



VALLEY CITY

STATE UNIVERSITY

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

May 13, 2023 ♦ W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Saturday, May 13, 2023 – 10 a.m.

W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

The President Will Preside

Prelude.....	VCSU Concert Band Prof. Jerrold Heide, director
Academic Processional “Pomp and Circumstance”	Edward Elgar, arr. James Ployhar VCSU Concert Band
Call to Order.....	Dr. Alan LaFave President of the University
“Star Spangled Banner”	John Stafford Smith VCSU Vocal Trio Tara Dahl, soprano Isabelle Haugen, soprano Elizabeth Gazeley, alto
Opening Remarks.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Greetings	Dr. Mark R. Hagerott Chancellor, North Dakota University System
Undergraduate Reflection	Ms. Angeline Gannon '22
Faculty Reflection	Ms. Taylor Mounts Assistant Professor, Department of Business
Special Music “Beautiful City” from <i>Godspell</i>	Stephen Schwartz Bill Egan, baritone Dr. Oswald Johnson, accompanist
Presentation of Candidates for Master’s Degrees	Mr. Larry Brooks Vice President for Academic Affairs
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Introduction of Graduates	Mr. Mark Potts Assistant Director for Athletics
Presentation of Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees.....	Mr. Larry Brooks
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Introduction of the Graduates.....	Mr. Mark Potts
Presentation of Candidates from the Dakota College at Bottineau	Mr. Larry Brooks
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Alan LaFave
Introduction of the Graduates.....	Mr. Mark Potts

Alumni Welcome.....	Mr. Cory Anderson Executive Director for University Advancement	
<i>“Alma Mater”</i>	Josephine Wright Rhoades, Class of 1917 Cassie Boelke, soprano Tara Dahl, soprano	
Academic Recessional <i>“Hana Recessional”</i>	Rentaro Taki VCSU Concert Band	
Presidents Cabinet Representatives	Dr. Erin Klingenberg Vice President for Student Affairs Ms. Erica Buchholz '10 Vice President of Business Affair	
Honorary Faculty Marshal	Dr. Amber Ussatis Aberle VCSU Faculty Senate President, Assistant Professor School of Education & Graduate Studies	
Graduate School Representatives	Dr. James Boe '91 Professor, Director of Graduate Studies Dr. J. Gregory Brister Associate Professor, Department of Language & Literature	
Dakota Nursing Program	Dr. Carmen Simone Dakota College at Bottineau	
VCSU Concert Band	Mr. Jerrold Heide, Director	
Izzy Haugen, Fargo	Shay Claeys, Oakes	Braylen Bruns, Valley City
Ela Day Child, Fairmount	Alexis Busch, Barney	Larry Herzog, Valley City
Lillian Roth, Casselton	Marco Kellogg, Lisbon	Gretchen Mangan, Grand Forks
Jared Grommesh, Casselton	Cassie Boelke, Wahpeton	Joe Munowenyu, Valley City
Tedi Dimmer, West Fargo	Betsy Brimhall, Tioga	CJ Bleick, Glen Ullin
Rebekah Krueger, E Grand Forks	Travis Knapp, Valley City	Carter Gill, West Fargo
Gilbert Kuipers, Valley City	Cara Van Bruggen, Valley City	Elizabeth Gazeley, Valley City
Elijah Leik, Pettibone	Sam Vonbank-Hoye, West Fargo	Isabelle Haring, Oakes
LilyBeth Townsend, Fairmount	Tara Dahl, Hazelton	Matthew Johnson, Valley City
Reid Haugen, Lakeville, MN	Clare Ebsen, Fargo	Eyan Mehlhoff, Lisbon
Tanner Douville, Twin Valley, MN	Kirsten Demke, Wahpeton	Johnathan Utke, Enderlin
Grace Mueller, Wimbledon	Ben Kruta, Valley City	Kristin Albrecht, Pembina
Jazmine Hill, Wahpeton	Seth Hogle, Wahpeton	
Jayden Moser, Jamestown	Tucker Schonert, Valley City	
Commencement Coordinator	Ms. Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91	
Usher/Seating Coordinators.....	Ms. Shannon Hone '15 Ms. Kari Stricklin '92	
Ushers.....	Viking Ambassadors and VCSU Staff	

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

ALAN LAFAVE

Alan LaFave has served as president of Valley City State University since December 2018. He previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs (2015–18) at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. At Northern State, LaFave worked his way through the faculty ranks from instructor to full professor in the music department (1991–2015). He also served as music department chair (1994–97) and associate dean and dean of the School of Fine Arts (1997–15). An accomplished musician, LaFave holds doctoral and master’s degrees in clarinet performance from Arizona State University along with a bachelor’s degree in music education from Northern State. He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association. LaFave’s family includes his wife, Kari; daughters Lexi and Ashley, son-in-law Logan and granddaughter Ava.

