NEW LEADERSHIP

- Tisa A. Mason, Ed.D. was named president of Valley City State University by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education on Oct. 30, 2014. She began her work at VCSU on Dec. 15, 2014. Mason came to Valley City from Hays, Kan., where she served as vice president for student affairs at Fort Hays State University. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in higher education from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

- VCSU has been ranked No. 1 or No. 2 for six consecutive years by U.S. News and World Report in the category “Top Public Regional Colleges in the Midwest.” VCSU has been named a U.S. News “Best College” for 17 consecutive years.

- VCSU’s online Master’s of Education (M.Ed.) program concentrations in technology and education, teaching and technology, and library and information technologies were ranked No. 6 in TopMastersInEducation.com’s annual “Best Value” rankings for online Master’s in Educational Technology degree programs based on cost, quality and accreditation.

Best Value Online Master’s in Educational Technology Programs 2014–15
1. Ball State University
2. Indiana University
3. North Carolina State University–Raleigh
4. Fort Hays State University
5. University of Colorado–Denver
6. Valley City State University
7. Lamar University
8. Dakota State University
9. College of St. Scholastica
10. Appalachian State University

CONTINUED ENROLLMENT GROWTH

- VCSU achieved a Fall 2014 enrollment of 1,378 students, the second highest in school history.
PROPOSED VCSU CAPITAL PROJECTS

- VCSU has urgent needs for two capital projects: to construct a new Communication and Fine Arts Building and to replace an outdated, inadequate Campus Heating Plant.

VCSU’s Heating Plant needs to be replaced because outdated boilers in an inadequate facility threaten the university’s ability to provide heat to campus buildings. Installation of a new, energy-efficient boiler system will result in an energy-cost savings, along with providing redundant fuel-source capabilities.

The new Communication and Fine Arts Building will replace Foss Music Hall, an impediment to permanent flood protection along the Sheyenne River. In addition to consolidating the art, theatre and music programs in one facility, the building will include the communication arts and the language and literature departments.

By shuffling classrooms and offices, this will also allow for the razing of McCarthy Hall. Estimated at $25.8 million, the project will facilitate the installation of permanent flood protection along the river and allow VCSU to retire more than $7.7 million in deferred maintenance by razing both Foss and McCarthy halls.
In Fall 2014, VCSU’s enrollment was 59 percent female and 41 percent male; 60 percent of the students came from North Dakota and 12 percent came from Minnesota. The top North Dakota counties for enrollment were Barnes, Cass, Stutsman, Richland and Burleigh.

**PREPARING OUTSTANDING TEACHERS**

- Founded in 1890 to prepare teachers for the state, VCSU continues that legacy mission today, preparing almost half of its students to teach. VCSU graduates more undergraduate teachers than any other North Dakota college or university.

- VCSU is participating in the *Network for Excellence in Teaching (NEXT)* program funded by the Bush Foundation of St. Paul, Minn. VCSU and NDSU work with Minnesota State University Moorhead in the 10-year, $5.6 million “Valley Partnership” grant under this program to strengthen teacher effectiveness.

- VCSU has been accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1954, the inception of NCATE. The NCATE team has described VCSU’s Education Program as “World Class” (2008 review). In October 2015, VCSU will host an NCATE/CAEP site visit as part of its reaccreditation process.

- Founded as a normal school in 1890 to prepare teachers for the state, VCSU continues that legacy mission today, preparing almost half of its students to teach.

**Undergraduate Enrollment by Major**

- Elementary Education 25%
- Math, Science & Health 20%
- Secondary Education 15%
- Business & IT 13%
- All Others 22%

**TAILORING EDUCATION TO NORTH DAKOTA**

- VCSU academic offerings are tailored to keep pace with employer demand and economic changes in North Dakota and the region. Recent additions to the curriculum include programs in agribusiness management, athletic training, business process management, software engineering, and conservation law enforcement.
SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

- VCSU has experienced **substantial first-year student retention increases** in the last few years. The university’s use of Starfish Retention Solutions, software allowing for better communication among students, faculty and staff in sharing academic concerns, has contributed to the retention success.

![Retention Percentage of First-Year Students](image)

- A **record scholarship allocation**—more than **$1 million**—from the VCSU Foundation was awarded to students for the 2014–15 academic year.

![Scholarship Allocation by Year](image)

- **99% of VCSU 2012–13 graduates** responding to a placement survey **began working in their chosen field** or **continued their education** within 6 months of graduation.

BRINGING STEM TO K–12 STUDENTS/TEACHERS

- VCSU is home to the **Great Plains STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education Center**. The center provides professional development opportunities for K–12 teachers and establishes connections with businesses and industries that recognize the need to prepare high school graduates to be career and college ready, equipped with essential problem-solving and communication skills.

- VCSU’s **Prairie Waters Education and Research Center** provides water education to K-12 students, teachers and resource professionals. In Fall 2014, Prairie Waters began a wetlands education program, using its facility in Kathryn, N.D., and incorporating research at Stoney Slough National Wildlife Refuge near Litchville, N.D.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY ON WELLNESS CENTER

- VCSU and Valley City are collaborating on plans for a **Valley City Health, Physical Education and Wellness Center** to be built on the VCSU campus. In Fall 2014 VCSU students approved a fee increase and Valley City voters approved continuing a local sales tax to help fund the $16 million facility. Private fundraising continues for the project.

![Wellness Center](image)

COLLABORATION WITH N.D. STATE AGENCIES

- The Macroinvertebrate Lab in the VCSU Department of Science serves as the identification lab for the North Dakota Department of Health water-sampling work. The lab also houses the North Dakota Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Collection for both the Department of Health and VCSU work.

- VCSU faculty and students have done research for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department over several years, including **sampling for invasive species** and mussel and fish sampling. They also completed a **river survey report for North Dakota Game and Fish**, summarizing all past data on fish species in North Dakota.