



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

DR. ALAN LAFAVE, PRESIDENT

Testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee: Education and Environment Division

March 8, 2023

Chair Sorvaag and members of the committee;
for the record, I am Dr. Alan LaFave, and I'm
proud to be President of Valley City State
University.

Thank you for the opportunity to present today.



Mission

Valley City State University is a public, regional university offering exceptional programs in an active, learner-centered community that promotes meaningful scholarship, ethical service, and the skilled use of technology.

As an important knowledge resource, the university offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond.

Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.



The Mission of Valley City State University

Our mission is three-pronged.

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As an important knowledge resource, the university offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond.

Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

Our entire team takes this mission very seriously. Our team includes 196 full-time faculty and staff. We have an average of 10.4 years of service across the campus.

I am incredibly proud of the team we have at VCSU. They are dedicated and student focused. You can see the fruits of their labor in our numerous accolades and student satisfaction survey data.

133 years of quality educational experiences

- 65 Undergraduate programs and three Graduate degrees
- 11:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- Ranked "Best Colleges" for 25 consecutive years by U.S. News
- "Most Beautiful Campus in North Dakota" by BuzzFeed
- National Register of Historic Places
- Capital campaign underway



The Work of Valley City State University

VCSU was founded in 1890 as a normal school. We have been known as one of the best teacher preparation schools in the country for more than 100 years.

In addition to our teacher education programs, VCSU has a wide-variety of other programs. From Business to History, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Health Science, Arts, Communications, Strength and Conditioning, Spanish and Music, we have 65 programs for students to choose from.

VCSU also offers multiple graduate degree options for teaching, and a Master of Science degree in Business Information Systems.

VCSU enhances the learning experience for our students by providing every full-time, on-campus students with their own laptop, and classrooms equipped with the latest educational tools.

Our faculty to student ratio is 11 to 1, offering a very personalized learning experience to help students succeed. Graduates and current students point to this as a highlight of their experience; the close and meaningful relationships they create with faculty and staff.

Our 55-acre campus was listed in 2017 by BuzzFeed as the "most beautiful college campus in North Dakota. To our south is a forested

hillside and on the north, the beautiful Sheyenne River. The campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District.

Finally, in 2020 we officially launched the Forward Together Capital Campaign. It is the first-ever capital campaign for VCSU and the effort is working on raising \$25 million.



Our Vision

As an innovative university, we deliver distinctive, learner-centered experiences.

What Drives Us?

- Student-centered environment
- High-quality, career-ready experience
- Dedicated faculty and staff
- Supportive alumni and community
- Innovative attitude
- The need for continued investment in our people and historic infrastructure



Our Driving Forces – We All Row

VCSU has a very clear vision.

As an innovative university, we deliver distinctive, learner-centered experiences.

We strive to make our campus, and all learning environments, focused on student success.

We focus on ensuring every educational experience is of the highest-quality and helps graduates become career ready. This is only possible through the dedication of our high-quality staff and faculty. Faculty and staff help students make multiple connections with the real world and future employers.

Our success is also a result of a very supportive alumni base. We are incredibly lucky to have so many engaged and committed alumni who support current students through scholarships, internship locations and being brand ambassadors for the university.

We have always been an innovative campus. From our early days of incorporating a lab school for teacher preparation to being the first in North Dakota to have laptop computers for every student, we strive to stay on the cutting edge.

In fact, we were second in the nation in providing laptops for our students.



Key Takeaways

- We support the NDUS needs-based budget request
 - 6:4 salary request addresses a critical need
- Challenge Grant success provided \$11.7 million for scholarship support
- Two critical ways to support students this session
 - McCarthy School of Education project
 - Behavioral Health Initiative

Key Takeaways

I would like to thank you for your past and ongoing support of our institution. We appreciate the care and effort you put into helping our state run efficiently.

Today we are going to focus on a few key components. I'll provide an overview of our university and some of the most important data points.

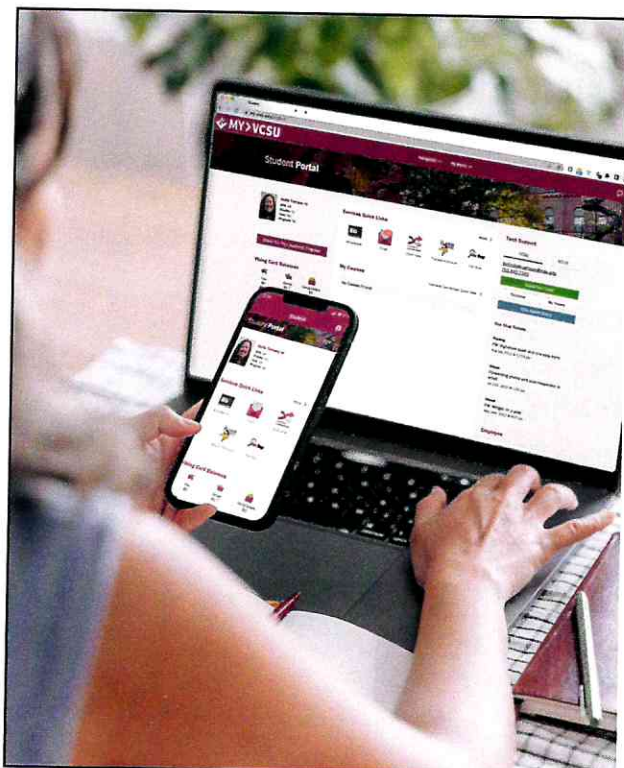
I'd like to start with some of the most important take away pieces.

First, VCSU firmly supports the NDUS needs-based budget request. We have been working hand-in-hand with the system office to ensure the most critical items facing our campus are addressed. We are in support of the 6 and 4 salary request, recommended by the executive budget, to ensure we can retain high-quality faculty and staff on our campus.

In addition to investing in our team, we support the investment in scholarship support for our students. There is a clear link between scholarship support and enrollment. Your continued support for the Challenge Grant, and the substantial support from our donors, has made this one of the most important programs on our campus. Since the inception of the Challenge Grant, VCSU has raised \$8 million which qualified for a match from this

body of \$3.75 million. In total, there has been \$11.7 million raised and matched scholarships through the Challenge Grant. I have a year-by-year breakdown of this program in your packet today.

Finally, VCSU has two specific priorities I will mention. We are working to provide a high-quality environment for our School of Education and hope to renovate an existing historic building, McCarthy Hall, to this end. Secondly, the wellbeing of our student population is a top priority. VCSU supports the NDUS Behavioral Health initiative to improve access to counseling services and other mental health support.



Recent Achievements

- Successful HLC reaccreditation with no areas of concern
- \$600,000 Department of Public Instruction Teacher Shortage grant
- New Master of Science in Business Information Systems
- Viking Mobile ID allows student ID on phone (1st in NDUS)
- myVCSU App (1st in ND)
- New strategic plan developed and launched
- Opened the Center for the Arts on time and within budget

Recent Achievements

We have had multiple exciting things happen during the past months at VCSU. I will touch on just a few of them.

Last year we were reaccredited by the Higher Learning Commission. All criteria were met with no concerns. The reviewers noted that VCSU has a "healthy, forward-looking culture that uses evidence of institutional and program effectiveness to inform decisions and to make improvements." This was a significant achievement. The HLC accreditation process provides a comprehensive review of the entire campus and assures quality by verifying that we meet standards and are engaged in continuous improvement. This was a proud moment for our entire institution.

VCSU also received a \$600k grant to address teacher shortages. The grant will fund the VCSU Grow Your Own Scholarship Program. This program offers scholarships to individuals aspiring to become a licensed teacher in North Dakota. It is specifically designed for paraprofessionals and substitute teachers working in North Dakota school districts.

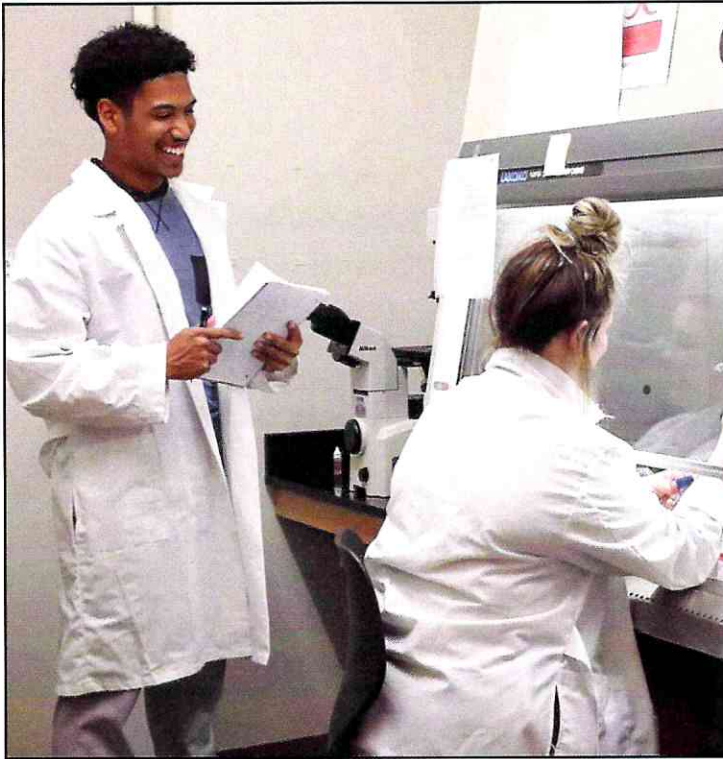
Our new Masters of Science in Business Information Systems was launched. This program combines various computer systems skills with software training in Sales Force and other critical business applications. This degree

will provide well-equipped employees ready to step into the workforce with advanced business and IT knowledge. It is important to note that this program was developed as a result of a partnership with local community workforce needs.

The Viking Mobile ID was offered early this year. This is an innovative solution using readily-available technology in a different way. Daily occurrences students need their ID cards for, including access to residence halls, dining, copy services and Viking dollars, are all available via a mobile device now. Not only is it safer, but it also is more convenient.

Our myVCSU app provides a secure way for students and employees to access items like Campus Connection and Blackboard through a single sign-on service with multi-factor authentication. This app makes it easier to access important campus services, and VCSU was the first North Dakota institution to launch a mobile app like this for our campus.

Within the last year, our campus developed and launched a visionary strategic plan. The plan was developed with input from faculty, staff and students. The plan has data-driven goals and will create exciting new opportunities for our students.



Accreditations

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

Finally, last spring we facilitated the opening of the Center for the Arts on our campus. Our team managed the construction of this building on time and within budget and it is a wonderful facility that improves the student experience on campus as well as providing a critical avenue for relationships with the Valley City and Barnes County community. To date, we estimate about 1,200 high school students have come to campus for an activity in the CFA. It has become a wonderful part of our campus.

Accreditations

I'd like to highlight our accreditation. With the rising cost of education it is important to our students that the education they are receiving is valuable and vetted. As I mentioned before, we recently received our reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. We have several program-specific accreditations as well including:

Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

These accreditations prove that our educational experiences in multiple disciplines are of the highest quality. These are typically reviewed every seven to ten years with various reviews and checks within those time frames.