MARK R. HAGEROTT

Dr. Mark R. Hagerott is the Chancellor for the North Dakota University System. Prior to his transition to an academic career path, Hagerott held numerous leadership positions in the U.S. Navy, both aboard ships and in administrative positions in the Department of Defense. A certified naval nuclear engineer in power generation and distribution, he served as chief engineer for a major environmental project defueling of two atomic reactors. He also served in both Bush administrations, as a White House Fellow in the first Bush administration; and in the office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense in the second Bush administration. Hagerott holds a B.S. from the U.S. Naval Academy, an M.A. in political science and economics from Oxford University where he attended as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Ph.D. in history from University of Maryland.

ANGELINE GANNON

Angeline Gannon is originally from Bismarck, ND. She graduated in December with a Bachelor of Science in History Education with a concentration in government, and a minor in Political Science, and a Coaching Certificate. Gannon was student body president for two years, an active member of the History Club, NSLS, SAAC, L2L, new student orientation, and a Resident Assistant. She served as the COVID coordinator for residence life in 2021 and was a co-chair of Homecoming festivities that year as well. During her time at VCSU she also helped coordinate the Shatter the Silence to raise awareness about domestic violence. As an athlete, Gannon earned All-Conference honors during the 2020 Season, placing 7th in the NSAA. She was recognized with the VCSU Athletics Viking Impact Award in 2022, which honors a student-athlete who made a major impact on campus outside of athletics. In 2021 she was honored as a Viking Pilot. Gannon has been hired as a Social Studies teacher at Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School in Galesville, Wisconsin.

TAYLOR MOUNTS

Taylor Mounts is an Assistant Professor of Business and the 2023 Teacher of the Year. Mounts is originally from Clovis, CA. She earned a Bachelors of Business Administration in Marketing and a Master of Business Administration in Management and Ethics from Harding University in Searcy, AR. Taylor joined the Business Department at VCSU in 2021 where she teaches business and management courses. In nominations, students spoke about her passion for feedback within the classroom and her visibility around campus. Her willingness to alter her instructional style for the betterment of her students makes them feel cared for and ensures optimal understanding. The high energy Taylor brings to her lectures, the consistent value she crafts into her assignments, and the deliberate pacing of her curriculum made students choose her as the 2023 Teacher of the Year.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2023

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Amber Fortney Bowdon
 David Fyre * Portland
 Kathleen Turrell Hayes * Williamston, Michigan
 Amy Lynn Igl * Jamestown
 Nolan Christopher Kern * East Grand Forks, Minnesota
 Cherise Joy Pfaff Valley City
 Cassandra Marie Preston * Tower City
 Garret Zane Roemmich * Linton
 Calli Anne Stoudt ** Valley City
 Mason Joe Swegarden * Lake Park, Minnesota

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Kyle Armitage ** Doran, Minnesota
 Alex Douglas Askerooth Cayuga
 Alissa Christina Blake ** Sutherland, Nebraska
 Andrea Nicole Braaten Carrington
 Andrew Clifford Coe * Hawthorne, New Jersey
 Hanna Lynn Ebel Venturia
 Kristina Betty Anna Hausauer Bismarck
 Andrew David Hirsch Comfrey, Minnesota
 Leigha Janssen Glenwood, Minnesota
 Stephanie Wells Johnson * Manning, South Carolina
 MaKayla Koski ** Wing
 Elizabeth Kuelbs Belfield
 Anna Kaye Malloy * Fargo
 Lucas Mark Moldenhauer ** Gackle
 BryAnna Outcalt-Ahrens ** Hankinson
 Andrew Reichenberger-Walz * Mandan
 Meghan Mae Richardson * Fargo
 Marisa Sue Riesinger ** Dickinson
 Sara Jane Rinas * Mandan
 Bonita Roswick ** Valley City
 Katie Nicole Thorson Fargo
 Rikki Beth Townsend ** Wahpeton
 Aerika J. Trappen ** Wahpeton
 Eric Willis Wasvick ** Kindred
 Benjamin J. Whitmore ** Fergus Falls, Minnesota
 Robert Dylan Young ** Jamestown

