

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

A Message from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University to Our Valued Friends

Aaniin, and welcome to Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University! Over the past year, we have made significant strides in strengthening our institution. We have exciting news to share with you, including our recent approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer two master's degree programs – a Master of Business Management and a Master of Human Services. This transition has led us to change our name from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College to Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University.

We have continued to foster alumni relations, and invited LCOOU Alumni to speak at the Niiganniziwin at the U Leadership series. This event allowed alumni to share their educational and career journeys with fellow alumni and current students. We are also proud to have recognized Carlena Dennis as Alumni of the Year at the second Annual Migiziwag Dayesaashijig Gala.

Our priority remains supporting our students, and that's why we launched the Eagles Nest Closet – a one-stop-shop offering food, supplies, clothing, toiletries, and winter gear. We also launched four new student scholarship opportunities and provided over \$14,000 in emergency aid to assist with expenses such as rent, childcare, utilities, auto repairs, and medical bills.

We successfully secured a second \$5 million federal appropriation to build infrastructure for our campus expansion plans.

Lastly, we celebrated our 40th anniversary with a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the night sky. We are so grateful to have been surrounded by over 200 friends and alumni for this special occasion.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to what the future holds for Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University.

Sincerely,
Jason Bisonette
Board of Regents Chair

Besikwebizod
Russell Swagger, Ph.D.
President



MISSION

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University mission is to provide Anishinaabe communities with post-secondary and continuing education while advancing the language, culture, and history of the Ojibwe.



2021-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University will continue to implement our mission by expanding our services and strengthening our relationships to meet the needs of the communities we serve.
2. Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University will practice ethical and responsible conduct by continuing to develop and care for those in its employ.
3. Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University will proactively pursue innovative ways to enhance current support services and create new opportunities for its students and alumni.
4. Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University will continue to evaluate current academic offerings and develop new programs to meet the needs of the tribal and surrounding communities we serve.
5. Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University will continue to develop relationships to increase the capacity to accomplish its goals and meet the needs of its students.



“Our students persevere against all odds to complete their education, to strengthen their futures, and to secure their children's futures. Their perseverance benefits not only themselves, but their community and future generations as well. Education plays a vital role in improving lives and securing brighter futures.”

Besikwebizod
Dr. Russell Swagger
President, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe
University

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

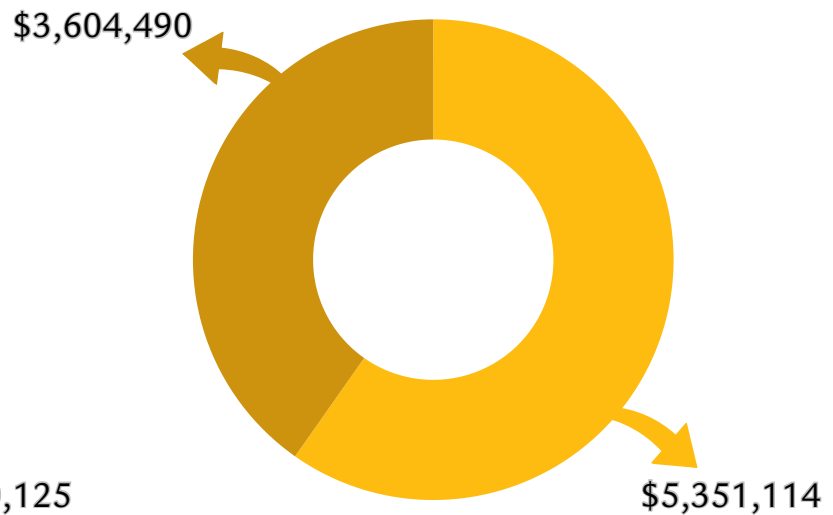
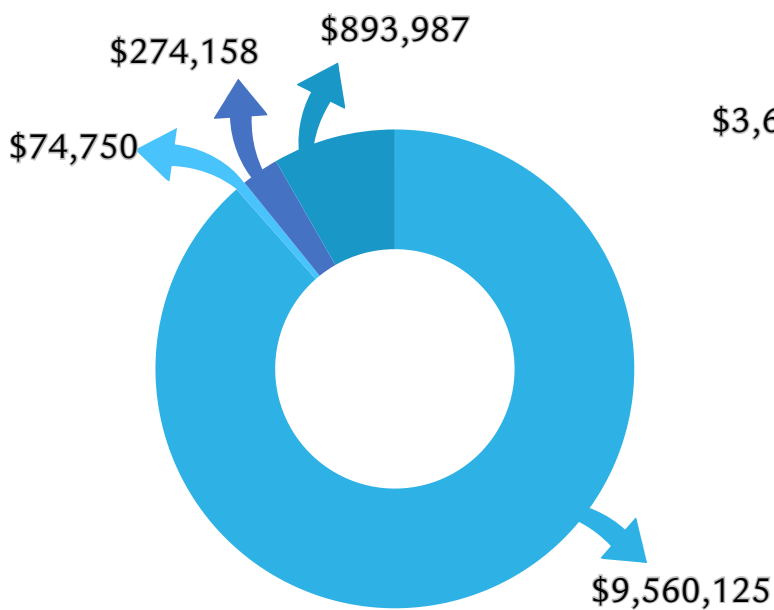
2022-2023 FINANCIAL POSITION

