

## Area of Excellence Provost/VPAA Nominee Raj Chowbhury

Contributed by La'Ron S. Readus  
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In a world where "men of few words" no longer exist, a man comes to the aid of Lake Superior State University when it needs him most. He, along with a list of others, comes with offers to change our campus' future for the better; both for students and for faculty kind. His name is Raj Chowbhury, and he is one of the current nominees for Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. This certain candidate for the position is a fifty-six year old alumnus of Notre Dame, Texas A&M and West Virginia after first coming to America in 1970. Working in the engineering field, he has worked at some well-known colleges, such as Bowling Green, Eastern Kentucky and North Carolina, spanning around a five-year stay at each. In all, he has had an administrative life that is as long as twenty-five years. "My philosophy is this," he says. "Education is the noblest profession." Raj Chowbhury has been given titles of both Professor and Dean in such colleges as Texas South and Kenn State. "Grades are something that you have to earn," he goes on to say, "How you feel about yourself is how people will look at you." Raj Chowbhury plans on bringing to Lake Superior State University a better understanding of the global economy. In his past history with Kenn State, he was able to start and maintain foreign exchange programs in Turkey, Japan and China. "I believe that diversity is the diversity of thinking," he said on the subject. "Everybody adds to the environment." Chowbhury is involved in research; he is published and has lectured around the world. When asked how he became interested in the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, he humbly answered, "I was recruited. I believe this university has a chance to grow." And with this, Chowbhury has learned a lot about the environment that is Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and even goes on to say that "how much you contribute makes a better environment." He is willing to perform a deeper dive into diversity; he is a firm believer in the aspects of education and is someone who can reach to both faculty and staff. But even after finding out so much about this candidate, he still stays as humble as ever. "I am not looking for a job," he admits. "I am looking for an opportunity to make a difference."