



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President



November 2009

Dr. Steven Shirley Inaugurated as 12th VCSU President

After being rescheduled twice due to difficulties from spring flooding, the inauguration of Dr. Steven Shirley as VCSU's 12th president was held on Friday, September 11, 2009.

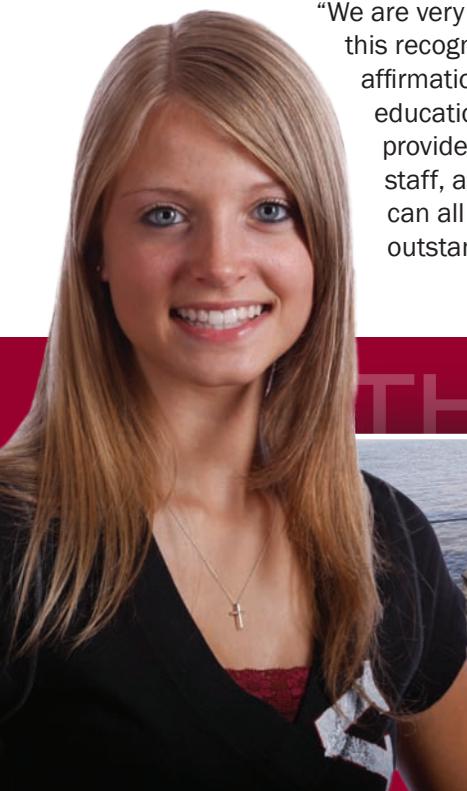
Dr. Shirley was named the president of VCSU in April of 2008 and began his duties in July of 2008. Prior to joining VCSU, he was the vice president for student affairs at Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison, SD. He is a native of Fargo, ND and holds a bachelor's degree, an MBA and a Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.

The inaugural ceremony was the culmination of a series of celebrations organized by students, faculty, staff and members of the community. Delegates from 17 institutions from around the region attended, including five from the University of North Dakota.

VCSU Ranked #2 on U.S. News 'America's Best Colleges' List

Valley City State University earned the #2 spot among the Top Public Baccalaureate Colleges in the Midwest in the 2010 edition of America's Best Colleges by the U.S. News Media Group. This marks the 12th year in a row that VCSU has been included in the U.S. News "Best Colleges" rankings, and is an improvement over its #4 ranking last year. VCSU is the highest ranked college in North Dakota or Minnesota in this category.

Dr. Steven Shirley, VCSU president, said, "We are very pleased to receive this recognition and view it as an affirmation of the high quality educational experiences we provide. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters can all take great pride in this outstanding showing."



The U.S. News college rankings group more than 1,400 accredited four-year schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and compares them based on a set of 15 widely accepted indicators of excellence. VCSU's #2 ranking was among 17 public "Baccalaureate Colleges" in the 12-state Midwest region that focus on undergraduate education and grant fewer than half of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines.

Fund Raising for Track and Cross Country Beats \$150,000 Goal

Valley City State University's campaign to raise the funds required to reinstate Track & Field and Cross Country as varsity sports has reached its goal of \$150,000 and is approaching \$160,000. With this accomplishment, reinstating these varsity sports is assured for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Dr. Steven Shirley, president of VCSU, said, "I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the donors who made this possible, and we are very much looking forward to bringing these sports back. In addition to providing exciting opportunities for our students to compete at the varsity level, these sports are an important part of our efforts to increase enrollment long term."

VCSU announced the intention to add the sports in October, 2008, but made the move contingent upon successfully raising \$150,000 to cover the associated start-up costs so that funds would not need to be diverted from other sports. The funds raised will be used for equipment, scholarships, and salary and fringe benefits associated with the hiring of a coach.

Viking Golf Celebrates Inaugural Season

VCSU resumed men's and women's golf as a varsity sport for the 2009-2010 season. The teams are competing in the Dakota Athletic Conference.

THE DIFFERENCE IS ME





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Viking Golf (continued from front)

Men's golf was a fixture on campus from 1936 to 1993 with an interruption between 1938 and 1947. Over these years, the men won conference titles a total of 12 times and NAIA district titles twice. The most recent season for Women's golf was 1983.

VCSU Enrollment Grows to Largest in Nine Years

Final fall enrollment figures at VCSU showed total headcount increased 6.3% from 1,019 in 2008 to 1,083 this year. Undergraduate headcount of 961 was a 6.8% increase from 2008, while graduate headcount of 122 was a slight increase over 2008. VCSU also has 6.7% more students living in campus residence halls compared to a year ago.

VCSU President Steve Shirley said, "The faculty and staff at VCSU have focused on a number of initiatives to increase enrollment, and we are pleased that these initiatives are showing results. These solid results also reflect the responsiveness of our academic programs in serving the needs of college-bound students." According to Dr. Shirley, new programs, recent collaborative efforts and an expansion of intercollegiate athletic opportunities are all contributing to enrollment growth.

VCSU Art Faculty and Alumni Win Awards

The artwork of alumni from the VCSU Department of Art and Professor Linda Whitney won awards at the 2009 Pekin Art Exhibition. Juror Walter Piehl, professor of painting at Minot State University and recipient of the Bush Foundations Enduring Vision's Grant, awarded the work of the following VCSU artists:

First place printmaking - They Came, mezzotint, Linda Whitney

Second place printmaking - Just What is it Mr. Hamilton, lithograph, Jessica Christy '07

First place mixed media - Letters by the Thousand, Jennifer Cabezas '06

Honorable mention painting - Untitled, acrylic, Jessica Sundquist '04

Sue Morrissey and Clint Saunders, who have both worked with the art department in various capacities, also won awards in painting, drawing, and photography.

First Students Graduate from Dakota Nursing Program at VCSU



The first students to complete their coursework under a collaborative practical nursing program being delivered by VCSU and Dakota College at Bottineau received their pins in a ceremony conducted at the Sheyenne Care Center in Valley City. The students earned a certificate in Practical Nursing and are eligible to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

The Dakota Nursing Program is a nursing education consortium made possible through the collaborative efforts of Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, and Williston State College. The collaborative nursing program at VCSU was initially approved by the North Dakota Board of Nursing in May, 2008. In the program, students complete their general education requirements through VCSU and receive their classroom instruction in nursing via Interactive Video Network (IVN) from Dakota College at Bottineau. Clinical practice opportunities for students are available through Valley City healthcare providers including the Sheyenne Care Center and Mercy Hospital.

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