Revenue

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Contributions and Grants | \$ | 9,560,125 |
| Program Service (less allowances) | \$ | 74,750 |
| Investment Income | \$ | 274,158 |
| Other Revenue | \$ | 893,987 |
| Total | \$ | 10,803,020 |

Expenses

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | \$ | 5,351,114 |
| Other | \$ | 3,604,490 |
| Total | \$ | 8,955,604.00 |



- Contributions and Grants
- Program Service (less allowance)
- Investment Income
- Other Revenue

- Salaries and Wages
- Other

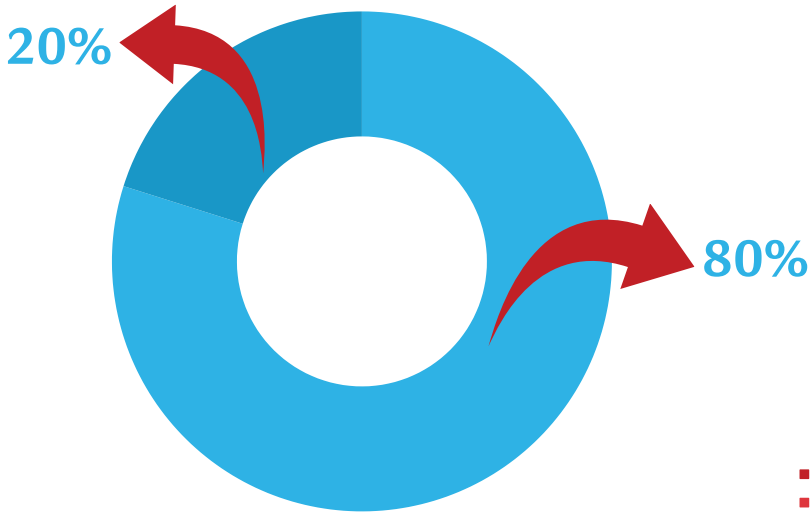
Statement of Financial Position

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Total Assets | \$ | 22,035,184 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ | 3,312,964 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ | 18,722,220 |



