



VALLEY CITY

STATE UNIVERSITY

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

May 16, 2026 ♦ W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Saturday, May 16, 2026 – 10 a.m.

W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse

The Interim President Will Preside

Prelude.....	VCSU Concert Band Associate Prof. Jerrold Heide, director
Academic Processional “Pomp and Circumstance”	Edward Elgar, arr. James Ployhar VCSU Concert Band
Call to Order.....	Dr. Allen Burgad ‘89 Interim President of the University
“Star Spangled Banner”	John Stafford Smith VCSU Opera Ensemble
Opening Remarks.....	Dr. Allen Burgad
Greetings	Ms. Michelle Kommer North Dakota State Board of Higher Education
Undergraduate Reflection	Ms. Tara Dahl ‘25
Faculty Reflection	Ms. Lindsey Kiecker ‘23 Assistant Professor, Department of Science
Special Music Kornblumen (1888)	Richard Strauss (1864-1949) Ms. Tara Dahl, soprano Dr. Oswald Johnson, piano
Presentation of Candidates for Master’s Degrees	Mr. Larry Brooks Vice President for Academic Affairs
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Allen Burgad
Introduction of Graduates	Ms. Kaleen Peterson Director of Student Academic Services
Presentation of Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees.....	Mr. Larry Brooks
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Allen Burgad
Introduction of the Graduates.....	Ms. Kaleen Peterson
Presentation of Candidates from the Dakota College at Bottineau	Mr. Larry Brooks
Conferring of Degrees.....	Dr. Allen Burgad
Introduction of the Graduates.....	Ms. Kaleen Peterson
Alumni Welcome.....	Mr. Cory Anderson ‘89 Executive Director for University Advancement

“Alma Mater” Josephine Wright Rhoades, Class of 1917
VCSU Opera Ensemble
Academic Recessional
Commemoration Overture..... Robert Sheldon
VCSU Concert Band

President’s Cabinet Representatives Mr. Larry Brooks
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Erica Buchholz '10
Vice President of Business Affairs
Dr. Erin Klingenberg
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Honorary Faculty Marshal Dr. Anthony Dutton
Professor, Social Science Department
Faculty Senate President

Graduate School Representatives Dr. James Boe '91
Dean of Graduate Studies & Extended Learning
Dr. Heather Kvilvang '98
Associate Professor, School of Education & Graduate Studies

Dakota Nursing Program Ms. Becky Pfennig
Instructor, Dakota College at Bottineau

Commencement Coordinator Ms. Kim Svenningsen-Hesch '91
Usher/Seating Coordinators..... Ms. Erin Edinger '14
Ms. Shannon Hone '15
Ms. Brittany Nathan '19
Ms. Toni Seidel '02
Ms. Kari Stricklin '92

Ushers..... Viking Ambassadors and VCSU Staff

VCSU Concert Band Mr. Jerrold Heide, director

Ava Baasch
Grace Backstrom
Matt Belgarde
Reagan Black
CJ Bleick
Myah Bolluyt
Ela Day Child
Annabelle Dolechek
Courtney Fiebiger
Gabe Fodera
Wesley Gill
Bodi Haglund
Nyssa Haslerud
Larry Herzog
Grady Hornung
Carter Johnson
Edwin Johnson
Matthew Johnson

Aurora Jones
Marco Kellogg
Madi Klabo
Gilbert Kuipers
Wyatt Landeis
Celia Larsen
Elijah Leik
Heather Lewis
Cooper Monilaws
Kailey Nangle
Andy Nelson
Victor Pavlish
Jaydin Rombs
Richard Sheppard
Haylee Spurgeon
Dominic Tibor
Clarissa Zander

VCSU Opera Ensemble..... Dr. Stephen Cunningham, director

Myah Bolluyt**
Ela Day Child*
Nyssa Haslerud
Grady Horning*
Madilyn Klabo*
Celia Larsen
Eric Leik

Elijah Leik**
H. Lewis*
Kara Pranzo**
Jaydin Rombs
Richard Sheppard
Dominic Tibor*
Cherokee Warnecke**

