## Consortia Agreement—Upper Peninsula Colleges and Universities Reverse Transfer Associate Degree Initiative

Bay College
Finlandia University
Gogebic Community College
Lake Superior State University
Michigan Technological University
Northern Michigan University

The above listed institutions of higher learning are, together, committed to improving the academic credential status of residents of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and beyond. To this end, the signatories to this Agreement commit to work creatively and collaboratively to better enable qualified students to obtain an additional earned, academic credential.

This agreement assists students who transferred from among consortium institutions to complete an associate's degree at their originating college and/or university. This collaboration enhances existing transfer agreements among the partnering institutions. Students who are eligible and will benefit from this collaboration are those who have completed at least 45 credits at their originating college or university, and have transferred without earning an associate's degree.

## Each signatory to this Agreement agrees to:

- 1. Appoint a contact person and liaison for the initiative;
- 2. Share student information in a manner that complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act guidelines;
- 3. Develop a method to track the success of the initiative and share results on an annual basis;
- 4. Follow parameters of the law and regional accrediting agencies;
- 5. Develop and document the system, processes, communication, and timeline supporting the initiative;
- 6. Explore opportunities to leverage existing technology in an effort to create an effective, efficient, and seamless process;
- 7. Outline student communication, procedures and advisement assistance to complete degree requirements; and
- 8. Attend consortium meetings to finalize, approve, and monitor the agreement

## Partnering Institutions:

Dr. Laura Coleman President of Bay College Escanaba, Michigan  8/31/11  Dr. Philip Johnson President of Finlandia University Hancock, Michigan  8/31/11  Date  8/31/11  Date  President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Date  President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  8/31/11  Dr. Glenn Mroz President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  8/31/11  Dr. Les Wong President of Northern Michigan University	Xama X Coleman	0/21/11
President of Bay College Escanaba, Michigan    Same	Dr. Laura Coleman	8/31/11
Escanaba, Michigan    Same		Date
Dr. Philip Johnson President of Finlandia University Hancock, Michigan  Ames D. Columbra Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Dr. Tony McLain President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Marie Marie Dr. Glenn Mroz President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Associated Wang President of Northern Michigan University  8/31/11 Date  8/31/11 Date		
Dr. Philip Johnson President of Finlandia University Hancock, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Mar. James Lorenson President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Mar. James Lorenson  8/31/11  Date  President of Michigan Technological University  Moughton, Michigan  Mes. James Lorenson  8/31/11  Date  President of Morthern Michigan University  President of Northern Michigan University	, members	
Dr. Philip Johnson President of Finlandia University Hancock, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Mar. James Lorenson President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Mar. James Lorenson  8/31/11  Date  President of Michigan Technological University  Moughton, Michigan  Mes. James Lorenson  8/31/11  Date  President of Morthern Michigan University  President of Northern Michigan University	Fright of	0/24/44
President of Finlandia University Hancock, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. Law  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. Law  Mr.	Dr. Philip Johnson	
Hancock, Michigan  Ames D. Columbia  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Tony M. Law  Dr. Tony McLain President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  May May  Dr. Glenn Mroz President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Les Lie & Wong Dr. Les Wong President of Northern Michigan University		Date
Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. Lan		
Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Tony M. Lan' Dr. Tony McLain President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Mr. James Lorenson  8/31/11  Date  8/31/11  Date  President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Leguic & Wong Dr. Les Wong President of Northern Michigan University	The state of the s	
Mr. James Lorenson President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Mr. Lau  Dr. Tony McLain President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Marie, Michigan  8/31/11  Dr. Glenn Mroz President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Legui & Wong Dr. Les Wong President of Northern Michigan University	James D. Corenson	8/31/11
President of Gogebic Community College Ironwood, Michigan  Tony McLain  President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  B/31/11  Dr. Glenn Mroz  President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Leslie & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University	Mr. James Lorenson	
Ironwood, Michigan  Tony McLain Dr. Tony McLain President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Blance Marie Dr. Glenn Mroz Dr. Glenn Mroz President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Leguie & Wong Dr. Les Wong President of Northern Michigan University	President of Gogebic Community College	Date
Dr. Tony McLain  President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Blanco Marie  Dr. Glenn Mroz  President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Leguie & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University		
Dr. Tony McLain President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  Pr. Glenn Mroz President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Date  8/31/11  Dr. Les Wong President of Northern Michigan University	Tong F. M. Lan	
President of Lake Superior State University Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan    Marie, Michigan	Dr. Tony McLain	
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan    Marie, Michigan	2	Date
President of Michigan  Lesuie & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University  8/31/11  8/31/11  8/31/11  8/31/11  Date		
Dr. Glenn Mroz  President of Michigan Technological University  Houghton, Michigan  Legue & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University  Date	oll port	
Dr. Glenn Mroz  President of Michigan Technological University  Houghton, Michigan  Legue & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University  Date	Illend Wiften	9/21/11
President of Michigan Technological University Houghton, Michigan  Lesuie & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University	Dr. Glenn Mroz	in the second
Houghton, Michigan  Leslie & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University	President of Michigan Technological University	Date
Leglie & Wong  Dr. Les Wong  President of Northern Michigan University		
President of Northern Michigan University		
President of Northern Michigan University	Leslie & Wong	0/21/11
President of Northern Michigan University	Dr. Les Wong	
		Date
Marquette, Michigan	Marquette, Michigan	

## Upper Peninsula College and University Partners Reverse Transfer Associate Degree Initiative

A reverse transfer Associate degree initiative addresses an issue receiving increased attention: credentialed recognition of earned academic credit at the associate level. This lack of credential has an unnecessarily negative impact, individually and collectively: the individual student is unable to most fully document learning and/or skill attainment; and the workforce unnecessarily appears less skilled or prepared for the increasingly technological and competitive workplace.

A student who begins her postsecondary studies at a community college or associate degree granting program should be able to pursue a bachelor's degree while possessing an earned associate degree that more fully represents his/her academic success. The associate is a valuable credential in the job market, both for job hunting and for career advancement for those employed while pursuing their degrees.

Increasingly, community colleges and four year colleges and universities are joining together to ensure that qualifying transfer students are awarded associate degrees once they have completed the necessary coursework at their new institutions.

Through a collaborative effort among Bay College, Gogebic Community College, Finlandia University, Lake Superior State University, Michigan Technological University, and Northern Michigan University a recent consortial agreement focusing on a Reverse Transfer Associate Degree Initiative is being developed. Through the extension of existing transfer agreements between these higher education institutions, the partners we will work together to accomplish three goals:

- 1. Address the issue of undocumented learning,
- 2. Increase and promote the associate degree completion for transfer students, and
- 3. Encourage higher education continuation toward a bachelor's degree.