Fall 2022

- Native Student Head Count
- Non-Native Student Head Count

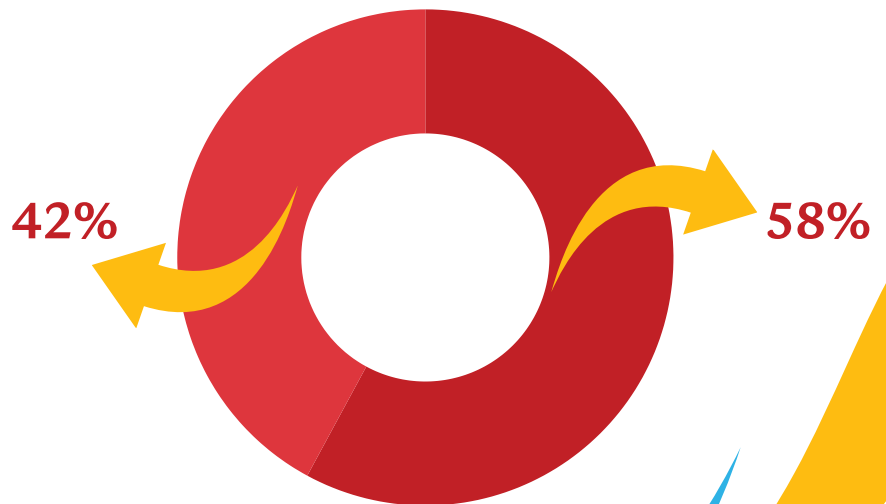


303 Total Head Count
2,674 Total Credits



Summer

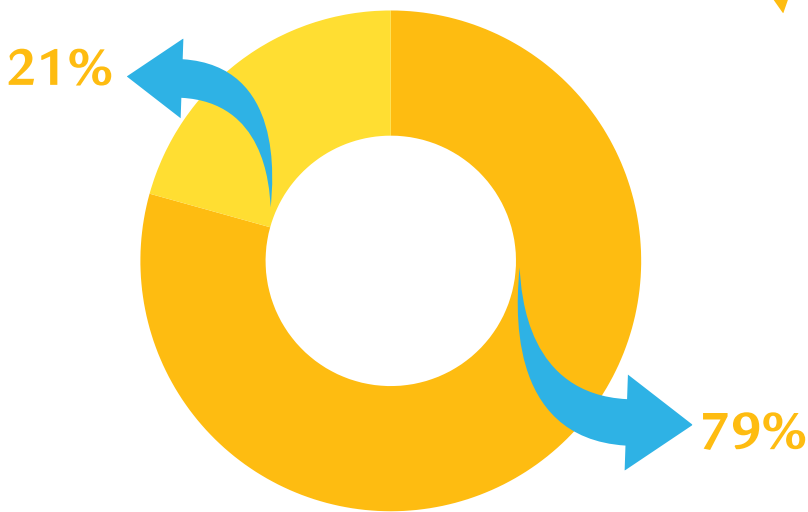
- Native Student Head Count
- Non-Native Student Head Count



38 Total Head Count
180 Total Credits

Spring

- Native Student Head Count
- Non-Native Student Head Count



266 Total Head Count
2196 Total Credits

ADVANCEMENT

Migiziwag Dayesaashijig Gala

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University welcomed more than 90 attendees to the 2023 Migiziwag Dayesaashijig Gala, raising more than \$6,300 at the event to support student scholarships.

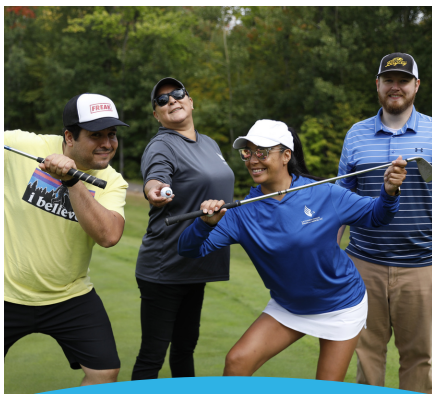
The 2023 Alumni of the Year Carlena Dennis is a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. According to her nominator, Carlena empathizes and loves the people she works with, demonstrates wisdom through long-term academic and career planning, and demonstrates respect and humility every day when working with clients from various walks of life.

“For many decades tribal members have been forced to tend to their mental health needs through visiting non-native practitioners. However, Bizhiki Wellness Center stands for promoting emotional and behavioral health through a tribal lens. Carlena exemplifies these leadership qualities day in and day out, and she is passionate about serving her tribal community in a way that recognizes, honors, and respects Ojibwe language, culture, history, and traditions.” - Wes Wilson, nominator

LCOOU’s Alumni of the Year Award recognizes one LCOOU alumni that has made extraordinary commitments to the mission of LCOOU and the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

Scholarship Golf Outing

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University raised more than \$25,000 through the 2022 Scholarship Golf Outing. Miigwech to our generous donors and sponsors. Funds raised through this event support student success through the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Scholarship Fund.



Student Scholarship Awards

During the 2022/2023 academic year, the University awarded \$136,300 to our students through scholarships. Those scholarships are made possible by our generous donors, who respond to our annual appeals, attend our events, and participate in employee giving.

Miigwech to our privately funded scholarships: Johnson Scholarship Foundation Scholarship for Business Students, Gay I. & Harry C. Leslie III Fund, Isham Scholarship Fund, Agriculture & Natural Resources Scholarship, Spirit of Sovereignty Scholarship, Gurusamy Memorial Scholarship, Bessie K. Bentley Polivka Scholarship, and the Marie Kuykendall Scholarship.

