FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN 3RD ANNUAL SUMMER TEACHING ACADEMY

Select Valley City State University faculty members participated in the third annual Summer Teaching Academy on campus May 19–21, 2015. With the theme “Engaged!,” the academy brought faculty members together to focus on engaged learning. The group discussed pedagogy and learning theory, and shared strategies to improve teaching and learning at VCSU.

Keynote speaker at the academy was Dave Yearwood, professor and chair of the Technology Department at the University of North Dakota. Yearwood led a workshop on e-pedagogy, the use of tools and apps to engage students in a better understanding of course material and critical thinking.

Teaching academy participants included VCSU faculty members Robin Allebach, Kathleen Bennett-Zaun, Sharon Bratrud, Greg Brister, Karri Dieken, Patricia Gegelman, Donna James, Erin Klingenberg, Gilbert Kuipers, Jason Laczkoski, Steven Listopad, Jenni Lou Russi, Jodi Shorma, Laurel Westby and Angie Williams.

The teaching academy was led by the VCSU Instructional Design Team, a group of teaching faculty and staff charged with supporting faculty members’ pedagogical strategies, especially in regard to efficiency, innovation and technology in teaching and learning. The design team includes Amber Aberle, Jim Boe, Diane Burr, Julee Russell, Sam Stover and Shannon VanHorn.

BASS NAMED NSAA FACULTY REP OF YEAR

Dave Bass, assistant professor in the School of Education and Graduate Studies, was named the North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) Faculty Athletic Representative of the Year during the NSAA Summit meetings May 29 in Brookings, S.D. The award was voted on by all faculty athletic representatives (FAR) in the conference.

Bass serves as VCSU’s FAR, a liaison between the athletic department and the institution, as well as handling any eligibility questions. He is also the NSAA eligibility chair.

Bass will now be nominated for the Faculty Athletic Representative of the Year award at the national level.
ROBINSON RECEIVES NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Larry Robinson, VCSU executive director of university advancement, received the Walt Odegaard Leadership Award from the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations (NDANO) during the Nonprofit Leadership Conference May 27 in Fargo.

Larry Robinson (left) and Dan Madler, NDANO board president

The Walt Odegaard Leadership Award is given to an individual with more than 15 years of leadership experience who has made a difference by strengthening North Dakota and its nonprofit sector through long-term commitment to leadership, volunteerism and philanthropy.

Robinson has been executive director of the VCSU Foundation since its inception in 1996. During his time as executive director, the foundation has increased student scholarships to more than $1 million each academic year. Since the establishment of the North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Fund in 2013, the foundation has matched $1 million in appropriated funds with $2 million in private funds to add $3 million to the foundation’s assets.

Robinson has also served in the North Dakota Senate since 1989. He has supported legislation providing grants to foundations affiliated with North Dakota institutes of learning and also sponsored numerous bills which would support the nonprofit sector through grants and income tax credits.

NDANO is the statewide membership association advancing nonprofit organizations through advocacy and public policy, education and training, resources and research, cost-saving programs, and leadership and networking.

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR WELLNESS CENTER

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Valley City Health, Wellness and Physical Education Center was held Wednesday, June 3, at the building site east of W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse on the VCSU campus.

(i to r) Mark Lloyd, Grotberg Electric; Dick Gulmon, president, Valley City Park Board; Larry Robinson, executive director of university advancement, VCSU; Tisa Mason, president, VCSU; George Gaukler, president, Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation; Paige Bjornson, president, Barnes County Development Corporation; Mark Johnson, director of field operations, G6 Construction; Dan Miller, architect, JLG Architects; John Froelich, commissioner, Barnes County, Bob Werkhoven, mayor, Valley City

The wellness center—a collaborative project of Valley City State University, Valley City Parks and Recreation, and the Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation—will provide a much-needed facility for the greater Valley City community.

VCSU students will be able to use the facility, which will include court space, a pool/aquatic center, a walking track, a cardiovascular fitness center, a weight room and a children’s playground.

The facility will also include classroom and lab space for the VCSU Health and Physical Education Department, which has seen large increases in enrollment over the years.

More information about the wellness center can be found online at www.valleycitynd.org/svcf_wellnesscenter.php.

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