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Hannah Caitlyn Aberle ** Valley City
 Jacob Anderson West Fargo
 Jaydan Cal Andrud ** LaMoure
 Rachel Erika Avdem Pekin

Rachel Diane Baker Alliance, Nebraska
 Paige Nicole Ballard ** Thief River Falls, Minnesota
 Miseen Katlyn Barnes ** Lyman, Wyoming
 Zoey Madysen Rayne Bauer Gwinner
 Margaret Beach Mandan
 Dawson Michael Bechtold Dickinson
 Merritt Ann Beil Fargo
 Sean Ryan Beilke ** Buffalo
 Shelby K. Berg ** Barnesville, Minnesota
 Ashley Blake Beulah
 Maria Mae Blessum Rugby
 Alexa Frances Bluth ** Brainerd, Minnesota
 Sierra Rose Bosch ** Linton
 Alexis Myriah Burgwald ** Hampton, Minnesota
 Mandee R. Cary ** Cowley, Wyoming
 Kennedy Jo Chicos Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
 Cheyenne Sierra Clark ** Lovell, Wyoming
 Lynda N. Coates Rozet, Wyoming
 Kimberly Elaine Coffman ** Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Jada Lea Crane Fargo
 Allie Jo Critchley Dilworth, Minnesota
 Caitlyn A. Cruz Rock Springs, Wyoming
 Katelynne Lindsey Czeh Roseau, Minnesota
 Cayla Jane DeBolt ** Lander, Wyoming
 Joseph Demers ** Valley City
 Shelby Dietz ** Gwinner
 Rachel Dominguez West Fargo
 Charity Dosch Maddock
 William Lloyd Egan ** Enderlin
 Scott C. Enyeart ** Bothell, Washington
 Anna Marie Erickson Andover, Minnesota
 Jaye Nichole Fike ** Bowdon
 Caitlyn Louise Fischbach Aberdeen, South Dakota
 Sierra Marie Flores ** Moorcroft, Wyoming
 Molly Lynn Fritz ** Jamestown
 Angeline Judith Gannon ** Bismarck
 Hannah Fay Gilliland Casper, Wyoming
 Alaina Marie Gleason Milnor
 Michelle Annelise Govig Loxley, Alabama
 Matthew Reed Graham ** Wasilla, Alaska
 Rania F. Hassan Fargo
 Tate Joseph Hebrink Austin, Minnesota
 Mackenzie Joan Heflin Gackle
 Morgan Gabrielle Henderson Powell, Wyoming
 Karlie A. Hoehn ** Saint Peter, Minnesota
 Grace Holt Hillsboro
 Megan Nicole Houfek Maple Grove, Minnesota
 Luke Huber Strasburg
 Mark Cameron Hunt ** Williston
 Nicole Elizabeth Hurt Hillsboro
 Emma Marie Jay Hulett, Wyoming
 Mallory Ann Jensen ** Bismarck
 Lydia Marie Jorgenson Lidgerwood
 Jason Scott Joy LaMoure

