

A Multi-Institutional Research Institute For the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Like other remote and rural areas, the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) of Michigan faces numerous challenges in regard to economic and research development. In an attempt to both initiate new research and funding opportunities, and maximize resources, I intend to develop a new institute within the region. The logical core partners would be the two regional academic institutions—Lake Superior State University (LSSU), Michigan's smallest state university and Bay Mills Community College (BMCC), Michigan's 1994 Tribal College. However well-intentioned, the project was impeded by institutional leadership challenges at both BMCC and LSSU. First, the President of BMCC declared that BMCC was no longer interested in research, and second the entire senior leadership (President, Provost, and subsequent Acting Provost) of LSSU all resigned. For me this was unfortunate, first because I resigned as Director of Research at BMCC, and second because I had made substantial progress in formalizing the institute at LSSU. After three new senior administration turnovers in three years, it is not surprising that the new administration has significant challenges merely maintaining the status quo. It is within this context that I have been reluctant to resume the proposal at LSSU. However, a new potential partner has been identified—the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society (GLSHS) based in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Although seemingly obscure, the Society operates several museums at two sites, maintains an extensive campus at Whitefish Point (Whitefish Point Lighthouse and Life Saving Station National Historic Landmark), and conducts research on sunken ships and aircraft within the Great Lakes. As part of its research program, the Society owns and operates a 46 foot research vessel. The Director of the Society and I are now engaged in weekly discussions about establishing a research institute within the society and expanding the mission of the society to now encompass a wider range of research and potential partners. We believe the formation of this new research institute will provide enhanced research and funding opportunities for both the Society and the partners involved.

Michael F. Doyle, Ph.D.
Consulting Scientist
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
MFeehanDoyle@gmail.com