National Recognition



- Top 'Public Regional Colleges in the Midwest' in North Dakota by U.S. News and World Report in 2023
 - Ranked as a Best Value Schools and Top Performer on Social Mobility
 - U.S. News 'Best Colleges' for 25 consecutive years
- Top-ranked Elementary Education program in the nation by Study.com in 2021
- Best North Dakota college for Cost & Financing by Wallet Hub
- Top 25 "Most Affordable Online Bachelor's Degrees" by OnlineU
- "Best in the Midwest" as listed by Intelligent.com
- Top regional university in North Dakota as listed by EdSmart.com



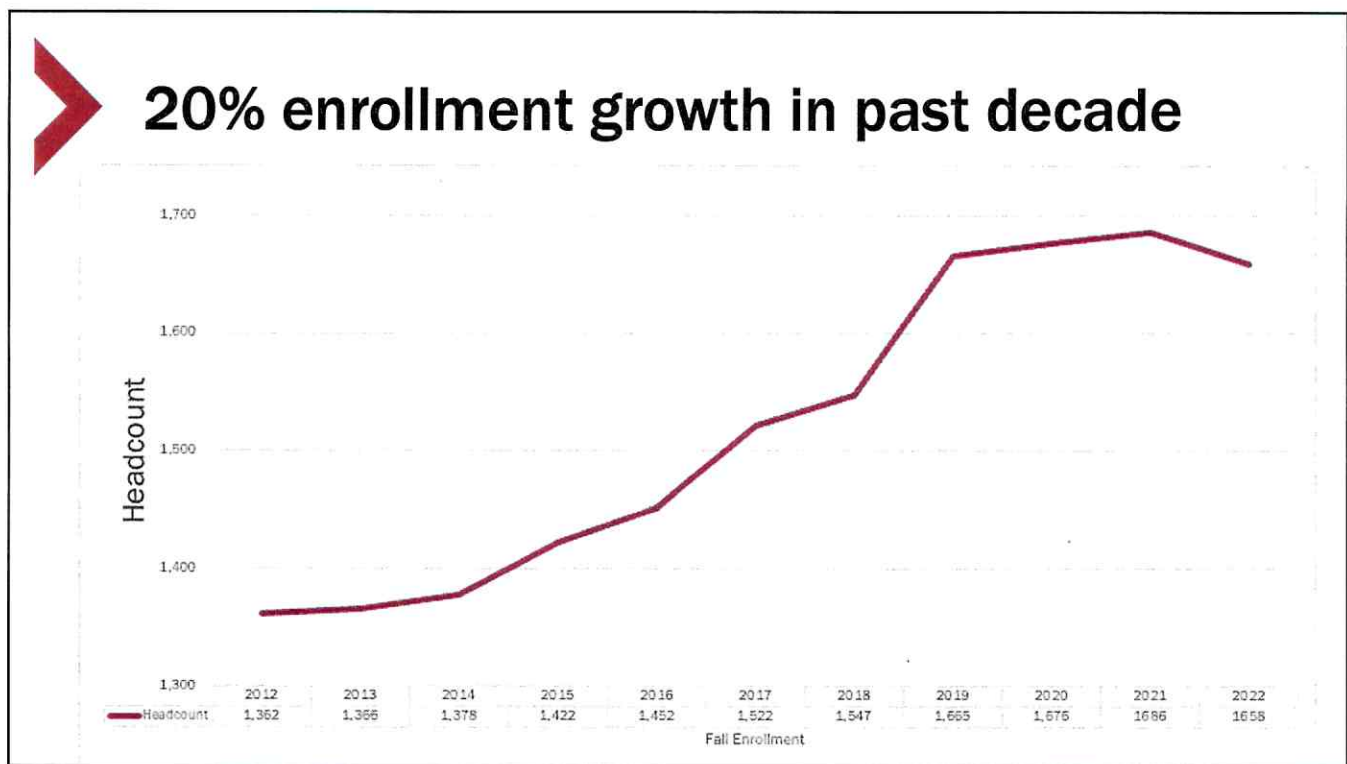
Nationally Recognized

Another mark of quality for VCSU is our quarter of a century long ranking as a Best College with U.S. News and World Report. This is one of the most recognized college rankings that is published every year. This year in particular we were ranked as the top regional public college in North Dakota and a Best Value School. We were one of only two public colleges ranked and the top public school on the list, and the only school in North Dakota. This ranking continues to attract high-quality students and be an important marker for families as they compare secondary education options.

I will mention it many times today, but our School of Education is really a shining jewel in the Midwest and nationally for producing high-quality teachers. Recently we were recognized by Study.com as having the best elementary education program in the nation. We've known our education program is top notch, but we also have the numbers to prove it. Our alumni are working in 359 schools in North Dakota alone and make a difference in the lives of students every day.

We know the education provided at VCSU is high-quality, but it is also noted for being affordable. Late last year, Wallet Hub ranked VCSU as the best college in North Dakota in

terms of cost and financing. We were lauded by OnlineU as having one of the most affordable online bachelor's degrees. Our affordability ensures that education is accessible to all learners, regardless of economic background.



Enrollment Growth

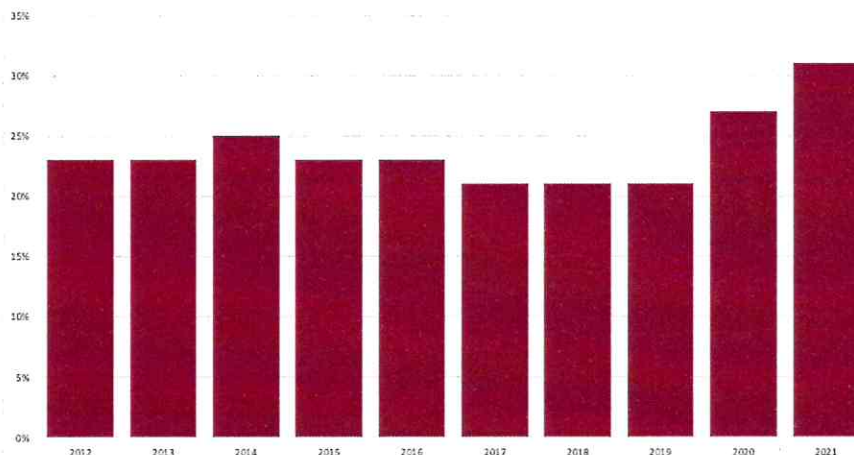
Contrary to national trends, our enrollment numbers are steady. We had a slight dip last fall by about 20 students, somewhat caused by a smaller junior class, but our fall 2023 numbers are looking steady and solid. Our team tirelessly recruits quality and diverse students. You can feel that energy the moment you step on to campus. I may be biased, but I think VCSU has some of the best students I have ever had the privilege of working with during my time in higher education.

We have 59 more students living on campus in the fall of 2022 as compared to the fall of 2021. All of our residence halls, except one, have more than 80% occupancy. This is due to the great campus environment we have been working to enhance and the rate lock costs for students. We now ensure students who stay on campus, have the option to pay the rate they paid their first year, all four years. This has been an excellent recruiting and retention tool and is a positive cost-saving approach for them as well.

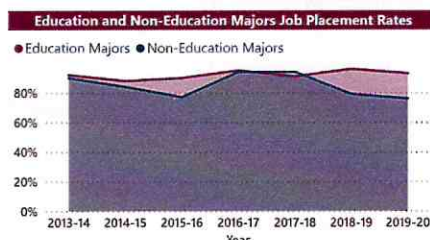
Enrollment growth has been a sign for us that we are offering programs students are interested in, and programs with strong post graduation job potential.

Graduation Rates and Job Placement

VCSU graduates who complete their degree in four years



100% placement rate
for 2021-2022 Education
Majors that completed post-
graduation survey.



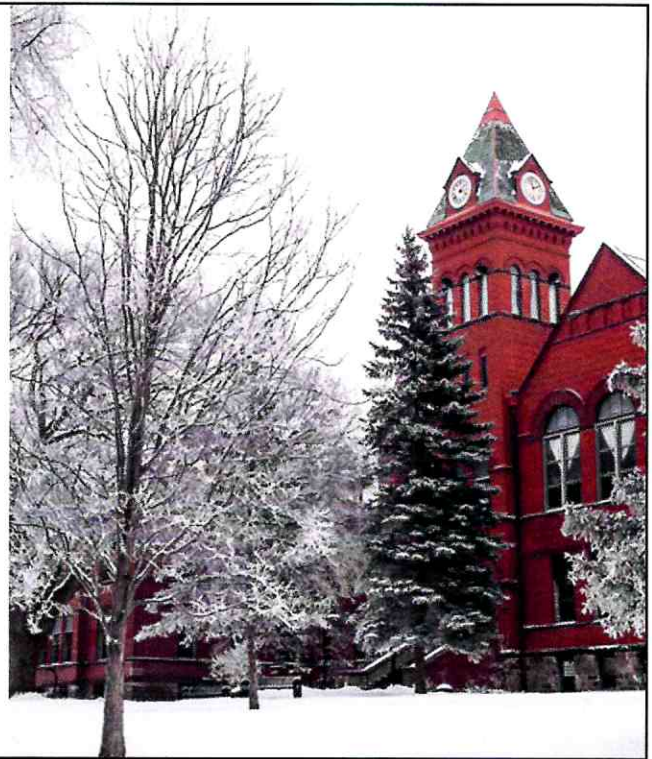
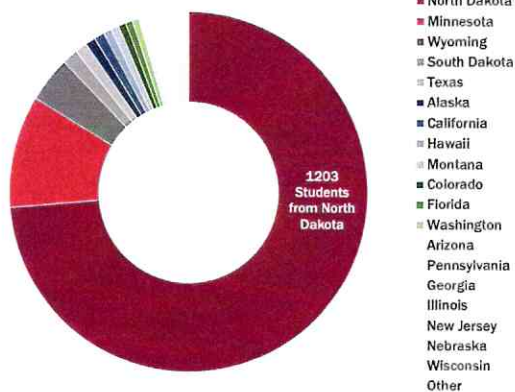
Jobs Prior to Graduation

Another metric we are proud of at VCSU is our graduation and placement rate. We lead the regional colleges in North Dakota with our four year completion rate. Our focus with students is ensuring they have quality advisors who can guide them to complete their degree on time. Planning and advising helps our students get the courses and experience they need while also getting the most out of their entire VCSU experience.

After graduation, we want to make sure our alumni have multiple job opportunities. Last spring, as I was shaking hands with graduates as they walked across the stage at graduation, I was well aware that many already had accepted job offers across our state and nation. I'll specifically mention education in regards to placement. Last year, 100% of our education majors who responded to the post-graduation survey had a job within a year.

With a hands-on career services office, our students are able to get real world experience and opportunities they may not have had access to prior to coming to VCSU.

