



VALLEY CITY

STATE UNIVERSITY

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

May 11, 2024 ♦ W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 10 a.m.

W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

The President Will Preside

Prelude.....	VCSU Concert Band Prof. Jerrold Heide, director
Academic Processional "Pomp and Circumstance"	Edward Elgar, arr. James Ployhar VCSU Concert Band
Call to Order.....	Dr. Alan LaFave President of the University
"Star Spangled Banner"	John Stafford Smith VCSU Vocal Trio Tara Dahl, soprano Isabelle Haugen, soprano Elizabeth Gazeley, alto
Opening Remarks.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Greetings	Mr. Curtis Biller North Dakota State Board of Higher Education
Undergraduate Reflection	Ms. Madison Yoder
Faculty Reflection	Dr. Travis Knapp Assistant Professor, Department of Language and Literature
Special Music "Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Mvt 1" (Allegretto).....	Camille Saint-Saëns Tedi Dimmer, clarinet Dr. Ozzie Johnson, piano
Presentation of Candidates for Master's Degrees	Mr. Larry Brooks Vice President for Academic Affairs
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Introduction of Graduates	Mr. Mark Potts Assistant Director for Athletics
Presentation of Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees.....	Mr. Larry Brooks
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Introduction of the Graduates.....	Mr. Mark Potts
Presentation of Candidates from the Dakota College at Bottineau	Mr. Larry Brooks
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Introduction of the Graduates.....	Mr. Mark Potts

Alumni Welcome..... Mr. Cory Anderson '89
 Executive Director for University Advancement

"Alma Mater" Josephine Wright Rhoades, Class of 1917
 VCSU University Singers
 Prof. Kewen Cheng, conductor

Academic Recessional
"To A New Horizon" Naoya Wada
 VCSU Concert Band

Presidents Cabinet Representatives Dr. Erin Klingenberg
 Vice President for Student Affairs
 Ms. Erica Buchholz '10
 Vice President of Business Affairs

Honorary Faculty Marshal Dr. Amber Ussatis Aberle '03, M.Ed. '10
 VCSU Faculty Senate Association President, Associate Professor
 School of Education & Graduate Studies

Graduate School Representatives Dr. James Boe '91
 Dean of Graduate Studies & Extended Learning
 Ms. Susan Pfeifer
 Professor, Department Chair
 Department of Computer Systems & Software Engineering

Dakota Nursing Program Dr. Carmen Simone
 Dakota College at Bottineau

VCSU Concert Band Mr. Jerrold Heide, director

VCSU University Singers..... Prof. Kewen Cheng, conductor

Commencement Coordinator Ms. Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91

Usher/Seating Coordinators..... Ms. Shannon Hone '15
 Ms. Kari Stricklin '92
 Ms. Brittany Nathan '19

Ushers..... Viking Ambassadors and VCSU Staff

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

ALAN LAFAVE

Alan LaFave has served as president of Valley City State University since December 2018. He previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs (2015–18) at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. At Northern State, LaFave worked his way through the faculty ranks from instructor to full professor in the music department (1991–2015). He also served as music department chair (1994–97) and associate dean and dean of the School of Fine Arts (1997–15). An accomplished musician, LaFave holds doctoral and master's degrees in clarinet performance from Arizona State University along with a bachelor's degree in music education from Northern State. He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association. LaFave's family includes his wife, Kari; daughters Lexi and Ashley, son-in-law Logan and granddaughter Ava.

CURTIS BILLER

Curt Biller was appointed to the State Board of Higher Education in May 2023. He is a part of the Academic & Student Affairs; Budget & Finance; EPSCoR State Steering Committees. Curt grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he graduated from Moorhead High School. After high school he attended Montana State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Curt has been a business consultant for Strengths, Inc. focusing on hiring, retention, strategic planning, and culture since 2000. Prior to that he spent 12 years in the restaurant business. In addition, Curt has served the Sigma Chi fraternity in a number of positions for over 30 years focusing on leadership training and development. Curt has been married for 23 years to his wife Cheryl. They reside in Fargo, N.D.