Jessica Lyn Keith *Casper, Wyoming
 Lindsey Elaine Kiecker Snyder Jamestown
 Tristan King..... Tomball, Texas
 Kaitlyn Renee Knutson ** East Grand Forks, Minnesota
 Millisa Jean Kukowski..... Jamestown
 Catherine Dawn LaDue ** Williston
 Jessalyn Langemo..... Bismarck
 Claire Mary Longley ** Big Lake, Minnesota
 Cassie Rae Lovato ** Clovis, New Mexico
 Emily Noelle Lux Williston
 Harrison John Maas ** Wahpeton
 Caylyn Therese Makoff Waikoloa, Hawaii
 Brooke Lynn Malsom Aberdeen, South Dakota
 Elizabeth Dee Martinez Victoria, Minnesota
 Shayla Marie Mayes ** Lovell, Wyoming
 Carlee A. McIntosh ** Gillette, Wyoming
 Crystal Yvonne McLaughlin Beulah
 Brianna Laura Meissner Fargo
 Sheldon Wayne Meyer Dickinson
 Molly Miller Durbin
 Kaylin Elizabeth Monsen Arnegard
 Emma Mott..... Danube, Minnesota
 Jami Mowrey..... Pocatello, Idaho
 Kelci B. Nelson **..... Leonard
 Austin Roger Nikolas..... Saint Cloud, Minnesota
 Alicia F. Olson ** Harvey
 Laci Marie Parish ** Gillette, Wyoming
 Molly Elizabeth Pedroza ** Evanston, Wyoming
 Allison Elizabeth Pieper ** Horace
 Jenna K. Pommerer ** Oriska
 Jordyn Queen..... Chanhassen, Minnesota
 Theresa Ann Rein Moorhead, Minnesota
 Carson Michael Rieniets ** Casselton
 Emily Ripplinger..... Beulah
 Maggie Challis Robinson Duluth, Minnesota
 Cassie Sue Russell ** Greybull, Wyoming
 Joseph Alexander Salas El Paso, Texas
 Hunter Scott Sand Pekin
 Emma Jean Schafer ** Lidgerwood
 Graham Michael Schmidt Gig Harbor, Washington
 Madalyn Anne Schulze Plymouth, Minnesota
 Kodi L. Sim..... Williston
 Noah James Singsank Belgrade, Minnesota
 Noah P.L. Skarohlid Valley City
 Shaylea Leann Skarohlid ** Kissimmee, Florida
 Haley Marie Skinner..... Lockesburg, Arkansas
 Lindsey B. Smith..... Bismarck
 Eleanor Louise Steele ** Mandan
 Hayley Louise Steffes..... Moorhead, Minnesota
 Courtney Emma Stein Valley City
 Nadine Stotts..... Farson, Wyoming
 Elizabeth Ann Stringer ** Lincoln
 Sage Miranda Talmadge ** Bismarck
 Hannah Virginia Tangen..... West Fargo

Annette Marie Tanner ** Rock Springs, Wyoming
 Mariah Grace Topp Grace City
 Amanda Torborg ** Litchville
 McKenna Nichole Truhlicka Fargo
 Jordyn Elizabeth Tuite ** Finley
 Emily Eileen Tweten ** Mandan
 Taylor Lee Twilley ** Locust Grove, Georgia
 Avery Vasicek Bismarck
 Alexa Kathleen Walby Dickinson
 David Jace Weese ** Cheyenne, Wyoming
 Hallie Jo Wenaas Valley City
 Emilee Jean Wertman Aberdeen, South Dakota
 Saydee Autum Willson ** Rock Springs, Wyoming
 Avery Michelle Wysong ** Valley City
 Marjorie Maumeni Youpee ** Poplar, Montana

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Justin A. Adams ** Clermont, Florida
 Brian Croom ** Walnut Cove, North Carolina
 Samuel J. Groven Devils Lake
 Roseanna Kramer Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
 Jordana Elizabeth Machado * Canton, Texas
 Andrew August Weitz Sheridan, Wyoming

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Connor Aanderud ** Hillsboro
 Kasen Lynn Anderson Fort Ransom
 Chaser Alan Atwood ** Valley City
 Salvador Ávila Fortes ** El Paso, Texas
 Cade Garrett Baesler * Hillsboro
 Brittany Agnes Barnhardt ** Mandan
 Michael Peter Baumgartner ** Hazelton
 Lexi Ann Bennett Ellendale
 Dylan Benson ** Fargo
 Colton Verne Berg ** Michigan
 Hunter Thomas Berg Wahpeton
 Janessa Lea Berrios Watertown, Minnesota
 Zachary John Biberdorf ** Rolette
 Elijah Thomas Brovold Fargo
 Braylen Robert Bruns Valley City
 Gina R. Burtness Devils Lake
 Laken Ashlee Chase ** Valley City
 Hope Irene Cleveland * Langdon
 Ashlynn Makelle Copinga Haines, Alaska
 Nickolai Crandall * Valley City
 Nevaeh Percy Davis Belcourt
 Taryn Dieterle Valley City
 Harrison Thomas Duran ** Fullerton, California
 Lucas Allan Edgerly ** West Fargo
 William Lloyd Egan ** Enderlin