73% of our students are from North Dakota



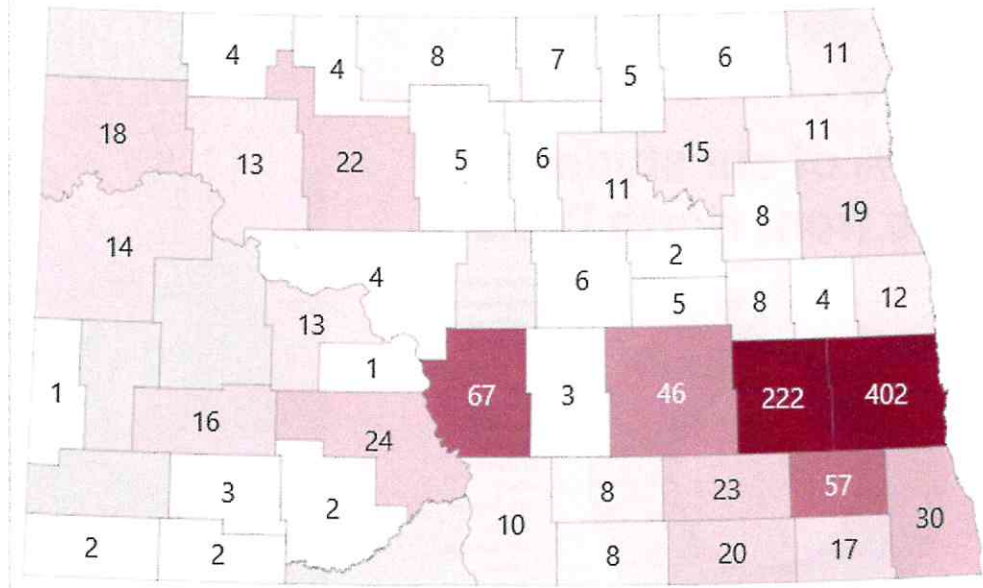
Serving our State

It's clear from our enrollment that we have a stellar reputation statewide and we are meeting a critical need for our state.

Our location off I-94 between Fargo and Bismarck, our small campus size and welcoming community provide students the opportunity to receive a solid education in a picturesque North Dakota setting. 73% of our students are from across the state of North Dakota. Our campus is a safe, welcoming place for students to thrive socially, athletically and academically. Once they complete their degree, our students typically stay and join the workforce here.

We also have students from 44 states and eight countries that call VCSU their educational home. Many enjoy the charm of our campus and positive pieces about living in our state. Many who graduate choose to stay and continue living in our state.

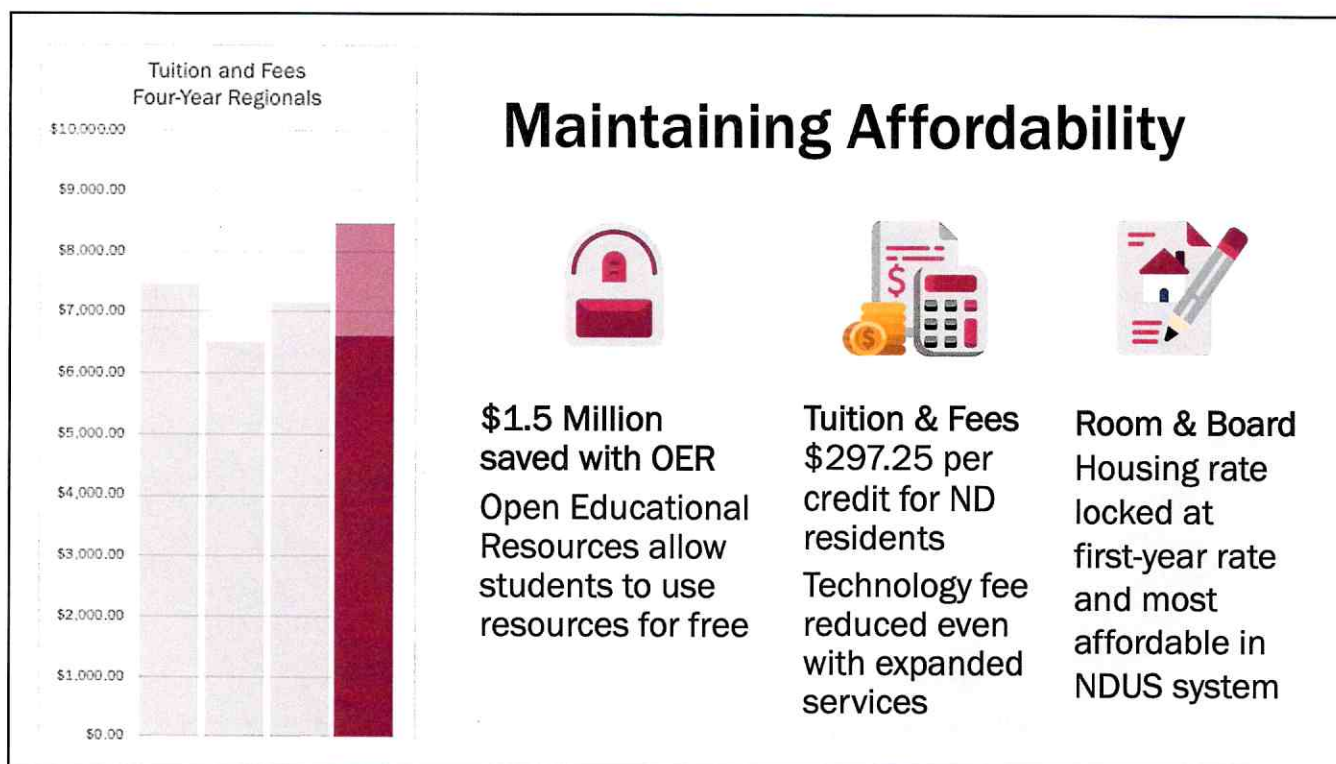
Students by Home County



Powered by Bing
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Students from across North Dakota

The majority of our students are from Cass and Barnes counties. This makes sense given our location, but we have students from almost every county in the state. From Bowman County to Pembina County and everything in between, our students have a wide-variety of backgrounds. Our students make the trip to Valley City for many reasons, but they all eventually enroll and find their home as a Viking.



Ensuring Education is Affordable

One of the most important topics on our radar is maintaining affordability for our students. We are committed to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality experience at a rate they can afford. Our tuition and fees are among the lowest of the four-year regional colleges.

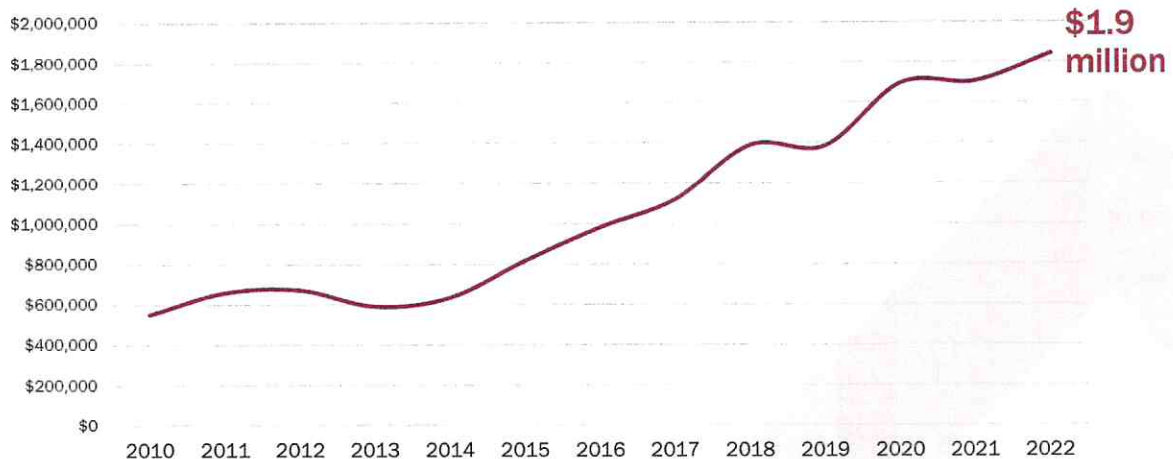
Some ways that we are committed to doing this include using Open Educational Resources. Our campus is proud of our use of OERs, and the fact that it has saved our students \$1.5 million since 2013 is a feather in our cap. These are online resources that students download including textbooks and learning materials for their courses.

Our tuition and fees are just under \$300/credit for North Dakota residents. In fact, our technology fee today is less, in real dollars, than it was the year that the laptop initiative began. We still provide laptops for every full-time student and offer a wide variety of additional technology resources. This is an example of our work to curb costs by operating efficiently.

We have also locked the rate for housing in for students at the rate they pay their first year on campus. This has been a great retention tool and having that guarantee for those students is a stabilizing and encouraging piece for them to continue their education.

Scholarship support for students has increased 245% since 2011

Total Scholarships Awarded



Scholarship Support is Crucial

There is a definite connection between student financial support and our continued growth.

Often I am asked how we have continued enrollment success. Clearly there is a link between scholarship support and enrollment. Our VCSU Foundation has been tremendous in helping our students attain their degrees by providing increasing scholarship support. This year, they allocated \$1.86 million in scholarship assistance, up from \$1.723 million the previous year.

In 2011, we awarded just over \$550,000 in annual scholarships. That number rose to just over \$1.9 million this past year. The escalation was due in large measure by increasing our scholarship values to the highest in the region and by making those scholarships renewable to incoming students. That is a 245% percent increase in scholarships over that period with stated goals of growing enrollment through offering 90% of our incoming freshmen a scholarship; offering 80% of those renewable scholarships.

The following points confirm that we are fulfilling our financial commitment to our students:

Our students graduate accumulating less debt than our regional counterparts.

We currently offer the most substantial scholarship program per merit in our region.

In the last 10 years we have substantially grown our scholarship offerings by over 245%.

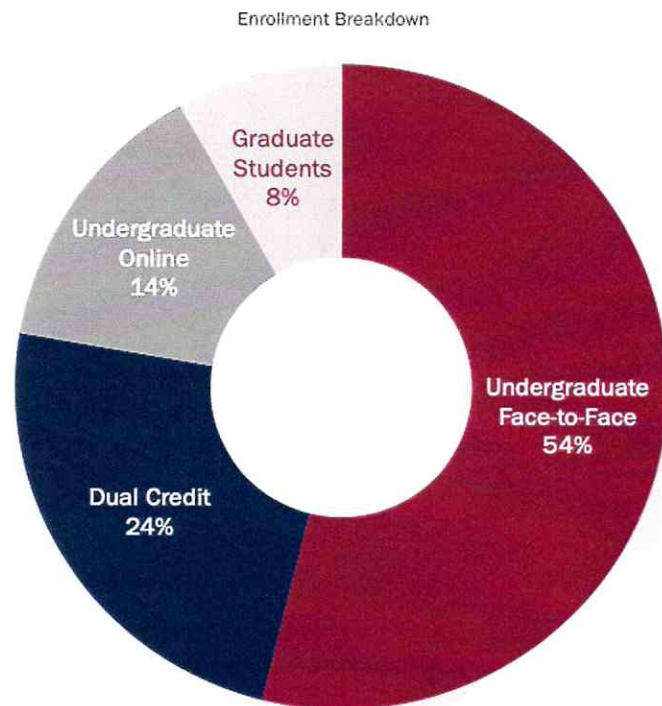
Since 2013 we have increased our endowment by \$11.7 million through the ND Challenge Grant.

We are committed to the same allocation for 2022-23 despite a downward market trend.

The Foundation Office focus will always work on improving our position to help VCSU attract and retain a growing population of students while also providing a quality experience for our alumni, friends, campus and community.

Meeting Students Where They Are

Fall 2022 Enrollment Overview Headcount



Overview of our Students

Like most universities, we are working hard to respond to student needs and preferences in regards to education delivery. As you can see in this chart, we have a majority of students who are undergraduate face-to-face students. This number reflects the continued desire by many students for a “traditional” college experience including living in residence halls and participating in many on-campus activities.

In addition to our on-campus students, we have seen an increased interest in high school students completing VCSU courses before they receive their high school diploma. Dual credit offerings often help students complete general education courses and allow them to earn those credits early. For some, this means they can complete a bachelor’s degree in three years and join the workforce earlier than would otherwise be possible.