MADISON YODER

Madison Yoder is graduating today with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Mathematics Education. Yoder grew up in Dickinson and always knew she wanted to be a teacher. Valley City State University was her dream school due to the nationally-recognized teacher education program. While on campus, she served as the Student Body President for two years, participated in English Club, Spanish Club, served as a crew leader for New Student Orientation, and a member of the Education Advisory Board. She enjoys the methodical approach used to solve math problems. Yoder aims to make math friendly and approachable for all students. She completed her student teaching at Dickinson Middle School and has been hired by the school as a full-time 8th grade math teacher.

DR. TRAVIS KNAPP

Travis Knapp, Ph.D., joined the VCSU Department of Language and Literature in 2022. He teaches writing, literature and linguistics. Knapp grew up in Fort Smith, Arkansas. earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and History from Oklahoma State University. He has a Master of Arts and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in English Literature. Knapp enjoys conversations with students, discussing different ideas and seeing if conversations can change the way someone thinks about something. Knapp lives in Valley City and enjoys going for walks and being involved in music communities, including playing trumpet in the Valley City Community Band.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2024

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

James Edward Day	Devils Lake
Jana Michelle Hathaway **	Bismarck
Lana M. Held **	Hazelton
Darce Key Holcomb *	Cooperstown
Timothy Obstar **	Bozeman, Montana
Kara Lois Sharff *	Bismarck
Kurtis Lavell Walls *	Phoenix, Arizona

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Daulton Bartholomay **	Sheldon
Jeremiah Bundrage Jr.	Covington, Georgia
Lyndsay Burns	Aneta
Weston Cockley	Rock Springs, Wyoming
Janessa Ashley Dockter *	Medina
Mackenzie Jade Dougherty **	Alexandria, Minnesota
Jessica Anne Eaton **	Minot
Renee Ann Galvan **	La Barge, Wyoming
Edynn Dawn Glatt	Bismarck
Kayla Mae Grizzle **	New Town, Wyoming
Jessica Haut	Fingal
Katherine Rose Heidt	Dickinson
Hannah Hoenhause	Lisbon
Megan R. Hotten	Devils Lake
Melissa Jason *	Fargo
Troy Daniel Kuntz	Dickinson
Renae Elizabeth Lehman *	Bismarck
Krystle Marie Leidholm	Fargo
Sanessa Lea Lindemann	Aberdeen, South Dakota
Jeffrey Scott Moe *	Walhalla
Jamel Mohammedi Bouzina	Hollister, California
Chanda Morgel *	Tioga
Summer Olsen	Fargo
Kennedy Olson **	Park River
Kirsten Lee Perry **	Eldred, Pennsylvania
Alyssa Beth Peterson *	Bismarck
Melissa Port **	Fargo
William Tyler Scott	Fargo
Hailey Ann Strauss **	Arthur
Amer Vatres	Fargo
Kadie Lynne Walls *	Linton
Stacey Elisha Wiltse	Fargo
Jolene Daley Woodbury **	Watford City
Victoria Yahn	Watford City

MASTER of SCIENCE

Bridget Marie Blunck	Valley City
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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Alex Aker	West Fargo
Hailee Altringer **	Jamestown
Alyssa Annette Ames	Spiritwood
Ambyer Ames	Granger, Wyoming
Hannah M. Anderson	Prior Lake, Minnesota
Hannah Elizabeth Bailly	Fargo
Malayna Marie Barendt	Webster
Lacey Bassett	Lovell, Wyoming
Izabelle Beck **	Gwinner
Lindsey Rae Belmonte **	Cheyenne, Wyoming
Alondra Daniela Benavides	Carol Stream, Illinois
Toriana Rose Berg **	Valley City
Josie Kathleen Berntson **	Valley City
Lindsey Summer Bertagnole	Valley City
Christina Bertram	Milnor
Cassie Michelle Boelke **	Wahpeton
Damianna Hazel Byerly	Fargo
Hannah Marie Cooper **	Cheyenne, Wyoming
Marta Luisa Cuartero Enamorado	Williston
Macie B. Danielson	Harwood
Dahlia Rosa Diegel **	Wishek
Theodora Rose Dimmer	West Fargo
Riley Ann Dodd	Lovell, Wyoming
Jill Dollinger	Bismarck
Stephen Joseph Dora **	Bismarck
Holly Ebner **	Mott
Sam Erickson **	Fargo
Ashley Evenson **	Fargo
Hunter Michael Feil	Langdon
Hannah Elizabeth Flaa	Valley City
Saige Isabelle Forseth	Valley City
Dylan Dorene Frederick **	Gwinner
Hannah Elizabeth Fried	Bismarck
Christina Friel	Rock Springs
Lindsay Joy Friend **	Rock Springs, Wyoming
Andrew Michael Givler	Coatesville, Pennsylvania
Brooke Morgan Graalum **	Jamestown
Samantha Graber **	Valley City
Hunter Todd Greenmyer	Oakes
Matthew Alexander Hall	Pasadena, California
Rylee Renae Halvorson	West Fargo
Kaylee Harles	Lidgerwood
Hunter L. Heck	Cavalier
Abigail Heggeness	Fargo
Taylor Grace Henry	Maple Grove, Minnesota
Allison Rose Hilde	Harwood
Rachel A. Hoff **	LaMoure
Kaytlin Ann Hoffman **	Fargo
Amber Rose Hoffner **	Minot
Casey Corbell Holman	Verndale, Minnesota
Kaitlyn J. Houle	Valley City
Cassidy Kay Hoyt **	McHenry

