



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President



February 2010

Spring Semester Enrollment Largest in 20 Years

Final headcount for 2010 Spring Semester increased 7.8% over last year's figure to 1,034, marking the largest Spring Semester enrollment since the year 1990. This follows VCSU's announcement at the beginning of Fall 2009 of a headcount increase of 6.3%, which was the largest headcount for Fall Semester in nine years.

VCSU to Receive \$750,000 Federal Funding for STEM Education

An omnibus spending bill recently signed by President Barack Obama includes \$750,000 in funding for VCSU to extend its role in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. The funding follows a \$381,000 congressionally-directed grant VCSU received earlier in the year, and will allow the University to increase STEM education and training for K-12 teachers.

VCSU is a well-established leader in the field of STEM education. In 2000, VCSU launched its online degree program in Technology Education, aimed at providing technological literacy for all students based on content standards published by the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) and endorsed by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). In 2005, VCSU launched a concentration in Technology Education for its online Master of Education degree program. In 2008, VCSU signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Center for Technological Literacy of the Museum of Science Boston to bring quality standards-based engineering and technology education to K-12 schools throughout the United States. Since then, VCSU has delivered several workshops for K-12 teachers via funding from or partnerships with LEGO Robotics, the West Fargo School District, the U.S. Department of Education, and others.

United States Senator Byron Dorgan D-ND, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was a key backer in the Senate. The bill also received support from North Dakota Representative Earl Pomeroy, who led support for the bill through the House of Representatives, and Senator Kent Conrad. According to Dr. Shirley, "We are tremendously appreciative of the support shown by our national representatives in this important mission."

Prairie Public Airs "Christmas at St. Catherine's"



The 10th Annual Christmas at St. Catherine's concert that was performed by the VCSU Concert Choir and University Singers on Thursday, December 10 was re-broadcast throughout the state by North Dakota Public Radio on Christmas Day. Dr. Shirley said, "This tremendous recognition for the performance of our VCSU students further affirms the outstanding quality of the VCSU Music Program."



THE DIFFERENCE IS ME





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VCSU Enters Partnership to Redesign Teacher Preparation

The Bush Foundation has committed up to \$5.65 million over 10 years to support a partnership that includes Valley City State University, Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and North Dakota State University (NDSU) to improve teacher training and effectiveness. The partnership joins 11 other partnerships and institutions the Bush Foundation is funding to redesign teacher preparation programs.

“Over nine months, these universities and colleges participated in a rigorous planning process during which they redesigned their teacher preparation programs,” said Susan Heegaard, vice president and educational achievement team leader for the Bush Foundation. According to Heegaard, the Foundation’s investment will enable the partner institutions to develop and implement their redesigned programs, starting with the 2010-11 academic year.

Dr. Virginia Clark, Dean at the North Dakota State University School of Education, said, “We are excited about the opportunities that the Bush Foundation funding will provide for teacher education in this area. In partnership with Valley City State University and Minnesota State University Moorhead, and working with area school administrators and teachers, we will be planning and implementing a program that will transform the way we prepare and support teachers.”

According to the terms of the Letter of Commitment, the Bush Foundation is supporting the partnership’s strategy to build and implement a dramatically redesigned teacher preparation program that will develop and guarantee the effectiveness of 250 teachers annually beginning in 2014. The partnership will implement recruiting strategies that target middle school students, high school students, college students and career transition professionals with customized approaches. Students will be offered a comprehensive range of certificates recognizing achievement in areas of academic specialization that, through articulation agreements, will be recognized by all of the partners.

Prospective teachers graduating from the partnership will be placed in partner schools that provide trained mentors and share assessment data to gauge new teacher impact. The partnership is expected to enroll students beginning Fall semester 2011.

Concentration in ELL Added to Online M.Ed.

Students in VCSU’s online Master of Education program now have a new option: a concentration in English Language Learners (ELL). The concentration meets the additional educational requirements of teachers in North Dakota and across the nation that must comply with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements for students with limited proficiency in English. The program will also help meet the increasing demand for graduate credentials for career and salary advancement.

Approximately 75% of the ELL teachers in North Dakota have completed or are pursuing their endorsement through VCSU. The university’s first offering in ELL was an undergraduate endorsement that was approved by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board in 1997. In 2003, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education approved VCSU’s undergraduate minor degree program in ELL, and the program was made available fully online.

Osmon Fieldhouse Reopens

After being closed for nearly eight months, the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse reopened in January for the home opener of the DAC conference Basketball season and to host the Barnes County Boys Basketball Tournament. The Fieldhouse was closed early in the summer when an inspection revealed rotting in portions of the bases of the arches that support the roof. Repairs completed to date have been sufficient to allow the Fieldhouse to reopen, but final repairs will be completed after the basketball season.

Valley City State University earned the #2 spot among the Top Baccalaureate Colleges in the Midwest in the 2010 Edition of America’s Best Colleges by U.S.News Media Group