Jacen Thomas EissingerValley City
 Claire Marie EricksonJamestown
 Carter Zachary EvensonWest Fargo
 Jayden Ewoniuk **South Heart
 Garret Townsley Fetting.....Bismarck
 Hannah Jo Gordon Park River
 Jacob Gottenborg **Pelican Rapids, Minnesota
 Brianna Marie Grandalen **Glenfield
 Danika Baylie Green *Drake
 Jared James GrommeshCasselton
 Portia Lorraine Lahey Hansen **Georgetown, Texas
 Breean Hanson **Jamestown
 Larry HansonBismarck
 Bayli Paige HeapNephi, Utah
 Martin Jones **Wasilla, Alaska
 Kennadee Jae Jorissen.....Valley City
 Austin JuhnkeFargo
 Dustin Robert Kasowski **Ayr
 Jennifer Lynn Keller.....Strasburg
 Joshua Myles Kelly *Memphis, Tennessee
 Jamie D. KlavaLarimore
 Jacob Christopher Knapke **..... Saint Cloud, Minnesota
 William Benjamin Knudson Bemidji, Minnesota
 Mikay Louis Tmilchol KoushouskiValley City
 Ethan Eric KrebsJamestown
 Shelby Rose KriewaldFargo
 Hale Allen Kringlie.....Valley City
 Rebekah Ann Krueger.....East Grand Forks, Minnesota
 Keaton KvilvangValley City
 Kylee Rae Lauf *.....Minot
 Marjorie Rose LehmanDickinson
 Lara G. LekangWahpeton
 Quanah LocklearYuma, Arizona
 Sage Michelle Longtin **Riverdale
 Hannah Lynn LunaHarvey
 William Craig MagnussonValley City
 Karsyn Rae Maine.....Valley City
 Russell Glenn MarkerValley City
 Kallie Sue Marrison.....Dewitt, Michigan
 Spencer Wayne Mattheis **Hazen
 Raymonte Deshawn Maynard *Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Colby Tremaine MendiolaMinot
 Samyrah Dion Mohon **.....Valley City
 Frank Mugisha *Lexington, Kentucky
 Joseph T. Munowenyu.....Valley City
 Daevonte MunsonSt. Paul, Minnesota
 Bryce Duane NelsonMontevideo, Minnesota
 Mandy NewtonCrandall, Georgia
 Morgan Layne OhmHankinson
 Edmon Arop Paul OyetMankato, Minnesota
 Nyle Tre'von Perkins.....Yulee, Florida
 Bridger Louis Pulver.....Stanley
 Breanna Christine Raines **Kenmare
 Autumn Lynn Riedlinger **Fargo

Calen Paul Rode.....LaMoure
 Marcus Vinicius Sousa SantosSalvador, Bahia, Brazil
 Taylor Marie Sargent.....Carlyle, Saskatchewan, Canada
 Stetson Dakota ScottLisbon
 Alex Robert SellWest Fargo
 Hayley Robin Ann Shanks Brandon, Manitoba, Canada
 Kurt Lewis SimmonsValley City
 Vincent SmithMemphis, Tennessee
 Christian James Theodore Spencer *Bismarck
 Zachary Robin Swinbourne Surprise, Arizona
 Colton Lee Taylor Redwood Falls, Minnesota
 Brittney Amber TorbensonValley City
 Kylie Patrice Ward **.....Bismarck
 Lydia Jacqueline Watkins.....Valley City
 Clara Rae WielandDazey
 Alora Lise Woodruff.....Edgeley
 Casey Kathlene YoungGranger, Iowa

BACHELOR OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES

John Thomas Bruns **.....Valley City
 David Demeter **Goleta, California
 Kirsten Hannah DemkeWahpeton
 Seth Andrew Hanson **Valley City
 Cynthia Maria Muthig.....Appleton, Wisconsin
 Ty Fitzgerald Pratt **Sunrise, Florida
 McKinley M. Putnam **North Pole, Alaska
 Andrew Kent Thompson **St. Petersburg, Florida

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Liberty Faith ClevelandLangdon
 Thomas M. Frias **Hastings, Minnesota
 Riley M. Gerhardt **Valley City
 Reid Alexandre HaugenLakeville, Minnesota
 Zack Peters **Casselton
 Austin William SnyderNorthwood
 Christopher Thompson **Galesville, Wisconsin

* Completed requirements July 29th, 2022

** Completed requirements December 16th, 2022

DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

Mya Jo Anderson Barnesville, Minnesota
Hannah Rose Clemens Jamestown
Victoria Lynn Gilbert Jamestown
Brian Eugene Huff Longview, Washington
Abby Marie Miller Medina
Makayla Rae Nehlich Valley City
Jessica Anne Olafson Jamestown
Trevan Dale Pfennig Bismarck
Macy Marie Reinhart Valley City
Jessica Kay Waliser Jamestown

CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL NURSING

Kimberly Marie Buss Mesa, Arizona
Courtney Kay Rohrich Jamestown

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Kendra Shae Huffman Adams

HONOR GRADUATES 2022–2023

Undergraduate students whose overall grade point average, based on both grades earned in Valley City State University courses and transferred courses, is at least 3.50 or better may graduate with one of the following distinctions:

Summa Cum Laude (With highest honors, 3.90 to 4.00)

<i>Hannah Caitlyn Aberle **</i>	<i>Jennifer Lynn Keller</i>
<i>Kasen Lynn Anderson</i>	<i>Lindsey Elaine Kiecker Snyder</i>
<i>Jaydan Cal Andrud **</i>	<i>Jacob Christopher Knapek **</i>
<i>Rachel Diane Baker</i>	<i>Shelby Rose Kriewald</i>
<i>Paige Nicole Ballard **</i>	<i>Keaton Kvilvang</i>
<i>Merritt Ann Beil</i>	<i>Karsyn Rae Maine</i>
<i>Ashley Blake</i>	<i>Kallie Sue Marrison</i>
<i>Maria Mae Blessum</i>	<i>Elizabeth Dee Martinez</i>
<i>Gina R. Burtness</i>	<i>Cynthia Maria Muthig</i>
<i>Hope Irene Cleveland *</i>	<i>Allison Elizabeth Pieper **</i>
<i>Liberty Faith Cleveland</i>	<i>Theresa Ann Rein</i>
<i>Allie Jo Critchley</i>	<i>Calen Paul Rode</i>
<i>Nevaeh Percy Davis</i>	<i>Hunter Scott Sand</i>
<i>Taryn Dieterle</i>	<i>Taylor Marie Sargent</i>
<i>Rachel Dominguez</i>	<i>Emma Jean Schafer **</i>
<i>William Lloyd Egan **</i>	<i>Graham Michael Schmidt</i>
<i>Garret Townsley Fettig</i>	<i>Haley Marie Skinner</i>
<i>Jacob Gottenborg **</i>	<i>Hayley Louise Steffes</i>
<i>Breean Hanson **</i>	<i>Nadine Stotts</i>
<i>Karlie A. Hoehn **</i>	<i>Annette Marie Tanner **</i>
<i>Grace Holt</i>	<i>Mariah Grace Topp</i>
<i>Nicole Elizabeth Hurt</i>	<i>Clara Rae Wieland</i>
<i>Emma Marie Jay</i>	<i>Saydee Autum Willson **</i>
<i>Mallory Ann Jensen **</i>	<i>Alora Lise Woodruff</i>

Magna Cum Laude (With high honors, 3.89 to 3.75)

<i>Connor Aanderud **</i>	<i>William Craig Magnusson</i>
<i>Brianna Laura Adkins</i>	<i>Shayla Marie Mayes **</i>
<i>Rachel Erika Avdem</i>	<i>Brianna Laura Meissner</i>
<i>Dylan Benson **</i>	<i>Samyrah Dion Mohon **</i>
<i>Jada Lea Crane</i>	<i>Laci Marie Parish **</i>
<i>Shelby Dietz **</i>	<i>Cassie Sue Russell **</i>
<i>Caitlyn Louise Fischbach</i>	<i>Marcus Vinicius Sousa Santos</i>
<i>Angeline Judith Gannon **</i>	<i>Noah P.L. Skarohlid</i>
<i>Riley M. Gerhardt **</i>	<i>Shaylea Leann Skarohlid **</i>
<i>Reid Alexandre Haugen</i>	<i>Austin William Snyder</i>
<i>Bayli Paige Heap</i>	<i>Eleanor Louise Steele **</i>
<i>Dustin Robert Kasowski **</i>	<i>Amanda Torborg **</i>
<i>Kaitlyn Renee Knutson **</i>	<i>Jordyn Elizabeth Tuite **</i>
<i>Millisa Jean Kukowski</i>	<i>Alexa Kathleen Walby</i>
<i>Marjorie Rose Lehman</i>	<i>Emilee Jean Wertman</i>
<i>Sage Michelle Longtin **</i>	<i>Avery Michelle Wysong **</i>
<i>Jordana Elizabeth Machado *</i>	

Cum Laude (With honors, 3.50 to 3.74)