Kindra Emma Jacobson	Sheyenne
Brandon Michael Jenkins **	Wilton
Taylor Nicole Johnson	Bismarck
Grace Olivia Kilwein	Hazen
Mason Patrick-Allen Kinn	Devils Lake
MaKenzie Ryan Knight	Montpelier
Harley Knodel	Valley City
Abigail Ashé Karoline Kramer **	Bismarck
Michelle Renae Krahn	Crystal City, Manitoba, Canada
Elizabeth Marie Krogen	West Fargo
Maddison Lyn Lachtara **	Moorcroft, Wyoming
Joelle Renee Lamontagne	Oxbow, Saskatchewan, Canada
Madelynn Jo Langemo	Valley City
Cynthia Elizabeth Lara **	Rock Springs, Wyoming
Sidney Janae Leier **	West Fargo
Sabine Livingston *	Denver, Colorado
Jennifer Luehring **	Fargo
Amy Kathleen Marsh **	Carnduff, Saskatchewan, Canada
Kaylee McClary	Fargo
Abigail Meyer **	Valley City
Madison Ann Momerak	Bismarck
Cade Morse **	Olivia, Minnesota
Marlis Christine Mueller	Fargo
Preston Marvin Myers **	Valley City
Breanna Kay Nelson **	Maxbass
Chloe Marie Nelson **	Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Mikayla Ann Nelson **	Valley City
Samantha Nelson **	Valley City
Kobe R. Newton	Bismarck
Emma Nielsen **	Barnesville, Minnesota
Lindsey Carly Noeske	Valley City
Jocelyn Ellen Ochowicz	Pine City, Minnesota
Tara Jean Okerson	Rolla
Mya Olin **	Williston
Elizabeth Mary Olmscheid	Breezy Point, Minnesota
Miranda Marie Olson	Wyoming, Minnesota
Hannah Marie Osland	Argusville
Julia Michael Pearson **	Valley City
Loren Alese Perry **	Villa Park, Illinois
Alison Peterson	Andover, Minnesota
Kylee Lynn Peterson	Champlin, Minnesota
Suvanna Ponjun	Honolulu, Hawaii
Kade Stephen Queen	Seattle, Washington
Elizabeth Grace Reuter	St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Samuel James Rieger	Lisbon
Kelby Mae Rinas	Mandan
Grace Lila Robinson	Fargo
Kayla Roper **	West Fargo
Lillian A. Rother	Woodbury, Minnesota
Tai Ann Ryan **	Cedar Crest, New Mexico
Kevin William Schramm	New Brighton, Minnesota
Afrah Sharif	Glendale Heights, Illinois
Lauren Romyne Shekore	Moorhead, Minnesota
Rebekah Grace Shorma	Fargo