Many of our students are taking their classes in an online environment. I’d like to mention the importance of these offerings, specifically as it pertains to our graduate programs. We offer multiple graduate degrees online that focus on education. We have a Masters of Education Program with various concentrations including Elementary Education, Library and Information Technologies, Teaching English Language Learners and more. These courses

allow individuals who are actively teaching to continue their education, earn a masters degree and move up in salary structures. This is an important offering in regards to retaining the teaching workforce in our state.

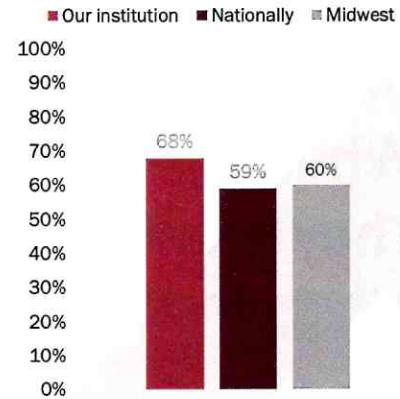


"My career goal is to be an elementary school principal. I want to spend time in the classroom first to work with students to help them succeed and find a love for school."

*Saige Forseth, '24
Elementary
Education Major*

Our Why

How satisfied are our students compared with students nationally?



Data source: 2021 Student Satisfaction Inventory

Satisfied Students

Regardless of delivery type or location, our primary focus is our students. On this slide, you can see Saige Forseth of Hillsboro, ND. Saige is a shining example of an engaged student. She is involved in Student Senate and an excellent softball player. She also is studying elementary education and dreams of one day becoming a high school principal.

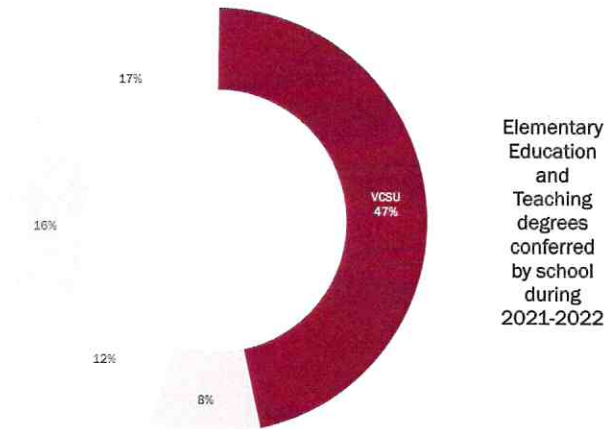
Saige's story helps remind us why this work is so important. Our why is founded in our mission, to prepare students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

Our student satisfaction continues to outpace regional and national trends. Since 2002, VCSU has conducted the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) during even-numbered spring semesters for our face-to-face students. VCSU has consistently been rated positively by our student population, and in 2022 we scored above the other schools nationally and in the Midwest again. We also receive a snapshot from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). In the most recent NSSE report, 91% of our seniors reported that their experience at VCSU contributed to their knowledge, skills and personal development in thinking critically and 82% in acquiring job knowledge and skill.



Leader in Teacher Education

139 education graduates last year, VCSU has more education graduates than any other North Dakota college or university



Leading Teacher Education in North Dakota since 1890

VCSU's School of Education is an important part of our campus and I'd like to focus specifically on this area of expertise.

Last year, VCSU graduated 114 Elementary Education teachers, 31 in secondary content areas.

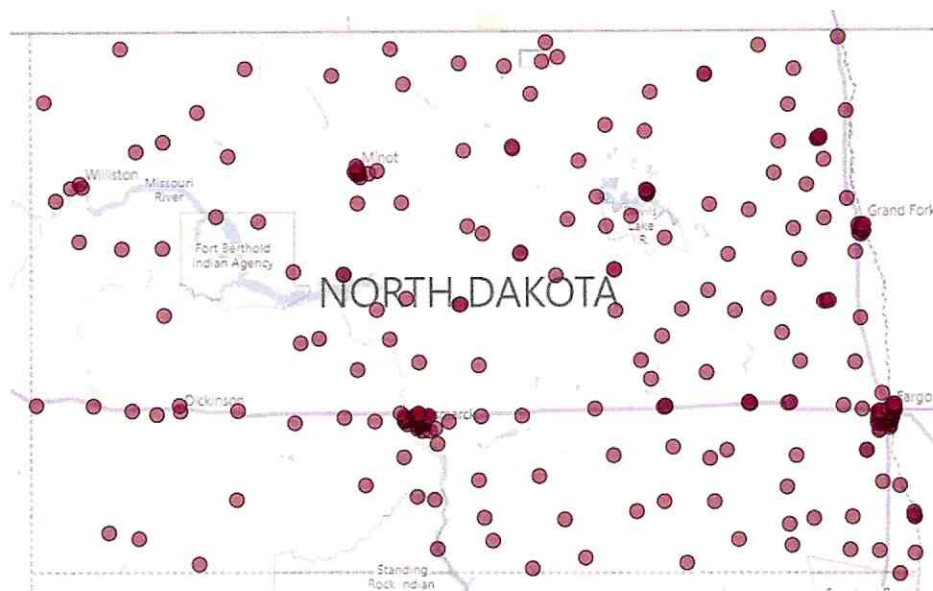
Our students are not only well-prepared for the classroom but prepared for certification exams as well. Teacher Education candidates are required to complete and pass content and pedagogy examinations for graduation and teacher licensure, such as the Praxis II test. Since Praxis II testing requirements for licensure began in 2006, 95% of all VCSU education graduates have passed the content exams and 96% have passed the pedagogy exams. Recent data released by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) shows that Valley City State University (VCSU) continues to be a leader in preparing the next generation of teachers, including helping students of color achieve success.

VCSU has helped 48 individuals earn their Master of Arts in teaching since the fall of 2017. These are individuals who were not teachers, but working in the field and made the choice to return to school to become a teacher.

In September of this year, we received a \$600,000 grant to help address the teacher shortage. These funds will be used to help connect those working as substitute teachers or para professionals in North Dakota schools with our online education program so they can become full-time licensed teachers. Our School of Education is working on plans to offer that widely across the state given the enthusiastic response we have received for the program so far.

Alumni Teaching Across North Dakota

1,514 VCSU alumni
are teachers and
administrators
at 359 schools
serving in 151
North Dakota
communities



Alumni Across North Dakota and the United States

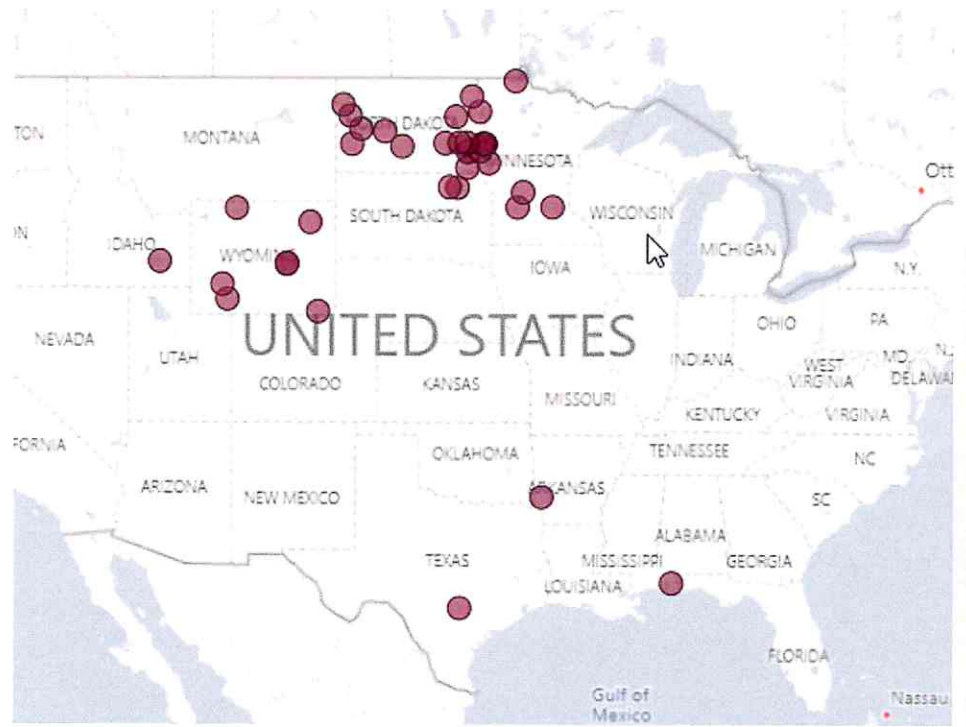
It is hard to find a North Dakota school that does not have at least one VCSU graduate working with students. From teachers to administrators, coaches, counselors and more, our alumni are making a huge difference in the future of North Dakota. Not only are VCSU alumni filling a critical workforce need in our state, but they are also shaping our future workforce.

This year alone, 1,514 VCSU alumni are teaching in 359 different schools in 151 different communities. To break that number down even further, 243 of these alumni have a master's degree from VCSU. 83 of these individuals have an undergraduate and graduate degree from VCSU.

VCSU's educational programs continue to make a huge impact on the teaching workforce of our state.

Student Teacher Placement

2021-2022 Locations



Student Teaching to Strengthen Success

One of the ways our School of Education ensures graduates are ready for their first day as a teacher is by closely working with students and schools to have great student teaching experiences. Student teaching is an important part of the student experience, and our School of Education faculty and staff ensure candidates are well-prepared and gain a lot of practical experience while in the classroom.

One innovative way our School of Education has helped build on this concept is with students in West Fargo Public Schools. VCSU Elementary Education Students, who are also NDSU Human Development and Family Science students, actually attend college courses taught within an elementary school. This arrangement allows the students to observe classes and quickly make connections between course content and in-classroom usage.

Strengthening the connection between the college courses VCSU offers and real-world, hands-on experiences helps our students, but also assists the school. With this setup, students have the opportunity to observe classrooms in the fall and potentially student teach with the same teacher in the spring.

Students Gaining Experience as Substitute Teachers

In addition to that unique program, VCSU also has a program that allows students to become substitute teachers while pursuing their degree. Students who can work as a substitute teacher earn money to help pay for school and fill a critical need in our state for substitutes. This is a win-win for the students and for our elementary schools.



Structured to Help Students Succeed

Helping new teachers succeed in their first five years increases the likelihood they can be retained as part of our teaching workforce. VCSU has developed excellent programs, but we have also excellent students. I'd like to highlight some of our graduates that exemplify what it means to be a Viking. From Wayne Stanley at South Prairie who has led his school district for years, to Megan Wald, runner up for teacher of the year, we have so many teachers and administrators that inspire pride.

One of the graduates we would like to highlight today is Paige Fettig. Paige graduated from VCSU in 2018 and now teaches fourth grade at Miller Elementary here in Bismarck.

Paige Fettig, '18 - 4th Grade Teacher

Good morning! My name is Paige Fettig and I am a Bismarck native. I grew up here and attended K-12th grade in Bismarck Public Schools and graduated from Century High School in 2014.

I decided to attend VCSU after a Viking Visit Day because the campus and the staff made an impression on me. I knew VCSU had a reputation for having the best education program in the state, but after visiting with professors that day, I felt that had been confirmed. I was welcomed and valued and could hear the passion in their voices as they spoke about the program and what it had to offer. I knew I would be in good hands.

