in Fall 2025. 110 students enrolled in the program, 5 students completed the program, 19 students completed pillars within the program.
- Facilitated our first ever Hazing Prevention Week with multiple days of tabling, two events, and a marketing campaign
- Average attendance at HuskyLeads more than doubled from 13 to 27, GRIT participation increased 120%, Catalyst participation increased 178%, largely attributed to the launch of HuskyGOLD
- Increased RSO support and communication: created consistency behind the RSO Council meetings; established the SBG council and created standing agreements on acceptable uses of SAF budget funds, emphasized the use of Involvement Link for marketing which led to a 38.7% increase in event listings on the calendar

Wahtera Center for Student Success

- Successfully completed the first cycle of summer Orientation sessions with strong attendance.
- Expanded first-generation student outreach and fundraising initiatives, earning acceptance into the prestigious First-Gen Forward Network Leader phase.
- Student Disability Services launched a student advisory board specifically focused on identifying and removing accessibility barriers on campus.

Appendix C

Metrics

The Division of Student Affairs continues to support students in a number of ways through our individual departments.

Program/Initiative	2025-2026 Number of Students Served (unless otherwise indicated)	2024-2025 Number of Students Served (unless otherwise indicated)	2023-2024 Number of Students Served (unless otherwise indicated)
Dean of Students Office			
Student Support Cases	180	287	520
Absences	822	1157	1270
Student Withdrawal	127	100	103
Late Drop Requests/Approvals	48/27	39	46/33
Emergency Fund Requests	70	25	52
Emergency Funds disbursed	\$41,429	15,000	\$10,388
HuskyFAN Food Pantry	14,226 pounds distributed	7676 pounds distributed	7162 pounds distributed
HuskyFAN Donations	\$5478	\$6331	\$16,333
Early Intervention Team Cases	36	52	94
Student of Concern Reports	234	252	252
General Concern/Complaint Reports	46	54	50

Center for Student Mental Health & Well-being			
In-person individual & group appointments	3715	3824	3825
In-person unique students	618	695	667
In-person emergency contacts	64	116	125
TELUS appointments	169	214	320
TELUS unique students	100	160	179
TELUS emergency contact	6	23	22
Health & Well-being programming attendees (not unique)	13583	13391	14917
Mental Health First Aid participants (includes faculty & staff)	76	77	94
Question/Persuade/ Refer participants (includes faculty & staff)	402	288	283
Career Services			
Fall Career Fair	4290	4042	3926
Spring Career Fair	1158	1162	1381
Student Appointments	816	863	590
Summer Co-op	85	110	124
Fall Co-op	78	100	128
Spring Co-op	64	58	83
Academic & Community Conduct			

Academic Conduct Cases	215	119	108
Community Conduct Cases	381	345	399
Sexual Misconduct Cases	38 (18 cases of ongoing supportive measures)	35	34 (supportive measures only, no formal or informal process cases)
International Programs & Services			
Undergraduate Students	49	34	55
Graduate Students	593	713	699
Alumni (through OPT program)	693 (301 OPT/ 392 STEM OPT)	280	455
Scholars	55	29	57
Study Abroad (including faculty-led) participants	N/A	128	169
Student Leadership & Involvement			
Undergraduate students in an RSO	60%	53%	49%
Graduate students in an RSO	39%	38%	40%
Student Activity Fee funds spent	\$374,084* *As of 6/8/26	\$374,686	\$365,570
Afternoon on the Town participants	1207	821	1024
Make a Difference Day participants	659	541	501
Community service volunteers	1,413	1136	966
Community service hours	24,091	16,736	14,920
Fraternity & Sorority participants	677	612	558

Fraternity & Sorority philanthropy dollars raised	\$47,587	\$33,923	\$54,775
Wahtera Center for Student Success			
Orientation Participants Fall, Total	1610	1569	1806
Orientation Participants Spring, Total	21	25	41
EXSEL Participants	146	92	77
Disability Services - New student cases	150	368	249
Success Coach Meetings, Fall	632	600	290
Success Coach Meetings, Spring	617	448	253
Midterm Outreach, Fall	N/A	103	94
Midterm Outreach, Spring	N/A - reporting issues	Not available	144