Austin Ebach Valley City
 Cauy Jacob Ellingson ** Edgeley
 Kasha Efermina Fernandes ** Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 William Ray Gieser Mandan
 Jessica Ann Gylden Valley City
 Isabel Jain Grueneich ** Ellendale
 Michaela Kate Halvorson Twin Valley, Minnesota
 Garrett Trent Alfred Hanson Enderlin
 Jace Willis Hanson Edgeley
 Zachary T. Hanson Jamestown
 Jacob Joel Hanson ** Berthold
 Nicholas Gene Harberts ** Buckley, Washington
 Addison Lee Harms Bismarck
 Arthur Harris Fargo
 Ashantai Teonne Harris Surrey
 Jacob Alan Harstad ** Rogers
 Megan Lynn Haugrud ** Moorhead, Minnesota
 Clarissa Hilary Ramsey, Minnesota
 Melissa Kathleen Holub ** Valley City
 Nicholas P. Horner * Valley City
 Robert Jackson Ingstad Valley City
 Hope Masako Ishizaka Mililani, Hawaii
 Xavier Cole Jacobson ** Page
 Clinton Don Jewett ** Valley City
 Grant Haydn Paul Jones Valley City
 Cody Lane Jundt Valley City
 Ian Xavier Keyes ** Jamestown
 Grace Chiao-hwa-hwa Kiang * Moorpark, California
 Alex Mason Klever LaMoore
 Clay Allen Kummer Surrey
 Mason Ann Kuntz Dickinson
 Heather Sharon Lobley Derry, New Hampshire
 Jennifer Jean Louise Lockwood Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
 Shayden Luna ** Towner
 Russell Glenn Marker * Valley City
 Jacob J. Marx Brooklyn Center, Minnesota
 Ashley Taylor McKittrick Valley City
 Taylene Mirrya Apatang Mendiola Dededo, Guam
 Matthew Wayne Mills Powers Lake
 Tayla Mullings Redditch, United Kingdom
 Machaela Audrey Mund ** Milnor
 Bailey Nelson ** Argusville
 Tory Sidney Nelson Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada
 DeAnna Renee Nolan Cheyenne, Wyoming
 Sanden O'Connell ** Lake Park, Minnesota
 Ann Marie Olson Lisbon
 Macy Olstad Valley City
 Madison Joleen Peters * Cando
 Alayna Christine Proctor ** Champlin, Minnesota
 Kiara Sue Radke Milnor
 Riley Tatum Roberts Resnick Twin Valley, Minnesota
 Ryan Alec Reynolds * West Fargo
 Cayden Joseph Rickard Fargo
 Andrea E. Rodriguez Austin, Texas

Austin Ryan Rogelstad	Valley City
Bennett Adam Rogelstad	Valley City
Anthony John Russell **	Enumclaw, Washington
Jennifer Rose Sandberg **	Valley City
Macey Schlenker	Ellendale
Mardi Lynn Scutchings **	Kelvington, Saskatchewan, Canada
Jacob Dylan Segars	Toccoa, Georgia
Dale Tyler Skalicky **	Bowman
Dalton M. Sougstad	Mandan
Clay Christian Sporer **	Bismarck
DelRae Steiner	West Fargo
Zachary Robin Swinbourne *	Surprise, Arizona
Mitchel Jon Taylor	Valley City
Adam Davane Thompson *	Menahga, Minnesota
Austyn Thornton **	Valley City
Brook Lynn Tibke **	Wilton
Kyler Dane Allan Tichkowsky	St. Paul, Alberta, Canada
Zachary A. Veneman	Whitefish, Montana
Jahidi Malik West **	Stockton, California
Colton Wayne Wetch	Valley City
Neeleigh Anne Wollenzien	Towner
Mason Fletcher Wurst	Anchorage, Alaska
Austin Young **	Breezy Point, Minnesota
Karissa Renea Yturralde	El Paso, Texas
Alexander Kazuma Zacek **	Surprise, Arizona
Jacob Zetocha	Lincoln

BACHELOR OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Laritza Noyola Barcenas Mendoza **	Gillette, Wyoming
Aaron Bohnstingl	Lidgerwood
Vance Justin Dumas	Renton, Washington
Garrett Daniel Foss *	Casselton
Riley Michael Gerhardt **	Valley City
Larry Herzog Jr.	Valley City
Kaelie Dawn Kosiak	Wishek
Shane Nixon *	Markham, Ontario, Canada
Cora Marie Potts **	Valley City
Krystal Villalobos	Wahpeton