I cherish the time I had in Valley City. I graduated in 2018 with a bachelors in elementary ed with a few endorsement certificates under my belt. I had accepted a teaching position in Bismarck that May and have been teaching 4th grade in BPS now for 5 years. When I left my classroom this morning I had taught a lesson about reading fluency and when I return we'll jump right into sound waves. Being away from my students during the day makes me anxious, but the reason I'm here today is very important.

As I had said before, VCSU's education program has a reputation for being the best. But in order to stay at the top of the pack, the facilities need to be updated. McCarthy Hall has many of the education classes. It is one of the oldest building on campus and in desperate need of basic renovations such as the heating system. I remember when we'd have classes McCarthy, the heater would make the loudest banging noises and just operate at a level that would become too distracting for class and we'd end early. We were limited to the classrooms we could use because many of them didn't have the technology for us to project from laptops for presentations.

The environment in McCarthy is very "old school" for lack of better terms. It's that stereotypical image of a schoolhouse that comes to mind with chalkboards and rows of desks. McCarthy actually still has chalkboards! Schools today don't resemble that at all. Many classrooms have multiple options for seating, gathering spaces, and quiet heaters. Even smart boards have become obsolete and smart projectors have been installed so a regular whiteboard can become interactive when the projector is on.



I felt very prepared for my role as a classroom teacher with the learning I did at VCSU. My time there gave me the knowledge I needed not only to teach well, but also to understand how students learn. The term "students" doesn't just apply to elementary age children, it also includes adults. Learners need comfortable and welcoming environments to engage in content. They need their surroundings to be conducive to their learning needs. They need a space that allows for collaboration and communication... and to not be interrupted by banging heaters.

Currently, the education offices are in McFarland Hall, along with some faculty offices. While other offices and classes take place in McCarthy. The renovations to McCarthy will also create a more cohesive program due to the proximity of the entire department. Having a central location will allow for easier collaboration and a stronger sense of community.

We know that teacher retention has taken a big hit over the last few years. Every district is feeling it, including my own. It's imperative that we do what we can to encourage those interested in education to pursue their interests and masters of their craft. By supporting VCSU and the McCarthy renovation, you'll be helping new teachers find their passion for education, which will in turn inspire young students to find their passion for learning.



Workforce-Ready Graduates

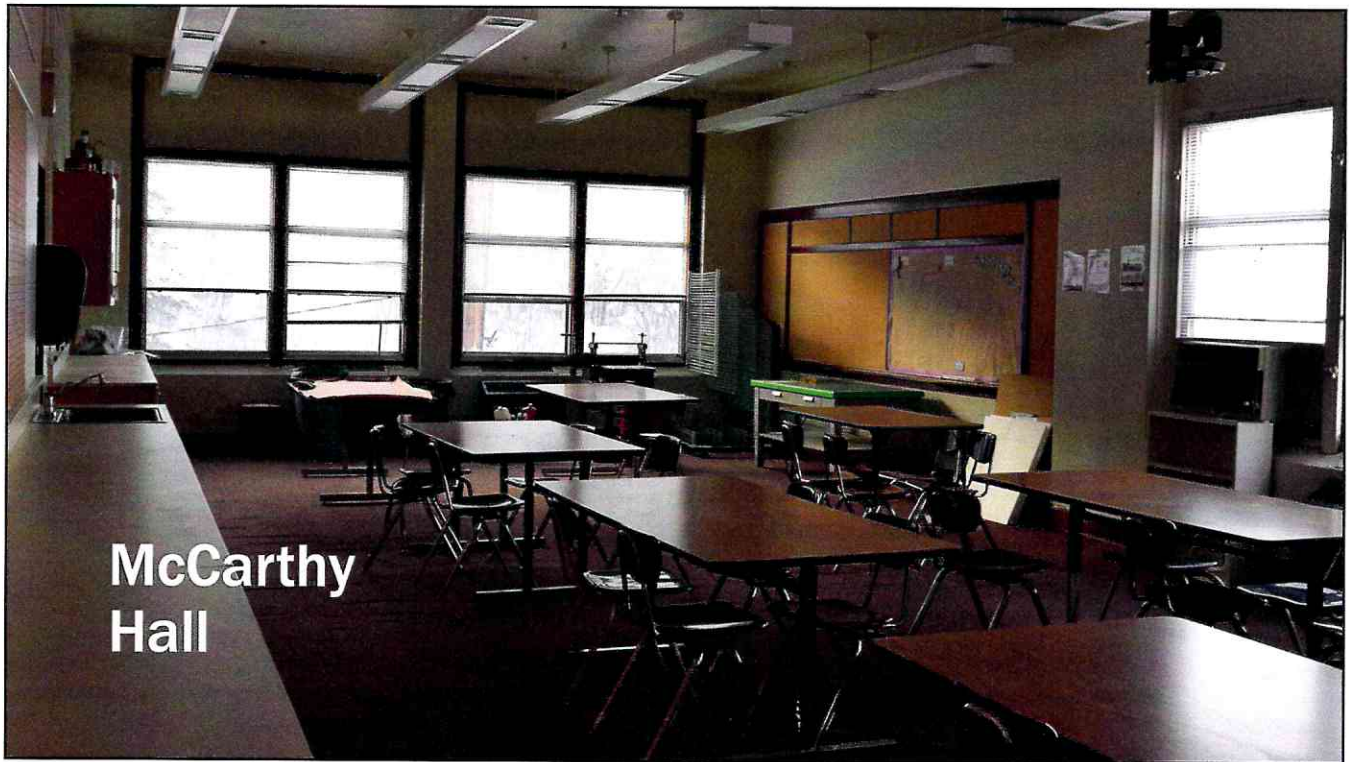
Survey data from North Dakota schools found that 97.8% either 'agree' or 'tend to agree' that VCSU first-year teachers effectively teach the subject matter in his/her licensure area.

Workforce-Ready Graduates

Simply put, our graduates of the School of Education are ready to teach. Survey data shows that almost 100% of school respondents thought VCSU first-year teachers can effectively teach in their subject matter. This is remarkable. The strength of VCSU's School of Education comes from our dynamic faculty, continued connections with local school districts and the hard work from our entire School of Education.

Our education program is successful and known locally, statewide and nationally for excellence. I share these successes with you because we have a need to bring our School of Education into the 21st century. We need your help.

North Dakota has a critical shortage of teachers. We need your investment in VCSU to help us meet this need head-on. As we outline how to make this happen, it's important to note that we have accomplished a great deal in regards to preparing teachers for more than a century. VCSU can be trusted to continue moving forward with this effort, as a reliable and innovative leader.



McCarthy Hall

Facilities Commensurate with Experience

This is McCarthy Hall, specifically the third floor. This classroom is a photo that was taken recently, but could've been taken years ago. These rooms have been the same for decades and it's time to bring them into the 21st century.

I'd like to provide a little history about this Hall and the effort to make it the permanent home for our School of Education. In 1930, McCarthy Hall was built as a lab school for training teachers. During that year, 30 students were enrolled in the teacher training program. During 2021-2022, 186 VCSU students were awarded either a baccalaureate or graduate degree in education. Currently, the School of Education and Graduate Studies is spread out across campus. The project will bring the entire School of Education under one roof and will allow for better collaboration and enhanced learning experiences for students.

McCarthy Hall is redesigned with the teachers of tomorrow in mind.

There are three important areas to note:

Technology Education: Classrooms for technology education include dedicated environments for high-tech machining, assembly, wood fabrication, metal fabrication and a virtual reality lab area.

Educational Spaces: Spaces are designed with flexible seating and updated technology similar to what students will encounter in real-world school environments. The layout will also incorporate a large student workroom, curriculum library and numerous study spaces.

Faculty Space: Currently, education faculty have offices spread across various parts of campus. This renovation will allow the Department of Education to bring an enhanced team approach to supporting students as they prepare to become teachers.

McCarthy Hall Future

The future home of VCSU's School of Education and the Department of Technology



The Future Home of VCSU's School of Education

Valley City State University is requesting \$11.5 million to renovate McCarthy Hall for the School of Education and Graduate Studies and the department of Technology Education. VCSU will contribute to this effort with \$2 million in private donations. This is a teacher workforce development project and will eliminate more than \$8 million in deferred maintenance.

Based on preliminary design, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$13.5 million. This project renovates existing space and will make this historic building more efficient. VCSU anticipates cost savings for heating, lighting, air conditioning and maintenance. This one-time request will have a positive impact on VCSU's long-term utility budget.

No new faculty or staff will be necessary for this project. VCSU has completed preliminary design and cost of the project. If funded, we will begin implementation immediately. The renovation will be completed in two to three years. This project will enhance the high-quality educational experience students receive at Valley City State University. This will also help attract future teachers to the North Dakota workforce.

I'd like to introduce Dr. Allen Burgad, our Dean of the School of Education, to discuss this effort and our education programs in more detail.

Dr. Allen Burgad

Dean, VCSU School of Education

1989 graduate of VCSU
Former North Dakota educator and school
administrator for 32 years



Dr. Allen Burgad

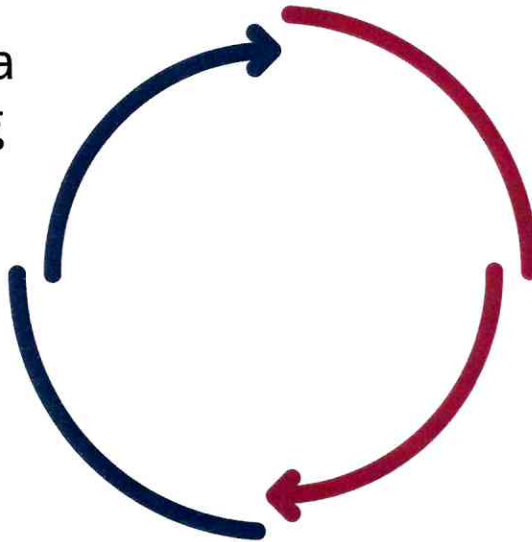
Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, for the record, my name is Dr. Allen Burgad, current Dean for the School of Education at Valley City State University and a 1989 graduate of VCSU.

I am a retired K-12 Educator that grew up in Strasburg, ND. My career has taken me from Napoleon, Stanley, Northern Cass, West Fargo, and now Valley City.



Transition cycles in K-12 education

Finding a teaching position in the 1990s was difficult.



Finding teachers to fill vacant positions in 2023 for K-12 school districts is a challenge.



The Cycle of the Teacher Workforce

As a former North Dakota educator and school administrator for 32 years, I have experienced transition cycles in K-12 education. Finding a teaching position in the 1990s was difficult. Finding a teacher to fill vacant positions in 2023 for K-12 school districts is a greater challenge.



VCSU School of Education Vision

Prepare highly qualified teachers through a student-centered learning environment focused on relationships, social-emotional learning, and academic relevance.

Achieve Vision Through Extensive Partnerships with K-12 Schools

- Applicable and Authentic Field Experiences
- Substitute Program – Supervised by VCSU Faculty
- Preparing Future Educators On-site Program

Substitute Teaching Program has Positive Impact on Preparing Teachers

- Substitute program partnered with regional schools has also aided in addressing the critical subbing shortages.
- Many of our pre-service teachers have recorded over 75 subbing days with school districts in North Dakota prior to graduating.

Our Vision of a Successful Future

The picture in the presentation is an example of pre-service teachers in the field at a regional elementary school.