Chaser Alan Atwood **	Emily Noelle Lux
Misean Katlyn Barnes **	Brooke Lynn Malsom
Brittany Agnes Barnhardt **	Molly Miller
Margaret Beach	Morgan Layne Ohm
Sean Ryan Beilke **	Jenna K. Pommerer **
Shelby K. Berg **	Breanna Christine Raines **
Janessa Lea Berrios	Carson Michael Rieniets **
Braylen Robert Bruns	Emily Ripplinger
John Thomas Bruns **	Joseph Alexander Salas
Laken Ashlee Chase **	Hayley Robin Ann Shanks
Kennedy Jo Chicos	Kodi L. Sim
Cheyenne Sierra Clark **	Kurt Lewis Simmons
Lynda N. Coates	Noah James Singsank
Brian Croom **	Lindsey B. Smith
Katelynne Lindsey Czeh	Courtney Emma Stein
Cayla J. DeBolt **	Elizabeth Ann Stringer **
Jaye Nichole Fike **	Sage Miranda Talmadge **
Alaina Marie Gleason	McKenna Nichole Truhlicka
Danika Baylie Green *	Emily Eileen Tweten **
Larry Hanson	Avery Vasicek
Rania F. Hassan	Kylie Patrice Ward **
Rebekah Ann Krueger	Lydia Jacqueline Watkins
Lara G. Lekang	Hallie Jo Wenaas
Quanah Locklear	

Three-Year Honorees

The following completed their first bachelor's degree in less than four years. These students are wearing a cardinal-colored stole in honor of their accomplishment.

Connor Aanderud **	Quanah Locklear
Kasen Lynn Anderson	Frank Mugisha *
Jayden Cal Andrud **	Bryce Duane Nelson
Brittany Agnes Barnhardt **	Bridger Louis Pulver
Merritt Ann Beil	Autumn Lynn Riedlinger **
Dylan Benson **	Emma Jean Schafer **
Ashley Blake	Mariah Grace Topp
Jaye Nichole Fike **	Jordyn Elizabeth Tuite **
Brianna Marie Grandalen **	Emily Eileen Tweten **
Breean Hanson **	David Jace Weese **
Grace Holt	Saydee Autum Willson **
Jacob Christopher Knapek **	Alora Lise Woodruff
Shelby Rose Kriewald	

* Completed requirements July 29th, 2022

** Completed requirements December 16th, 2022

**Dakota College at Bottineau
(students graduating with highest honors)**

Jessica Anne Olafson
Makayla Rae Nehlich
Trevan Dale Pfennig

**Dakota College at Bottineau
(students graduating with honors)**

Abby Marie Miller

THE ACADEMIC COSTUME

The academic costume originated in the university of the Middle Ages, when a warm gown and hood were useful to the scholar and cleric in unheated buildings.

The mortarboard cap, which replaced the skullcap, is the representative headdress of the members of the academic community. The tassel of the cap is black or the color appropriate to the subject, except that the doctor's cap may have a tassel of gold bullion.

The hood gives color and meaning to the costume. The colored lining of the inside of the hood is the official color or colors of the institution conferring the degree. The color of the velvet trimming of the hood is distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains. The colors of some of the subjects are:

Arts, Letters, Humanities—White
Education—Light Blue
Fine Arts—Brown
Law—Purple
Library Science—Lemon
Music—Pink
Nursing—Apricot
Philosophy—Dark Blue
Physical Education—Sage Green
Science—Golden Yellow
Theology—Scarlet

The bachelor wears no hood, only the black cap and gown. The gown has long pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The master wears a hood and a gown with sleeves that are open at either the elbow or the wrist and are oblong in shape. The gown may be worn open or closed. The doctor wears a hood and gown that are larger than the others. The gown is trimmed with black velvet panels from the hem to neck and back. The bell-shaped sleeves are trimmed with three horizontal bars of black velvet, indicating the third and highest degree. The trim may be the color of the subject area instead of black. The gown is worn open or closed.



THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

VCSU’s presidential medallion was created in 1999 by P. Richard Szeitz, professor of art at Minnesota State University Moorhead, acting on commission by then VCSU president Dr. Ellen Chaffee. The laurel leaves dividing the center into three segments symbolize the three upper grades of learning – the baccalaureate, master, and doctoral levels of acquisition of knowledge. Each segment represents one area of VCSU’s academic focus. The top segment symbolizes the liberal arts and sciences, with the sun shedding light on a book representing a store of knowledge. The pen represents the creation of knowledge while the magnifying glass represents its study. Business and technology are represented in the lower-left segment of the medallion. In this area, the clasping hands represent human commerce while the bar graph represents the application of technology in business. The lower right third of the medallion represents VCSU’s focus on teacher education. The candelabra represents man-made light illuminating a body of knowledge stored in the books on which it rests.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MACE