* = *indicates senior*

** = *indicates walking senior*

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

DR. ALLEN BURGAD '89

Allen Burgad has served as interim president of Valley City State University since December 2025, following his appointment by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education. A 1989 graduate of VCSU, Burgad returned to the campus in 2021 to serve as Dean for the School of Education. During his time on campus, VCSU's education programs have been recognized with national awards and maintained widespread recognition as the top teacher education programs in the state. Burgad earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from VCSU and a Master of Education in school administration from the University of Mary in 1993. In 2008, he completed a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from the University of North Dakota. He previously served as an administrator in multiple schools including West Fargo, Stanley, Northern Cass, Napoleon, and Powder River County District in Montana.

MICHELLE KOMMER

Michelle Kommer was appointed to the State Board of Higher Education in 2026. She serves on subcommittees for Academic and Student Affairs, Budget & Finance, and Challenge Grant Review. Kommer has owned and operated HighRoad Partners, a firm providing outsourced human resources, payroll, employee benefits, Medicare advisory and consulting services, since 2020. She previously served in leadership roles in state government, including as commerce commissioner, labor commissioner and executive director of Job Service North Dakota. Kommer earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mayville State University, a master's degree in management from the University of Mary and a law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law. She is licensed to practice law in North Dakota and Minnesota.

TARA DAHL

Tara Dahl is graduating today with a Bachelor of Science in Education, majoring in music education K-12. Dahl completed her degree requirements in December 2025 and immediately began working as a full-time music teacher for Glendive Public Schools in Montana. Dahl grew up on a ranch near Hazelton, N.D., and has always had a deep love of playing music, singing and performing. She has been involved in band, choir, jazz band, pep band and various student leadership roles on campus. She was a section leader in both band and choir and served as the drum major for pep band during her final season. Tara credits VCSU for helping to shape her as a teacher and musician by giving her the opportunity for real experiences such as practicum hours, outreach to area schools, running sectionals, and student teaching.

LINDSEY KIECKER

Lindsey Kiecker is an associate professor of science, joining the VCSU faculty ranks in 2023. She teaches chemistry courses, including Introductory, General, Inorganic, Physical, and Quantitative Chemical Analysis. She also supervises science education students and teaches the Secondary Science Methods and Techniques course. A native of Jamestown, N.D., Kiecker earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from VCSU in 2023, majoring in chemistry education. She completed a Master of Science in Chemistry from South Dakota State University in 2025. Kiecker recently received the VCSU Junior Faculty Excellence Award, voted on by faculty, and the Student Senate Teacher of the Year award, selected by students. Students describe her as an amazing and dedicated professor who goes above and beyond. Kiecker enjoys learning about and showing students colorful chemistry. Outside of class you can find her practicing chemical demonstrations, working with student researchers designing science lab activities, or providing a listening ear to students.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2026

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Marley Herold **	Casselton
Daniel W. Knudson **	Fargo
Joann M. Larson *	Valley City
Payton Packer **	Kindred
Miroslav Pavlic **	Munich
Cameron Hunter Pitts	Montgomery, Texas
Jake Allen Risse **	Manitowoc, Wisconsin
Davin Simmons	Little Rock, Arkansas
Anne Wright	Valley City

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Jacob Anderson	West Fargo
Jared Berntson *	Jamestown
Megan Elaine Blessum	Kindred
Skylar Elizabeth Bright	Fargo
Nathaniel Douglas Cariveau	Valley City
Elizabeth Mary Carlson	Valley City
Sarah Dotzenrod	Wyndmere
Benjamin Dryburgh	Hillsboro
Jace Stephen Duffield	Great Falls, Montana
Allison Marie Ecker	Grey Eagle, Minnesota
Theresa A. Erickson **	Milnor
Ashley Fahnhorst	West Fargo
Kiley Fitterer	Harwood
Joseph David Gerding	Moorhead, Minnesota
Kiana Jo Harris	Dickey
Brianna Marie Harthun	Pelican Rapids, Minnesota
Erin Jangula *	Edgeley
Kelly Ann Johnson **	Luverne
Jessica Keith *	Valley City
Kaitlyn Knutson	East Grand Forks, Minnesota
Kaitlyn Larson	Larimore
Louis Leon	Soledad, California
Claire Longley	Big Lake, Minnesota
Michaela E. Mathiesen	West Fargo
Nicole Mulcahy	Barnesville, Minnesota
Samantha Faye Olson	West Fargo
Camden Violet Patterson	St. Cloud, Minnesota
Hallie Peterson	West Fargo
Mallory Kate Pickett	Hickson
Benjamin Ponzer	Winner
Emma Elizabeth Redlin	Eagan, Minnesota
Don G. Reinertsen **	West Milford, New Jersey