The VCSU education program has partnered with many K-12 schools to prepare pre-service teachers to be successful future classroom teachers. Our field experiences through required practicums and substitute teaching, supervised by university faculty, has resounding data in preparing our pre-service teachers.

VCSU substitute program, partnered with regional schools, has also aided in addressing the critical subbing shortages. Many of our pre-service teachers have recorded over 75 subbing days with school districts in North Dakota prior to graduating.

Learning is social and requires relationship building embraced by reflection.



- These learning components are also applicable for individuals preparing to be classroom educators.
- Students have echoed the importance of being prepared in addressing the dynamic health, wellness, and behavioral needs experienced during their field experience.

Our Purpose and Feedback from Students

Learning is social and requires relationship building embraced by reflection. These learning components are also applicable for individuals preparing to be classroom educators.

The VCSU School of Education has identified our purpose by preparing highly qualified teachers through a student-centered learning environment focused on relationships, social-emotional learning, and academic relevance.

This purpose was established by feedback provided by our student advisory committee who are currently enrolled in the teacher preparation program at VCSU. These students have also echoed the importance of being prepared in addressing the dynamic health, wellness, and behavioral needs experienced while student teaching.

School District's Needs



- Current ND school educators and administrators have strongly indicated the importance of preparing future teachers with skills supporting student engagement, social-emotional learning, and responsive classrooms through relationship building.
- In addition, 21st century learners have unique learning needs relevant to literacy and innovation.

Meeting the Needs of North Dakota Schools

Current ND school educators and administrators have strongly indicated the importance of preparing future teachers with skills supporting student engagement, social-emotional learning, and responsive classrooms through relationship building.

In addition, 21st century learners have unique learning needs relevant to literacy through the Science of Reading along with voice, choice, and pace on how they demonstrate their learning framed by Personalized Competency-based Learning (PCBL).



Effective teaching through modeling and delivery requires large spaces for direct instruction and flexible spaces for differentiated instruction embedded with modern technology.

Proposed Renovation of McCarthy Hall

- Expand on the Number of Graduates in Teacher Education
- Provide pre-service teachers with learning environments that have proper heating, cooling, and air quality.
- Afford learning spaces enabling faculty to deliver instruction modeling engagement, relationship building, reading and math literacies, and innovation through a personalized competency-based pedagogy.

Flexible Spaces for Dynamic Experiences

Our proposed renovation of McCarthy Hall at VCSU would enable our university to:

- Expand on the Number of Graduates in Teacher Education
- Provide pre-service teachers with learning environments that have proper heating, cooling, and air quality
- Afford learning spaces enabling faculty to deliver instruction modeling engagement, relationship building, reading and math literacies, and innovation through a personalized competency-based pedagogy.

Effective teaching through modeling and delivery requires large spaces for direct instruction and flexible spaces for differentiated instruction embedded with modern technology.



Our proposed updates will help VCSU in preparing future classroom teachers to be passionate, compassionate, and innovative educators.



Retaining our Teaching Workforce

This picture represents our 145 K-12 2021-2022 education graduates. These young teachers are meeting a critical workforce need, and it's important to recruit more students to join them, but equally important is retaining them once they become teachers.

A majority in the loss of teacher retention occurs in the years one through five.

An updated Teacher Center will enable VCSU to increase and prepare the number of passionate, compassionate, and innovative long-term classroom teachers in the state of North Dakota.



Partnerships and Collaborations

- Nursing with Dakota College at Bottineau
- Elementary Education with NDSU
- 44 Articulation agreements
- Prairie Waters Education & Research Center
- Northern Information Technology Consortium
- Rural School Partner Benefit Program

Partnering with others to Enhance Success

I'd like to share some partnerships and initiatives we have with other NDUS institutions.

We have been working to meet the need for nursing and healthcare workers by partnering with Dakota College at Bottineau. Students can attend classes on our campus, but receive their nursing degree from DCB.

We also partner with NDSU to offer a dual degree program. NDSU students study Human and Family Development. Then, as juniors, they become VCSU students working toward a degree in elementary education. This is a great program that provides students access to two excellent degrees in a unique way. Our faculty teach in the Fargo metro area and, I'd also like to note, students in this program are able to attend their VCSU classes inside an elementary school. This provides greater access to real-work experiences and hands-on opportunities, increasing their comfort and familiarity with a school environment.

Our academic programs have 44 different articulation agreements. These allow students greater access to courses and degrees in seamless ways.

Faculty and staff at VCSU have partnered to create educational opportunities just south of Valley City at the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center. This center specializes in water education and water-related research. Each year, Prairie Waters hosts students, professionals, and other community groups to educate about water resources and the organisms found in water ecosystems. Summer camps, field trips, and research opportunities are some exciting events that take place each summer. Located about 20 miles south of Valley City, Prairie Waters is a beautiful destination for people of all ages.

I'd like to mention the Northern Information Technology Consortium (NITC). The NITC is a partnership between Valley City State, Williston State, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College, Minot State University and Turtle Mountain Community College. This Consortium allows greater access for students in regards to information technology courses.

Finally, the Rural School Partner Benefit Program is an important partnership we have with area schools. This program helps rural ND schools with attracting and retaining their teacher workforce.



Rural School Partner Benefit Program

- Partnership with regional school districts to help rural ND schools to attract and retain teacher workforce
- VCSU reduces tuition rates for teachers pursuing graduate credits for dual-credit certification or master's programs
- Districts provide field experiences, student teacher placements, and assessments for VCSU preservice teachers. Districts also assist with teacher preparation through panel discussions, mock interviews and guest speaker presentations on VCSU's campus
- Program exists in Lisbon, Valley City, Central Cass, Kindred, Elgin/New Leipzig, Oak Grove, Litchville and Hope-Page Schools



Retaining Teaching Workforce

The Rural School Partner Benefit Program is designed to create a “dynamic and sustained university-school district partnership that will promote collaboration between the University and partner schools with a focus on student learning and educator preparation.” This effort will include both school district and university faculty and teacher candidates.

One of the first schools we partnered with was Lisbon Public Schools. Dr. Stephen Johnson, superintendent of Lisbon Schools at the time, said, “The focus will be on offering our students more dual-credit opportunities and preparing future teachers while updating current LPS staff with graduate credit. We will collaborate to place VCSU graduates in our school while helping them supervise and assess pre-service teachers in clinical experiences.”

VCSU offers reduced rates for tuition for those Lisbon faculty seeking Master of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching or Content Area Qualifications. In addition, VCSU reduces the tuition for high school students taking dual credit coursework.

Currently VCSU is partnering with eight schools to offer this program, but work is ongoing to add more districts to the program.

Community Partnerships

- Master of Science in Business Information Systems
- Cardiographic Technician course
- Marketplace for Kids



Partnering in the Valley City and Barnes County community

I'd also like to highlight some of the great partnerships VCSU has developed within our local community. We are incredibly lucky to have entities like the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation and its director Jennifer Feist. In partnership with them, we have had the ability to develop a few key programs to meet workforce needs. Also, we partnered with the Development Corporation for Summer Vikes on Central this year. Hundreds of our students walked across the historic footbridge into downtown Valley City and were welcomed with open arms. It really was an amazing event.

Our Master of Science in Business Information Systems degree was officially launched in 2022. It was developed to meet a workforce need identified at Eagle Creek Software in Valley City. This degree focuses on advancing skills in communication, Salesforce, SAP Business Software, computer software administration, and information technology management. Students can enter the program with a bachelor's degree in any major. The courses in this program help develop leadership skills for any individual seeking advancement or leadership roles in the workforce. Although enrollment is modest in this program, it is still fairly new and we are actively recruiting students for the degree path.

We are also offering a Cardiographic Technician course to meet a very specific workforce need. We were asked to help develop a course for this to increase the number of individuals that can take and pass the Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT) exam. Individuals with this certification can work as Cardiographic Technicians for a local company monitoring electrocardiogram (EKG) strips. Not only is this an important class, but our faculty developed multiple tools to offer portions of it in an online environment. The online simulator created by our faculty provided an extra way for students to quickly grasp the course material and pass the certification exam successfully.

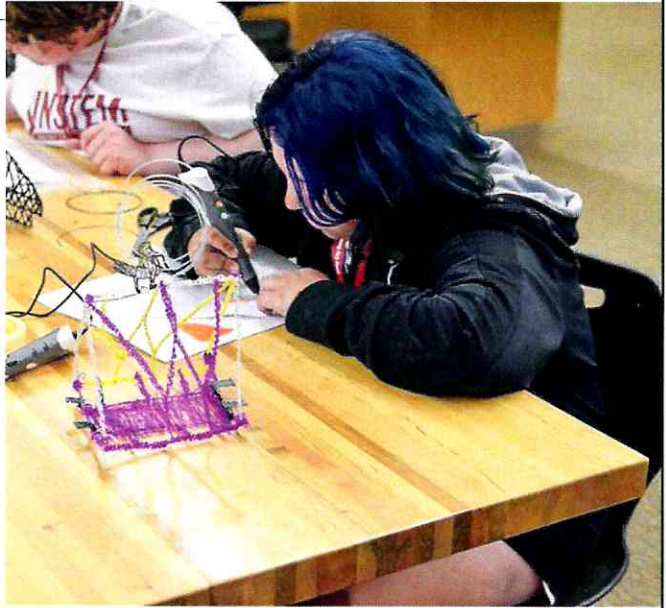
Finally, earlier this year, we hosted the Marketplace for Kids event. This event allows elementary students to become comfortable with new ideas and understand various parts of the economy. It was a great event and we hope to host it again in the future.



INSTEM Partnership

(Indians into STEM Partnership)

- Increase awareness and interest in STEM careers among ND Native American K-12 students
- Provide an opportunity to live and study on a college campus
- Increase self-efficacy in STEM academic content and future higher education enrollment
- Cohort model designed to have participating students return each year through high school graduation



Partnering to Create Opportunity for High School Students

Since 2018, the Great Plains STEM Education Center (GPSEC) at Valley City State University has been conducting week-long summer STEM academies for cohorts of North Dakota Native American middle and high school students. In 2020, the program was officially named INSTEM (Indians into STEM). INSTEM's mission is to increase awareness and interest in STEM careers among ND Native American K-12 students, while also providing them with the opportunity to live and study on a college campus to increase self-efficacy in STEM academic content and future higher education enrollment. The cohort model is designed to have participating students return each year through high school graduation.

The program was developed through the hard work of Lisa Lone Flight (senior environmental scientist with the Mandan, Hidatsu and Arikira nation and Dr. Jamie Wirth (director of the VCSU Great Plains STEM Education Center).

This project is a natural continuation of the Middle School STEM Academy. The intent of this project is to provide the hands on, highly engaging activities that can be used to help encourage Native Americans to pursue college education and particularly in STEM disciplines, where they are under-represented.



Our Students are Career Ready

"VCSU really does a phenomenal job in helping a student who wants to be proactive in the career hunt and search, so I already have a job that I am currently working, before even graduating and receiving my degree."

*Connor Aanderud, '22
Software Engineering Major*



Preparing a Successful Workforce

Alumni Connor Aanderud states this well, VCSU combines a great environment with excellent faculty to help students achieve personal and career success. Connor is a great example of a student who achieves real-world results before receiving his degree. As part of his senior project, he created software for an office on campus to more seamlessly process a specific type of application. During his senior year, he spent his summer working as an intern at DigiKey Electronics.