Originally a weapon used during medieval times, the mace has taken on a ceremonial character representing order and authority, and it has been used by governments, universities, and churches to signify an official event. The VCSU mace, present at all formal academic events, symbolizes the authority of the university. It is carried in these events by the president of the Faculty Senate, demonstrating the ideal of shared governance between the university president and the faculty. The VCSU mace was created in 2015 at the request of then President Tisa Mason. Crafted by woodcarvers from Valley City, its black walnut body was harvested from a tree in City Park. The etching on the mace was provided by faculty from the VCSU Department of Technology.

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

The State Normal School at Valley City opened on October 13, 1890, and the first class of three graduates was graduated on June 7, 1894. The institution became Valley City State Teachers College on July 1, 1921, and was authorized to grant the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Education. This degree was later changed to the Bachelor of Science in Education, and in 1946 the college was authorized to grant a liberal arts degree. The name of the college was changed to Valley City State College on July 1, 1963, and to Valley City State University on April 27, 1987. The university was authorized to grant a Master of Education degree on October 21, 2005. In 2008 VCSU entered an agreement with Dakota College at Bottineau through the Dakota Nursing Program that allows students to earn their Practical Nurse (PN) and Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) titles at VCSU. The university was authorized to grant a Master of Arts in Teaching degree on November 10, 2015. The total number of diplomas and degrees conferred on the graduates of Valley City State University will be 27,513 after the commencement exercise on May 13, 2023. The total number of diplomas and degrees conferred on master’s graduates of Valley City State University will be 586.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| James W. Sifton, 1890–1892 | Ted D. DeVries, 1974–1982 |
| George A. McFarland, 1892–1918 | Charles B. House, Jr., 1982–1993 |
| Carlos E. Allen, 1918–1936 | Ellen E. Chaffee, 1993–2008 |
| J. Frederick Weltzin, 1936–1938 | Steven W. Shirley, 2008–2014 |
| James E. Cox, 1938–1942 | Tisa A. Mason, 2014–2017 |
| Eugene H. Kleinpell, 1942–1946 | M. Margaret Dahlberg (interim) 2014,
2017–2018 |
| Roscoe L. Lokken, 1946–1970 | Alan D. LaFave, 2018– |
| Howard C. Rose, 1970–1974 | |

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We hereby acknowledge that the VCSU campus sits on traditional and ancestral lands of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibwe, and Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Santee Dakota peoples. This land is deeply connected to the many indigenous peoples who have held and continue to hold it sacred. We pledge to work toward a strong and lasting relationship with Ojibwe and Dakota tribes as well as other indigenous peoples of our region to hold this land and community in celebration of its rich cultural history.

STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Casey Ryan | Chair, Grand Forks |
| Tim Mihalick | Vice Chair, Minot |
| Danita Bye | Member, Stanley |
| Jeffry Volk | Member, West Fargo |
| Nick Hacker | Member, Mandan |
| John Warford | Member, Bismarck |
| Kevin Black | Member, Minot |
| Sadie Hanson | Student Member, Grand Forks |
| Michael Linnell | Staff Adviser, Minot |
| Lisa Montplaisir | Faculty Adviser, Fargo |

Star Spangled Banner

John Stafford Smith

Oh — say! can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly
light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi-light's last
gleam - ing? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the
per - i - lous fight, O'er the ram - parts we watch'd, were so
gal - lant - ly stream - ing? And the rock - ets' red
glare, the bombs burst-ing in air, Gave proof thro' the
night that our flag was still there. O say! does that —
star spang - led ban - ner — yet — wave? — O'er the
land — of the free, and the home of the brave.

Alma Mater

Josephine Wright Rhoades '17

Al - ma Ma - ter, staunch and true.
May our lives for - ev - er prove
With thy ban - ner red and blue. May the years that
All our gra - ti - tude and love. Let us pledge our
pass a - way. Show our loy - al - ty.
faith al - ways in our S. C.
Al - ma Ma - ter Al - ma Ma - ter Broad as the roll - ing
prai - rie Deep as the heav - en's blue.
Are the hopes and as - pir - a - tions held for
you. May ev - 'ry son and daugh - ter
Serve you faith - ful - ly, Then hail! All hail! Dear
Al - ma Ma - ter Hail S. C.