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Ava Corrin Baasch	Fort Ransom
Betsy Ann Brimhall **	Tioga
Keagan Chey Dailey	Valley City
Abby Ann Haberman	LaMoure
Emma Marie Leatherman	El Paso, Texas
Charleigh Manley **	Sacramento, California

* Completed requirements July 28, 2023

** Completed requirements December 15, 2023

DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

Erin Elizabeth BelileJamestown
Andrea Edinger.....Spiritwood
Heather Hansen Owens..... Sanborn
Connor Ryan Pfenning Valley City

CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL NURSING

Emily Elise HoffJamestown
Madison Ann KemnizRosholt, SD
Madison Ann Maley..... Valley City
Jolene Lane Miller.....Jamestown
Taylor Shane Olson.....Jamestown

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Marieclaire Mutoni.....Jamestown

HONOR GRADUATES 2023—2024

Undergraduate students whose overall grade point average, based on both grades earned in Valley City State University courses and transferred courses, is at least 3.50 or better may graduate with one of the following distinctions:

Summa Cum Laude (With highest honors, 3.90 to 4.00)

Alyssa Annette Ames	Marlis Christine Mueller
Malayna Marie Barendt	Bailey Nelson **
Derek Robert Bear	Lindsey Carly Noeske
Cassie Michelle Boelke **	Mya Olin **
Keagan Chey Dailey	Macy Olstad
Theodora Rose Dimmer	Loren Alese Perry **
Hunter Michael Feil	Suvanna Ponjun
Saige Isabelle Forseth	Kiara Sue Radke
Dylan Dorene Frederick **	Elizabeth Grace Reuter
Clarissa Hilary	Austin Ryan Rogelstad
Rachel A. Hoff **	Bennett Adam Rogelstad
Cassidy Kay Hoyt **	Rebekah Grace Shorma
Ian Xavier Keyes **	Gracie Renay Tjernlund
Joelle Renee Lamontagne	Janessa Madonna Volk
Heather Sharon Lobley	Taylor L. Webster **
Jennifer Luehring **	

Magna Cum Laude (With high honors, 3.89 to 3.75)

Ava Corrin Baasch	Taylor Nicole Johnson
Connor Adam Beck	Grace Chiaohwa-hwa Kiang *
Melissa Janet Bennett **	Madelynn Jo Langemo
Lindy Marie Bjurstrom	Kaylee McClary
Makayla Lillian Bopp **	Mikayla Ann Nelson **
Damianna Hazel Byerly	Emma Nielsen **
Macie B. Danielson	Madison Joleen Peters *
William Ray Gieser	Kayla Roper **
Hunter Todd Greenmyer	Lillian A. Rother
Matthew Alexander Hall	Dale Tyler Skalicky **
Rylee Renae Halvorson	Zachary A. Veneman
Kaylee Harles	Hannah Rose Wetterich
Allison Rose Hilde	Abigail J. Wolter **
Amber Rose Hoffner **	Madison Nicole Wroblewski
Robert Jackson Ingstad	Mason Fletcher Wurst
Hope Masako Ishizaka	Madison Joy Yoder
Kindra Emma Jacobson	

Cum Laude (With honors, 3.50 to 3.74)

Hailee Altringer **	Michelle Renae Krahn
Hannah M. Anderson	Elizabeth Marie Krogen
Taylor Jean Arens *	Sidney Janae Leier **
Hannah Elizabeth Bailly	Amy Kathleen Marsh **
Lily Marie Baldwin	Madison Ann Momerak
Sierra Lynn Crocker	Machaela Audrey Mund **
Bryan Patrick Delaney **	Chloe Marie Nelson **
Jill Dollinger	Samantha Nelson **
Stephen Joseph Dora **	Kobe R. Newton
Sam Erickson **	Shane Nixon *
Ashley Evenson **	DeAnna Renee Nolan
Kasha Efermina Fernandes **	Jocelyn Ellen Ochowicz
Hannah Elizabeth Fried	Hannah Marie Osland
Lindsay Joy Friend **	Tai Ann Ryan **
Riley Michael Gerhardt **	Jennifer Rose Sandberg **
Abby Ann Haberman	Mardi Lynn Scutchings **
Michaela Kate Halvorson	Jacob Dylan Segars
Garrett Trent Alfred Hanson	Lauren Romaine Shekore
Zachary T. Hanson	Sarah Marie Stanelle
Ashantai Teonne Harris	Mitchel Jon Taylor
Hunter L. Heck	Ryan Scott Thiele
Taylor Grace Henry	Austyn Thornton **
Kaitlyn J. Houle	William Lee Tinjum **
Nicholas P. Horner *	Neeleigh Anne Wollenzien
Grant Haydn Paul Jones	