Internship locations in 2021-2022

- Aflac
- Barnes County Museum
- Barnes County Sheriff's Office
- Barnes County State's Attorney
- Border States Electric
- Bridges Art Council
- Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone
- Centrol Ag Consulting
- CHI Mercy Health
- Christian Adoption Services
- City of Fargo
- City of Valley City
- Collins Aerospace
- Community Action Head Start
- Cornerstone Rentals
- Digi-Key Electronics
- Eagle Creek
- Eide Bailly
- Enterprise
- Freedom Machine Group
- Go Promo
- I3G Media
- Inspire Counseling
- Just Kidding Preschool
- Menards
- Miller Motors
- Minnesota DNR
- National Information Solution Cooperative
- Northway Academy
- Open Door Center
- Sodexo
- Solar Steals
- State Historical Society of ND
- Stoneridge Software
- The Arthur Companies
- The Joe Niekro Foundation
- The Office of the State Auditor
- Three Affiliated Tribes Fitness & Recreation Department
- Times Record
- Titan Machinery
- Tri WG
- URL Radio, LLC
- US Federal Government
- Valley City Barnes County Public Library
- Valley City Parks and Rec
- Valley City Public School
- Ward County Public Library
- Wold Engineering
- Youth Correctional Center

Internships in Numerous Locations

Our Career Services department helped match students with many internships. This list is internship locations from this past year alone. Students successfully work as interns with some of the best organizations worldwide, and often, are offered employment after their internship is completed.

Of the more than 50 locations, we are constantly hearing about the high-caliber of the students placed in these spots. Internships are an important tool for students to gain real-world experience. They are also meeting a need of our employers by opening doors to new potential employees.

From Spring 2022 until Spring 2023, we have had 54 interns with 45 of them working for ND businesses/organizations.

Follow-up surveys with the internship providers indicate close to 100% percent of the students would be recommended for full-time employment by their internship supervisor. This is a critical portion of the VCSU experience and we are proud to have so many students succeed professionally, in part, due to these internships.



General Financial Overview

- Solid financial standing with a 2021 CFI of 5.72
- New GASB standards resulted in one 2022 Financial Audit Finding, a fund misclassification. This was corrected immediately.
- Undesignated Reserves are strong at 7% and total \$1,293,142



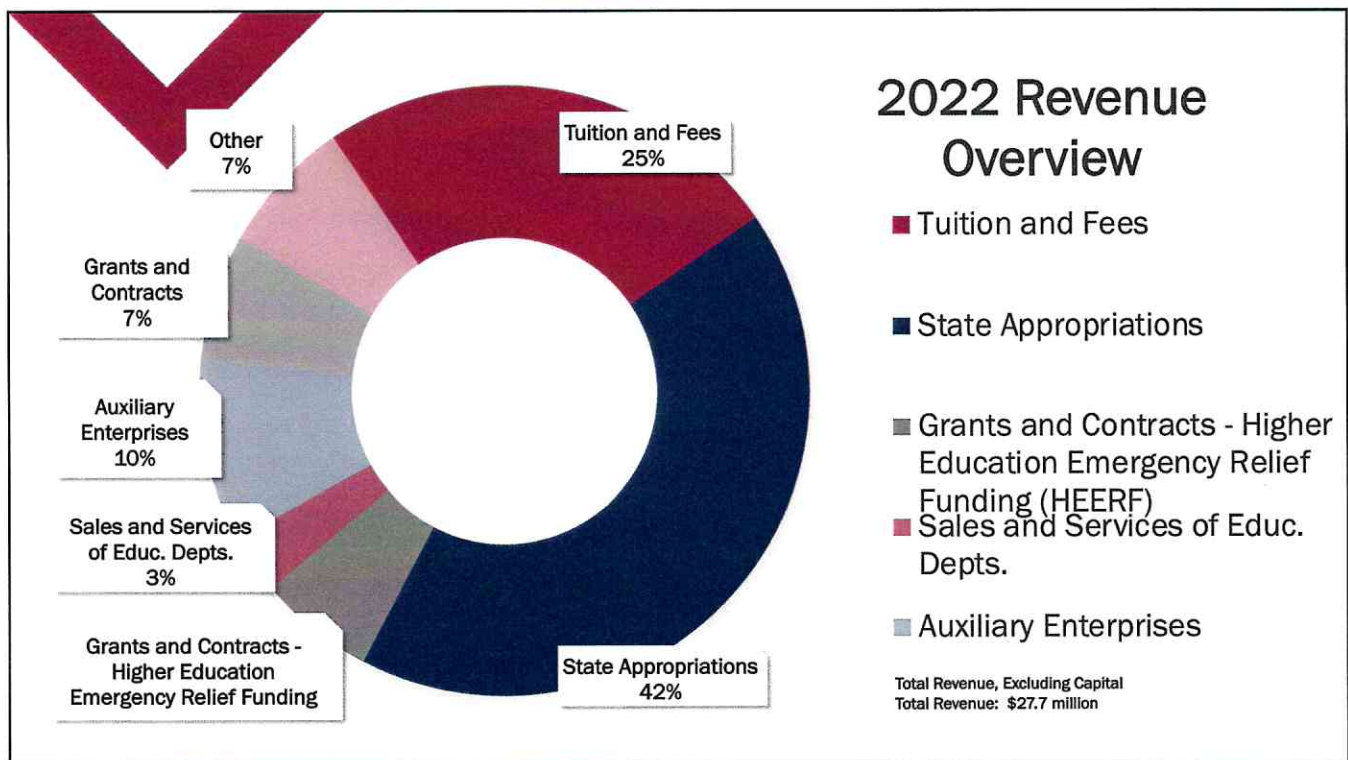
Strong Financial Standing

VCSU had a solid CFI in 2021 of 5.72 which increased from 2.55 in 2020.

Last year, we had one minor financial audit finding due to new General Accounting Standards Board standards. One of our funds was misclassified under the new standards and that was immediately corrected to be in compliance. Prior to that, VCSU had six years of no financial audit recommendations.

During the last Operational audit with ND state auditor's office, we did receive a finding regarding procurement. We have created a centralized procurement process for campus that is being rolled out this year and will help maintain records during turnover and keep a closer eye on required procurement thresholds.

Campuses are required to hold in reserves no lower than 5% and up to 7% in undesignated reserves. As of June 30th, 2022, VCSU has a strong undesignated reserve of 7%.



Revenue Overview

This chart shows VCSU's revenue sources from for fiscal year 2022.

As you can see, the 42% of our revenue is from the appropriation from the State of North Dakota. We are extremely grateful to this body for the continued support and commitment to our students.

The second-largest revenue generator for our campus is Tuition and Fees.

Here is a more detailed breakdown of these revenue numbers.

\$6.9 million Tuition and Fees

\$11.7 million State Appropriations

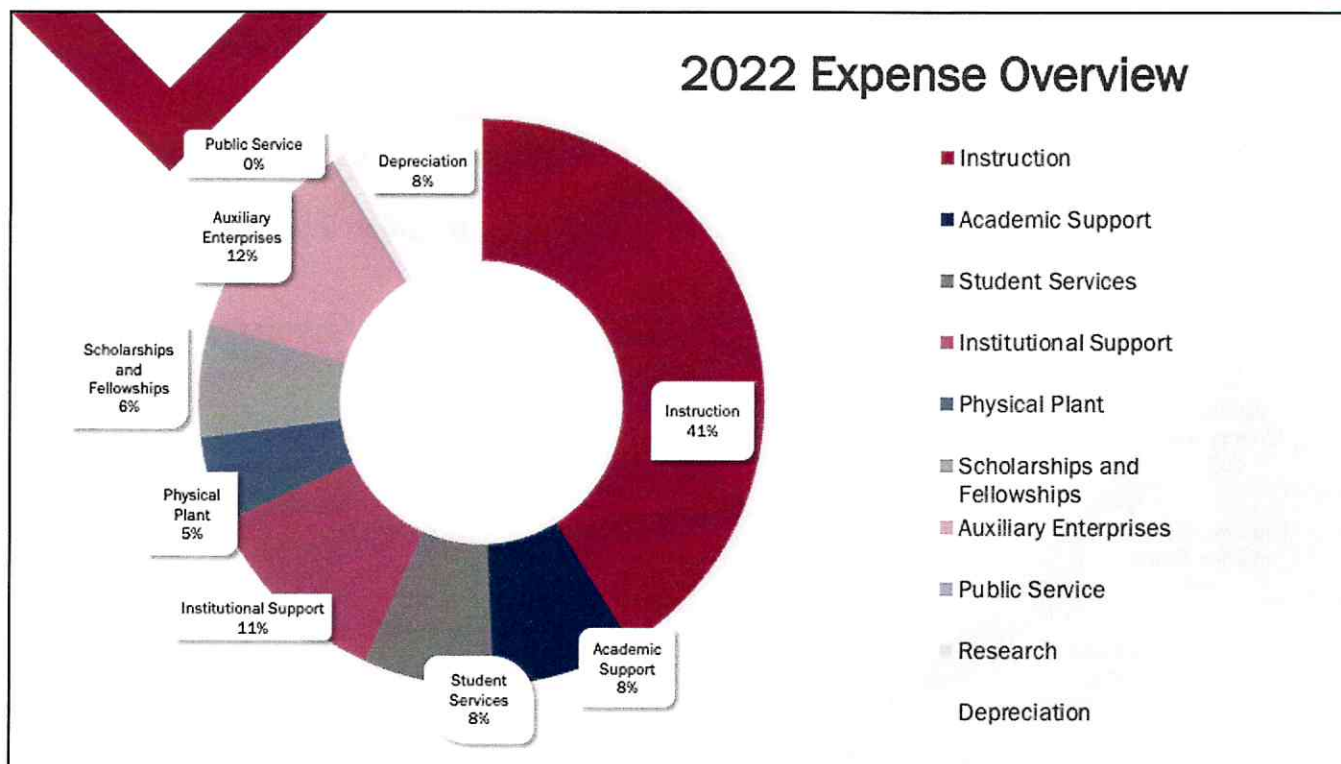
\$1.7 million Grants and Contracts - Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF)

\$0.9 million Sales and Services of Educ. Depts.

\$2.7 million Auxiliary Enterprises

\$1.8 million Grants and Contracts

\$2.0 million Other



Expense Overview

This chart shows the breakdown of VCSU's 2022 expenses.

Here is a more detailed breakdown of these revenue numbers.

\$11.6 million Instruction

\$2.3 million Academic Support

\$2.1 million Student Services

\$3.2 million Institutional Support

\$1.4 million Physical Plant

\$1.8 million Scholarships and Fellowships

\$3.3 million Auxiliary Enterprises

\$.02 million Public Service

\$.02 million Research

\$2.3 million Depreciation



Extraordinary Repairs on Campus

Match Calculation	State Fund	VCSU Match	Total	Planned Projects	
2:1 Extraordinary Repair	\$408,318	\$816,636	\$1,224,954 Matched	McFarland Clock Tower Repairs	\$85,000
Tier 2 - 1:1	\$309,137	\$309,137	\$618,274 Matched 200,000	Classroom and Hallway Remodels in McFarland Hall	\$100,000
Tier 3 - 2:1	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000 Pending Match	Press Box Repairs/Stadium ADA Updates	\$640,000
Total	\$1,217,455	\$2,125,773	\$3,343,228	Other projects to be added after completion and budget update	
Total Matched and Available			\$1,624,954		
Future Project Descriptions			Category	ESTIMATE	
McFarland Fire Alarm Upgrade (to complete building upgrade)			LS	\$100,000	
Field House Emergency Power			LS	\$60,000	
Replace McFarland Fire Escape (East)			LS	\$330,000	
Card Access on other buildings			LS	\$100,000	
Footbridge Structural Repairs			DM	\$276,500	
Campus Tuckpointing			DM	\$2,800,000	
McFarland Window Replacement			DM	\$2,454,850	
Sidewalk Replacement			DM	\$75,000	
Total future planned deferred maintenance				\$6,196,350	



The Importance of Tier Funding

VCSU is in support of the Tier funding match requirement changes to a 1:1 match asked by NDUS. The North Dakota House of Representatives approved this change.