Thank you to our donors:

ACE Electrical Contractors, Inc.
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Grant Funders FY22-23

- Bureau of Indian Education
- Department of Education
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- American Indian College Fund
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Wisconsin Technically College System
- US Department of Agriculture
- Ascendum
- Indian Land Tenure Foundation
- American Indian Higher Education Consortium
- U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium
- Institute of Museum & Library Services
- Wells Fargo
- Native American Agriculture Fund
- Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government

Robert Fisher
Frandsen Bank & Trust
Harley Fredricksen
Sangeetha Ganesan
Tina Garner
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Elizabeth Gordon
Deb Gordon
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Jeffrey Harvey
Hayward Area Memorial Hospital
Debra Borg Helquist
Frank Helquist
Debra Helquist
Barbara Heqet
Indigenous Design Society
Monica Isham
Michael Isham
David Jacoby
Johnson Scholarship Foundation
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Jump River Electric Coop
Susan Kapsis
Kimberly Kayler
Robin Kimmerer
Jennifer King
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Christine Knauer
Beth Korahais
Solomon Kowo
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Joy M. Lancour
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Meredith Larson
LCO Country Store
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Patricia Loew
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Amber E. Marlow
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Pamela Miller

Donald Miller
Donna Miller-Small
Gayle and George Monaster
Morgan Stanley
Jed Morison
Ellen Moynahan
David Nelson
Aida Nema
Troy Noor
Danielle Nyman
Roberto Pacheco
James Pappas
Kathryn Piper
Harry Pitnof
Sierra Pletcher
William Reilly
Deanna Rivers
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Anna Scull
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Foundation Trust
L & M Fleet Supply
Dr. Michael Sullivan
Dr. Russell Swagger
Synod of Lakes and Praries
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Tamara Thimm
Craig Thomas
Susan Thomas
Alison Thompson
Kristin Thompson
TJ Electric
Louis Traverzo
Kalyan Vajapeyajula
Kyle Van Acker
Northland Fire & Safety
Jessica Wagner-Schultz
Robin Wall Kimmerer
Aaron Weis
John Williams
Wisconsin Indian Education
Association
Wisconsin Native Loan Fund
Xcel Energy

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SEVEN GENERATIONS INTERTRIBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University in collaboration with the College of the Menominee Nation and the University of Wisconsin System host the annual Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit. The goals of the summit are to gather Native Nations, Tribal Colleges and education institutions to better serve Native Nations. It also acts as an avenue for tribal leadership to examine various ways of strengthening the ability of institutions of higher education to better serve the region's tribal nations.

The 2022 Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Leadership Summit keynote speakers included:

State of the Child Pre-Convening

Marilyn J. Zimmerman, PhD, National Native Children's Trauma Center, Assiniboine Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

Amy Foster Wolferman, National Native Children's Trauma Center

Keynote - Education

Brenda J. Child, Author

Boarding Schools and American Indian Dispossession

Keynote - Environment

Dr. Rachel Byington, Choctaw Nation of Ok

Earth Partnership: Indigenous Arts and Sciences

Keynote - Health & Safety

Misty Cook (Davids), M.S., Author

Medicine Generations: Natural Native American Medicines Traditional to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans Tribe

Keynote - Economic & Workforce Development

Burton Warrington, MenominiYou

Menominee, Prairie Band Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk



183 Attendees
6 Vendors
5 Keynotes



Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College becomes a University

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College is now Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University

(Hayward, WI) – August 15, 2022 – Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College announced a change in name effective August 15, 2022, where they will now be officially known as Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University. The announcement comes on the heels of recent accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission for their new Masters in Business Administration and Masters in Human Services degrees.