Three-Year Honorees

The following completed their first bachelor's degree in less than four years. These students are wearing a cardinal-colored stole in honor of their accomplishment.

Malayna Marie Barendt	Kaytlin Ann Hoffman **
Derek Robert Bear	Cassidy Kay Hoyt **
Izabelle Beck **	Robert Jackson Ingstad
Makayla Lillian Bopp **	Ian Xavier Keyes **
Keeton Clark	Machaela Audrey Mund **
Keagan Chey Dailey	Chloe Marie Nelson **
Macie B. Danielson	Samantha Nelson **
Allison Dennis **	Loren Alese Perry **
Dahlia Rosa Diegel **	Madison Joleen Peters *
Riley Ann Dodd	Kiara Sue Radke
Cauy Jacob Ellingson **	Dale Tyler Skalicky **
Ashley Evenson **	DelRae Steiner
Dylan Dorene Frederick **	Austyn Thornton **
Riley Michael Gerhardt **	Gracie Renay Tjernlund
Isabel Jain Grueneich **	Madison Nicole Wrobleski

* Completed requirements July 28, 2023

** Completed requirements December 15, 2023

**Dakota College at Bottineau
(students graduating with honors)**

Madison Ann Maley
Jolene Lane Miller
Connor Ryan Pfenning

THE ACADEMIC COSTUME

The academic costume originated in the university of the Middle Ages, when a warm gown and hood were useful to the scholar and cleric in unheated buildings.

The mortarboard cap, which replaced the skullcap, is the representative headdress of the members of the academic community. The tassel of the cap is black or the color appropriate to the subject, except that the doctor's cap may have a tassel of gold bullion.

The hood gives color and meaning to the costume. The colored lining of the inside of the hood is the official color or colors of the institution conferring the degree. The color of the velvet trimming of the hood is distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains. The colors of some of the subjects are:

Arts, Letters, Humanities—White
Education—Light Blue
Fine Arts—Brown
Law—Purple
Library Science—Lemon
Music—Pink
Nursing—Apricot
Philosophy—Dark Blue
Physical Education—Sage Green
Science—Golden Yellow
Theology—Scarlet

The bachelor wears no hood, only the black cap and gown. The gown has long pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The master wears a hood and a gown with sleeves that are open at either the elbow or the wrist and are oblong in shape. The gown may be worn open or closed. The doctor wears a hood and gown that are larger than the others. The gown is trimmed with black velvet panels from the hem to neck and back. The bell-shaped sleeves are trimmed with three horizontal bars of black velvet, indicating the third and highest degree. The trim may be the color of the subject area instead of black. The gown is worn open or closed.



THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

VCSU's presidential medallion was created in 1999 by P. Richard Szeitz, professor of art at Minnesota State University Moorhead, acting on commission by then VCSU president Dr. Ellen Chaffee. The laurel leaves dividing the center into three segments symbolize the three upper grades of learning – the baccalaureate, master, and doctoral levels of acquisition of knowledge. Each segment represents one area of VCSU's academic focus. The top segment symbolizes the liberal arts and sciences, with the sun shedding light on a book representing a store of knowledge. The pen represents the creation of knowledge while the magnifying glass represents its study. Business and technology are represented in the lower-left segment of the medallion. In this area, the clasping hands represent human commerce while the bar graph represents the application of technology in business. The lower right third of the medallion represents VCSU's focus on teacher education. The candelabra represents man-made light illuminating a body of knowledge stored in the books on which it rests.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MACE

Originally a weapon used during medieval times, the mace has taken on a ceremonial character representing order and authority, and it has been used by governments, universities, and churches to signify an official event. The VCSU mace, present at all formal academic events, symbolizes the authority of the university. It is carried in these events by the president of the Faculty Senate, demonstrating the ideal of shared governance between the university president and the faculty. The VCSU mace was created in 2015 at the request of President Tisa Mason. Crafted by woodcarvers from Valley City, its black walnut body was harvested from a tree in City Park. The etching on the mace was provided by faculty from the VCSU Department of Technology.

