



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

June 2011

Governor Dalrymple Visits VCSU to Sign NDUS Funding Bill

North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple visited the VCSU campus for a ceremonial signing of House Bill 1003, which provides state funding for the North Dakota University System. Included in the bill is a \$10.3 million appropriation for the expansion and renovation of the Rhoades Science Center at the VCSU campus. Dr. Steve Shirley, president of VCSU, said, "The Sciences and STEM Education represent important investments vital to the long-term success of North Dakota's economy. The Rhoades Science Center expansion and renovation project at Valley City State University will help North Dakota capitalize on the returns from these investments. VCSU is grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for their support and the confidence they have shown of our leadership in these important areas."



L-R: Claus Lembke (State Board of Higher Education), Dr. Kirsten Diederich (State Board of Higher Education), Dr. Steve Shirley (VCSU president), Kendra Krueger (VCSU Student Senate President), Phil Mueller (District 24 Representative), Larry Robinson (District 24 Senator). Seated: Governor Jack Dalrymple

Rhoades Science Center Expansion & Renovation Moves Ahead

The North Dakota Legislature has approved an appropriation of \$10.3 million for the renovation and expansion of VCSU's Rhoades Science Center. The first state-funded major capital construction project at VCSU in approximately 40 years, the renovation and expansion will support growth in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Education initiatives.

New STEM-related majors at VCSU since 2000 include Technology Education, Fisheries & Wildlife, Exercise Science, Health Science, and the Nursing collaboration provided by Dakota College at Bottineau.

According to the American Association for Employment in Education, teachers in every field of Math and Science Education are either in a state of shortage or considerable shortage. The shortage of these teachers in the Great Plains is consistently greater than the national average. Among all fields in education, Math and Science are second only to Special Education in terms of the fields facing the greatest shortage.

The Rhoades Science Center houses all of VCSU's science and science education programs, and the expansion will bring VCSU's facilities up-to-date with state-of-the-art laboratory and classrooms required for these subjects.

In addition, the expansion will house the Great Plains STEM Education Center, which provides STEM education and training opportunities for K-12 students and teachers. Approved by the State Board of Higher Education in June 2010, the STEM Center is part of a nationwide effort to increase the technology and engineering capacity of the U.S. workforce.

Partnership with NDSCS Provides Path from Journeyworker to AAS to BA

VCSU and the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) recently entered into an articulation agreement that allows for transfer of credits from the Associate in Applied Science degree in Technical Studies – Journeyworker Track at NDSCS to the Bachelor of Science degree in Career and Technical Education from VCSU. The agreement is the first of its kind in North Dakota and is designed to help non-traditional students realize the benefit of three types of credentials: U.S. Department of Labor approved apprenticeship programs, Associate in Applied Science degrees, and Bachelor of Science degrees.

"With this agreement, NDSCS and VCSU are providing an alternative path for individuals to earn Bachelor's degrees while leveraging their technical education and career experience," said Dr. John Richman, president of the North Dakota State College of Science. "Individuals can start their career as an apprentice, become a journeyworker, earn an associate degree



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and culminate with a Bachelor's degree."

Dr. Steve Shirley, VCSU president, said, "This collaborative agreement addresses some of the main obstacles adult learners face as they further their education. By earning credit for their work experiences as well as their study at the Associate degree level, adult learners can substantially reduce the time and cost required to earn a Bachelor's degree. Moreover, individuals who complete this path will possess enhanced career skills that respond to private sector demands and help meet employment needs in North Dakota."

The agreement outlines two options within VCSU's Bachelor of Science degree in Career and Technical Education. The Education option qualifies graduates to teach in post secondary levels such as career, vocational, and technical schools. A Management/Leadership option allows graduates to combine their technical education and experience with coursework in various fields of business administration such as accounting, project management, and marketing.

International Activities

VCSU Students and faculty are taking advantage of study abroad opportunities in Summer 2011 to broaden their horizons both culturally and academically.

Three students are traveling to Perú in a five-week immersion program taking place late May through the month of June. It includes intensive Spanish language and cultural lessons, plus excursions and tours of cultural landmarks such as Cusco (including the ruins of Machu Picchu) and Puno (known for the floating islands on Lake Titicaca) and Ica (the Nazca Lines). Each of the students live with host families to make the experience as authentic as possible. A fourth VCSU student is studying in Spain this summer taking language and culture classes.

Three VCSU faculty members – Dr. Beth Gigante Klingenstein, Anthony Dutton, and Dr. Shou-ching Chao – are traveling to China through VCSU's partnership with Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic (ZJETP) University. The group will spend three weeks teaching English in Hangzhou, China. This is the second year that VCSU faculty have taught at ZJETP. In addition, Dr. Chao will work with the English Department at ZJETP on curriculum planning per an agreement recently signed between the two institutions for a joint program in English.

On this continent, VCSU recently signed an agreement with the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS) in La Paz, Mexico to extend a sister university relationship for the next three years. An agreement between the universities has been in place since 1994, and the new agreement includes additional elements that extend the scope to include more emphasis on new academic and exchange opportunities.

EPSCoR Selects Two VCSU Students

Two recent VCSU graduates have been selected to receive Graduate Student Research Assistantship (GSRA) awards through the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) program. The awards recognize the academic achievement of these students and provide significant financial support as they pursue M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics at the University of North Dakota (UND) and North Dakota State University (NDSU).

David Givers, ND EPSCoR co-project director, said, "The goal of ND EPSCoR is to enhance the research capability of scientists in North Dakota, so we look for students who have an excellent track record in their undergraduate program and are well prepared for continued study at the graduate level. Valley City State University can be very proud that its students rank high in the competition for this award."

ND EPSCoR implemented the GSRA program to increase opportunities for graduating seniors from the North Dakota University System baccalaureate universities, or who have been participants in ND EPSCoR's Nurturing American Tribal Undergraduate Research and Education (NATURE) program, to obtain M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees at NDSU and UND. Each student's award provides an \$18,000 per year stipend for up to 24 months.



The VCSU students receiving the awards are Fakira (Soumaila) Borkovec (Rome, Italy), and Jesse Martin (Valley City). Fakira and Jesse join four other VCSU graduates from last year that received EPSCoR awards: Jacob Mertes (Omaha, NE), Michael Tomlinson (Rolla), Ryan McCulloch (Valley City), and Steven Fasching (Mandan).

Valley City State University earned the #2 spot among the Top Public Regional Colleges in the Midwest in the 2011 edition of America's Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group

