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.
- In 2015, VCSU’s M. Ed. Program was ranked by *U.S. News* as the 54th Best Online Graduate Education program among 252 U.S. colleges and universities.

CONTINUED ENROLLMENT GROWTH

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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