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

The State Normal School at Valley City opened on October 13, 1890, and the first class of three graduates was graduated on June 7, 1894. The institution became Valley City State Teachers College on July 1, 1921, and was authorized to grant the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Education. This degree was later changed to the Bachelor of Science in Education, and in 1946 the college was authorized to grant a liberal arts degree. The name of the college was changed to Valley City State College on July 1, 1963, and to Valley City State University on April 27, 1987.

The university was authorized to grant a Master of Education degree on October 21, 2005. In 2008 VCSU entered an agreement with Dakota College at Bottineau through the Dakota Nursing Program that allows students to earn their Practical Nurse (PN) and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) titles at VCSU. The university was authorized to grant a Master of Arts in Teaching degree on November 10, 2015 and Master of Science degree on September 3, 2021.

The total number of diplomas and degrees conferred on the graduates of Valley City State University will be 27,784 after the commencement exercise on December 14, 2023. The total number of diplomas and degrees conferred on master's graduates of Valley City State University will be 628.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

James W. Sifton, 1890–1892
George A. McFarland, 1892–1918
Carlos E. Allen, 1918–1936
J. Frederick Weltzin, 1936–1938
James E. Cox, 1938–1942
Eugene H. Kleinpell, 1942–1946
Roscoe L. Lokken, 1946–1970
Howard C. Rose, 1970–1974
Ted D. DeVries, 1974–1982
Charles B. House, Jr., 1982–1993
Ellen E. Chaffee, 1993–2008
Steven W. Shirley, 2008–2014
Tisa A. Mason, 2014–2017
M. Margaret Dahlberg (interim) 2014, 2017–2018
Alan D. LaFave, 2018–

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We hereby acknowledge that the VCSU campus sits on traditional and ancestral lands of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibwe, and Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Santee Dakota peoples. This land is deeply connected to the many indigenous peoples who have held and continue to hold it sacred. We pledge to work toward a strong and lasting relationship with Ojibwe and Dakota tribes as well as other indigenous peoples of our region to hold this land and community in celebration of its rich cultural history.

STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Tim Mihalick Chair, Minot
John Warford, DDS..... Vice Chair, Bismarck
Casey Ryan, MD Member, Grand Forks
Danita Bye Member, Stanley
Jeffry Volk Member, West Fargo
Curtis Biller Member, Fargo
Kevin Black Member, Minot
Sadie Hanson Student Member, Grand Forks
Michael Linnell Staff Advisor, Minot
Lisa Montplaisir, Ph.D. Faculty Advisor, Fargo

Star Spangled Banner

John Stafford Smith

Oh — say! can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly
4 light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi-light's last
8 gleam - ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the
11 per - i - lous fight, O'er the ram - parts we watch'd, were so
15 gal - lant - ly stream - ing? And the rock - ets' red
18 glare, the bombs burst-ing in air, Gave proof thro' the
22 night that our flag was still there. O say! does that —
26 star spang - led ban - ner — yet — wave? — O'er the
29 land — of the free, and the home of the brave.

Alma Mater

Josephine Wright Rhoades '17



Al - ma Ma - ter, staunch and true
May our lives for - ev - er prove

3
With thy ban - ner red and blue. May the years that
All our gra - ti - tude and love. Let us pledge our

6
1.
pass a - way Show our loy - al - ty.

9
2.
faith al - ways in our S. C. Al - ma Ma - ter, Al - ma Ma - ter,

14
Broad as the roll - ing prai - rie, Deep as the heav - en's blue

18
Are the hopes and as - pir - a - tions held for you.

22
May ev - 'ry son and daugh - ter Serve you faith - ful - ly. Then

26
hail! All hail! Dear Al - ma Ma - ter, our S. C.