Being able to access tier dollars more quickly would go a long way to addressing the needs of VCSU. As a historic campus, we are stewards of many aging facilities. We take this responsibility seriously and have a comprehensive list of deferred maintenance and life safety projects on our campus that, once completed, will directly benefit our students.

During the 21-23 biennium, we have been able to match \$1,016,636 of the \$2,125,773 match required to access all of the tier dollars. Therefore, we have only been able to utilize \$1.6 million of the \$3.3 million available to VCSU.



Budget Request Overview

	General Funds	Special Funds
2021-23 Appropriation / Authority	\$24,161,377	\$26,377,846
Current Funding Formula Increase due to Credit Production	\$480,872	
Cost to Continue 21-23 Salary Adjustment	\$114,005	\$120,170
Total 2023-25 Base Budget Request	\$24,756,254	\$26,498,016
Additional Requests		
Behavioral Health Initiative	\$236,000	
Teacher Workforce McCarthy Project*	\$11,500,000	\$2,000,000
Capital Campaign Projects		\$22,000,000
Total optional requests	\$11,736,000	\$24,000,000
Total Request	\$36,492,254	\$50,498,016

Budget Overview

The VCSU 21-23 Base level state funding is \$24,161,377, of which \$408,000 is set aside for our 2:1 match for capital assets and an additional \$47,823 for equipment purchases on campus.

Our requested adjustments would increase our budget by \$594,877. This is made up of two parts. First, the funding formula increases our state funding by \$480,872 due to our increase in completed credit hours. Secondly, we are asking for an increase of \$114,005 to continue the cost of raises during the 21-23 biennium for our employees.

In our special fund authority, we request an increase of \$120,170 to continue the cost of raises during the 21-23 biennium for our employees paid through these funds.

VCSU also asks for spending authority of our Capital Campaign fundraised dollars of \$22 million. These funds will be used to fund two important projects for our campus: a much-needed addition to our Osmon Fieldhouse and updates to the Memorial Student Union.

One-Time Funding Requests

North Dakota has a critical shortage of teachers in all K-12 content areas. VCSU leads the state

in teacher preparation. 1,514 educators in 151 North Dakota communities are VCSU alumni.

VCSU is committed to bringing our nationally-recognized School of Education and Graduate Studies under the same roof in McCarthy Hall. Classrooms and lab spaces will be designed with flexible seating and updated technology which would be similar to what students will encounter in real-world school environments. The layout will also incorporate a large student workroom, curriculum library, and numerous study spaces.

Based on preliminary design, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$13.5 million. VCSU is requesting \$11.5 million to renovate McCarthy Hall for the School of Education and department of Technology. VCSU will contribute approximately \$2 million in private donations. The North Dakota House of Representatives approved the Teacher Workforce McCarthy Project at \$11.5 million.

This teacher workforce development project will eliminate more than \$8 million of deferred maintenance. No new faculty or staff will be necessary for this project. This project will enhance the high-quality educational experience students receive at VCSU while helping attract future teachers to the North Dakota workforce.

Valley City State University

Comparison of 2021-23 Base Budget to 2023-25 SBHE Request, Executive & House Recommendation

	2021-23 Base Level	Requested Adjustments	2023-25 SBHE Needs-Based Budget	Executive Recommendation	House Recommendation	Difference between House Recommendation and 2021-23 Base Level	House Difference from SBHE Needs-Based Budget
Campus Operations	\$50,083,400		\$50,083,400	\$50,083,400	\$50,083,400		\$0
Funding Formula Adjustment		\$480,872	\$480,872	\$480,872	\$480,872	\$480,872	\$0
Costs to Continue Salaries/FB		\$234,175	\$234,175	\$234,175	\$234,175	\$234,175	\$0
Behavioral Health Initiative		\$236,000	\$236,000	\$0	\$236,000	\$236,000	\$0
Engrossed HB1003 Compensation 4%/4% and Health Insurance for general fund and tuition			\$0	\$3,138,342	\$3,911,720	\$3,911,720	\$3,911,720
Total Campus Operations	\$50,083,400	\$951,047	\$51,034,447	\$53,936,789	\$54,946,167	\$4,862,767	\$3,911,720
Capital Assets	\$455,823	\$0	\$455,823	\$455,823	\$455,823	\$0	\$0
Plant Improvement Carryover	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Projects - Non State Funded	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Projects - Non-State Carryover	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Appropriation	\$50,539,223	\$951,047	\$51,490,270	\$54,392,612	\$55,401,990	\$4,862,767	\$3,911,720
General Fund	\$24,161,377	\$830,877	\$24,992,254	\$26,330,261	\$27,587,300	\$3,425,923	\$2,595,046
Special Funds	\$26,377,846	\$120,170	\$26,498,016	\$28,062,351	\$27,814,690	\$1,436,844	\$1,316,674
Total Funding Sources	\$50,539,223	\$951,047	\$51,490,270	\$54,392,612	\$55,401,990	\$4,862,767	\$3,911,720
FTE	202.77	10.17	212.94	211.94	211.94	9.17	-1

Comparison

We support the executive recommendation of a 6% and 4% raise and the request for the increases to be funded by general dollars. We support the recommendation by the North Dakota House to utilize the general fund to cover the gap that would occur due to the proposed tuition freeze.

VCSU has seen increased cost during the last biennium due to inflation in many areas. One example of this is our Rainbow Gas contract, VCSU saw an increase from fixed price of \$3.97/unit in 2021 to \$7.92/unit in 2022 which may be a \$150,000 direct impact to our reserves. VCSU is in support of the NDUS inflation formula adjustment request of 7.5%.

Additionally, we support the behavioral health initiative proposed by NDUS and recommended by the Executive budget. The VCSU portion of this initiative is \$236,000. During the past two academic years, our students have had an increased wait time to be seen by behavioral health staff due to increased numbers seeking services as well as difficulties in filling an open counselor position. The behavioral health initiative would support 1 FTE for a mental health provider and professional development trainings to help VCSU meet the needs of its students. The North Dakota House of

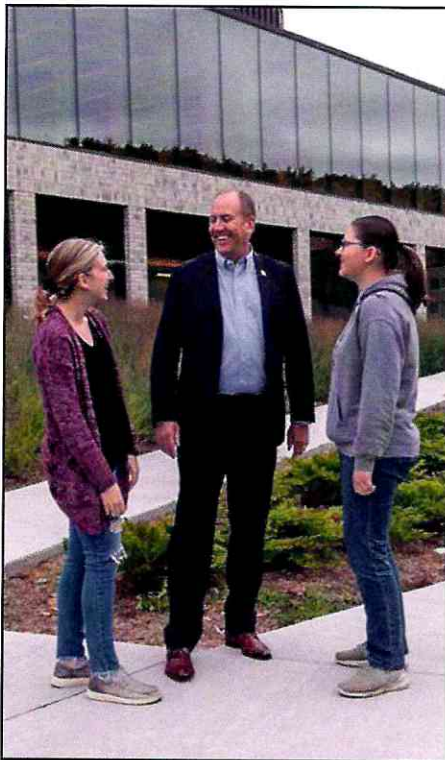
Representatives has approved this as a one-time need and VCSU is requesting this as an ongoing cost as it would be, if approved, tied to a FTE.

FTE counts from last biennium to this have increased on campus. These additions to FTE since the previous budget cuts have been fueled by student growth and have been made strategically, not by bringing back positions in the areas that have been cut, but instead by focusing on areas of strategic importance in academic growth areas, health service, mental health, diversity, and adjunct and dual credit instructors.

Valley City State University

Comparison of 2021-23 Base Budget to 2023-25 SBHE Request, Executive & House Recommendation

	2021-23 Base Level	Requested Adjustments	2023-25 SBHE Needs-Based Budget	Executive Recommendation	House Recommendation	Difference between House Recommendation and 2021-23 Base Level	House Difference from SBHE Needs-Based Budget
Campus Operations	\$50,083,400		\$50,083,400	\$50,083,400	\$50,083,400		\$0
Funding Formula Adjustment		\$480,872	\$480,872	\$480,872	\$480,872	\$480,872	\$0
Costs to Continue Salaries/FB		\$234,175	\$234,175	\$234,175	\$234,175	\$234,175	\$0
Behavioral Health Initiative		\$236,000	\$236,000	\$0	\$236,000	\$236,000	\$0
Engrossed HB1003							
Compensation 4%/4% and Health Insurance for general fund and tuition			\$0	\$3,138,342	\$3,911,720	\$3,911,720	\$3,911,720
Total Campus Operations	\$50,083,400	\$951,047	\$51,034,447	\$53,936,789	\$54,946,167	\$4,862,767	\$3,911,720
Capital Assets	\$455,823	\$0	\$455,823	\$455,823	\$455,823	\$0	\$0
Plant Improvement Carryover	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Projects - Non-State Funded	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Projects - Non-State Carryover	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total Appropriation	\$50,539,223	\$951,047	\$51,490,270	\$54,392,612	\$55,401,990	\$4,862,767	\$3,911,720
General Fund	\$24,161,377	\$830,877	\$24,992,254	\$26,330,261	\$27,587,300	\$3,425,923	\$2,595,046
Special Funds	\$26,377,846	\$120,170	\$26,498,016	\$28,062,351	\$27,814,690	\$1,436,844	\$1,316,674
Total Funding Sources	\$50,539,223	\$951,047	\$51,490,270	\$54,392,612	\$55,401,990	\$4,862,767	\$3,911,720
FTE	202.77	10.17	212.94	211.94	211.94	9.17	-1



Forward Together

- Support student success in and out of the classroom
- Improve quality of academic offerings and explore additions of innovative programs
- Provide support for best practices in online teaching and learning environment
- Continue strategic work to positively impact enrollment, retention, and completion

Let's Move Forward Together

Overall, VCSU is in a great place. We are achieving student success on multiple levels and continuing to improve our academic offerings to ensure students are getting the highest-quality education.

Our entire team is working on best practices to offer high-quality teaching and learning.

VCSU is one of the fastest-growing regional schools in the upper Midwest and we continue to have sustained enrollment growth, but that success and growth have helped us realize our current facilities are well-loved, but inadequate. McCarthy Hall is a prime example. With our Forward Together focus, we are making a monumental effort to propel VCSU into the future. The Campaign for Valley City State University is our way of ensuring continued service to our students by providing them with updated campus buildings and scholarship enhancements.

Thank you for your time today and I look forward to partnering with you to continue supporting North Dakota's future workforce.

Thank you



Thank You for your Time

Thank you, again, for your support of VCSU and Higher Education in ND.

We support the NDUS needs-based budget request and are proud to play a part in the overall success of higher education in North Dakota.