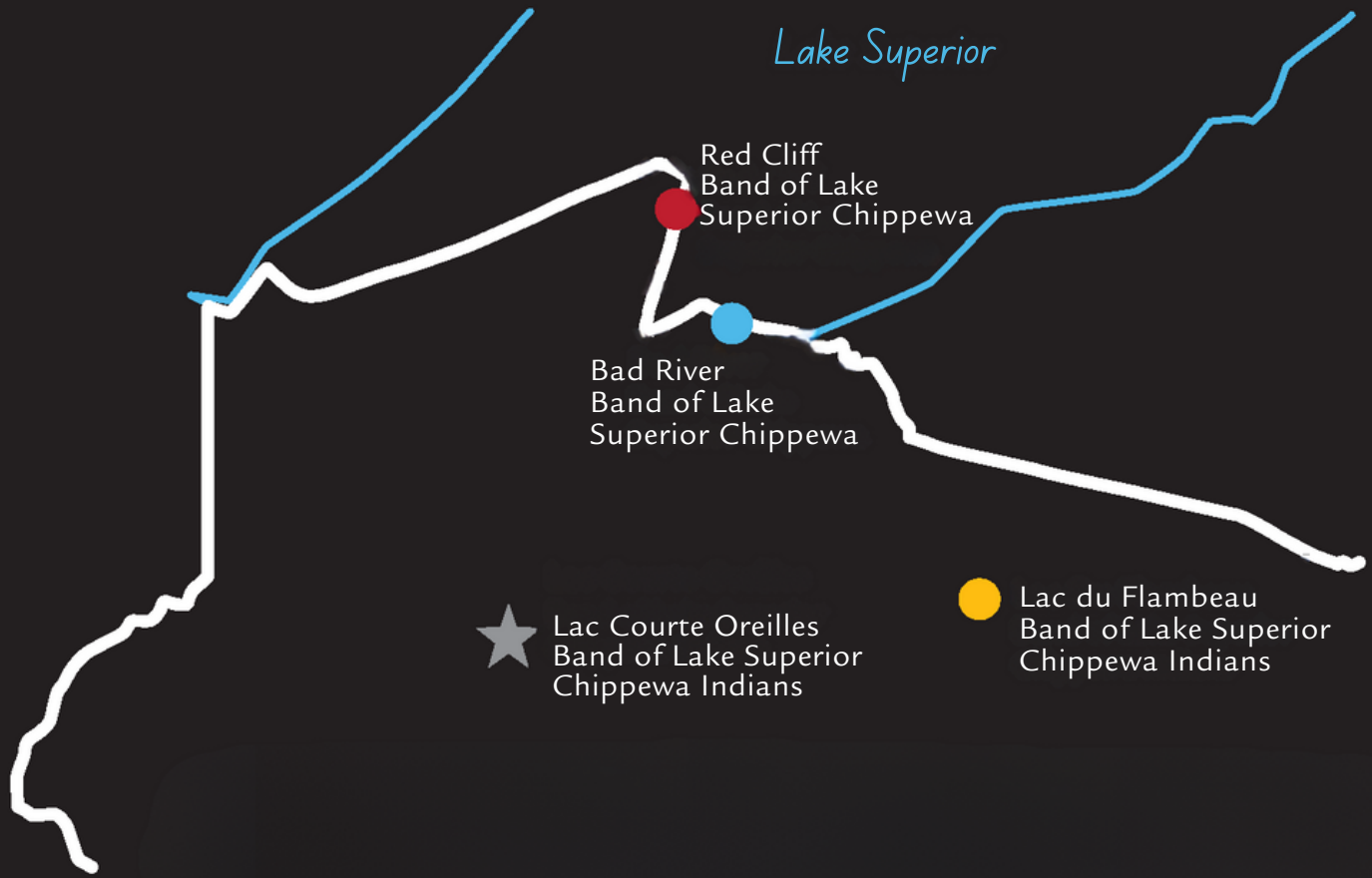
President Russell Swagger, Ph.D., said, “This transition is 40 years in the making. It originated as a dream for the people of Lac Courte Oreilles to achieve and obtain sovereignty for themselves and their future generations. Now, in 2022, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University is here. Because of this transition from a college to a university, we will be able to offer our students expansively more than what we were able to offer them previously.”

The university is planning a celebration on October 12, 2022, to recognize the name change, reflect on the 40-year history, and ask for guidance as the university moves forward.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University will be transitioning all print materials and apparel to the new name over the next few months. Internal and external signs may take more time.

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Red Cliff
Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa

Bad River
Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa

★ Lac Courte Oreilles
Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians

● Lac du Flambeau
Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians



Odaawaa - Zaaga'iganiing

LAC COURTE OREILLES
OJIBWE UNIVERSITY

13466 W. Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843-2181
715-634-4790



Mashkiiziibiing

BAD RIVER OUTREACH

Blackbird Center
72682 Maple St.
Odanah, WI 54861
715-682-7111



Waaswaaganing

LAC DU FLAMBEAU
OUTREACH

585 Peace Pipe Rd/P.O. Box 721
Lac du Flambeau, WI, 54538
715 588-3457



Miskwaabikaang

RED CLIFF OUTREACH

37390 State Hwy 13
Bayfield, WI 54814
715-779-3700 ext 4286

