

**Profile of the
Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI)
UW-Superior
2018 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- The Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) conducts environmental research and provides services that directly benefit the people, industries, and natural resources of the Upper Midwest, the Great Lakes region, and beyond; it provides non-traditional learning and applied research opportunities for undergraduate students, and fosters environmental education and outreach in the surrounding communities.
- LSRI's mission complements UW-Superior's mission of intellectual growth and career preparation of students in a liberal arts learning environment.
- Under the leadership of Director Matthew TenEyck, with 20 full-time academic staff, LSRI has continued to secure local, state, and federal funding needed to sustain the program; LSRI has generated over \$2.3 million per year over the past 10 years despite changing environmental research priorities and funding sources.
- Over the past 50 years, LSRI has involved more than 550 undergraduates in freshwater research and generated over \$60 million in grants and contracts; LSRI benefits students by sponsoring their self-directed undergraduate research projects and providing annual scholarships in partnership with the UW-Superior Foundation and Advancement Office.
- LSRI has developed strong partnerships with more than 150 local, state, federal, and tribal governments; in collaboration with its partners, including the Environmental Protection Agency, LSRI has achieved an international reputation for environmental research.
- LSRI regularly demonstrates its leadership in key areas of water resources, as well as air and soil quality, and reaffirms the educational and economic benefits of applied research and development; it adds to the local economy by providing subcontracts to expert researchers, engineers, and contractors working on its projects.
- LSRI testing technologies address the global transport of invasive species, ballast water toxicity, environmental restoration, watershed planning, and other activities.
- LSRI was recently certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to analyze common contaminants in drinking water; it is one of only five labs in the state certified to conduct certain tests related to water quality; this certification has allowed LSRI to provide a much-needed service to the people of northwestern Wisconsin, who now can have samples of well water tested without expensive shipping costs.

In the words of a graduate:

- “Without a doubt, choosing to work for LSRI has been one of the smartest decisions I have made. Working in the LSRI laboratories gives crucial real-world experience that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom. Employers are looking to hire people who can work independently, problem solve, and follow exacting protocols. The opportunity to hone these skills while completing an undergraduate degree provides an unparalleled advantage after graduation.”—*Cole Holstrom*

In the words of colleagues:

- “Through their research, educational, and service efforts, LSRI has made a profound impact on the lives of the students, staff, and community it serves....As a result of their innovations, LSRI researchers are highly sought after to participate on international advisory panels, publish policy papers, and present at regional and international scientific conferences.”
—*Jacalyn Weissenburger, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UW-Superior*