Anna Michelle Rinke	Moorhead, Minnesota
Abby May Rogish Bodin	South St. Paul, Minnesota
Greta Sand	West Fargo
Bailey Schmidt	Wahpeton
Lauren Solie	Wayzata, Minnesota
Darin Jeffery Stanislawski	Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Miriam S. Sundling *	Manchester, New Hampshire
Hannah Tangen	West Fargo
Elise Tangquist	Fargo
Harley Tucker Mairs-Vavra	Valley City
Madelyn Watson	Fargo

MASTER of SCIENCE

Larry Herzog Jr.	Valley City
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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Tanaya R. Aaseth	Valley City
Carson B. Amundson **	Moorhead, Minnesota
Jaydan Joseph Anderson	Roseglen
Olivia Kay Anderson	Nielsville, Minnesota
Olivia Jaclyn Avdem	Pekin
Brackin Keith Awender **	Oakes
Bailee Banet *	Devils Lake
Haylee Barker **	Pine Island, Minnesota
Nila F. Bashqawi **	Villa Park, Illinois
Claire L. Bauer	Bismarck
Nevaeh Kristina Baune	Becker, Minnesota
Abigail Rianne Becher	Fargo
Darissa Barbara Becker	Napoleon
Stacie Elizabeth Betti	Mayfield, Pennsylvania
Carla E. Bjornson **	Devils Lake
Sophia Catherine Boe	Harvey
Rebecca Bohrer	Stanley
Ryan G. Boots **	Valley City
Ella Johanna Boucher	Richmond, Minnesota
Miriam Anne Breen	Fargo
McKenna Rae Breuer	Wahpeton
Elle K. Bruggeman **	Brainerd, Minnesota
Koreen Bryn **	Rugby
Kayle A. Buckholz **	Valley City
Alexis Ann Busch **	Barney
Justin B. Byers **	Oxbow, Saskatchewan
Bella Jeanette Carlson	Prior Lake, Minnesota
Arik Christianson **	Langdon
Delani Laura Clarke	Bismarck
Natalee Cook **	Gillette, Wyoming
Emily Cortes	Bolingbrook, Illinois

Renee Patricia Cross	Alexander
Tara Jo Dahl **	Hazelton
Caitlyn Michelle Daniels	Bismarck
Abigail Marie Dick	Edina, Minnesota
Emma Morgan Dockett	Harvey
Landen James Eback	Valley City
Brooke L. Eggermont	Valley City
Leah Ann Erickson	Valley City
Alexis Marie Eriksmoen	Bismarck
Soraya Espino	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Maggie Rae Fennern	West Fargo
Cody Wyatt Frounfelter	Granville
Kyle A. Gader **	Bismarck
Alexis Danielle Garza	Sleepy Eye, Minnesota
Kelsea Gehling	Grand Meadow, Minnesota
Alexa Ann Gemmill **	Fordville
Tiffany Marie Gerbracht	Bagley, Minnesota
Madison P. Giesler **	Edgeley
Cara Lynn Gigstad	Grand Forks
Carter A. Gill **	Fargo
Madelyn Ann Groven	Argyle, Minnesota
Elizabeth Ruth Guggisberg	Redwood Falls, Minnesota
Leah Alicia Hagen	Glenwood, Minnesota
Taylor Nicole Halvorson	West Fargo
Nathan R. Hammarsten	Bismarck
Sadie L. Hansen **	Valley City
Noah Andrew Hatch **	Torrington, Wyoming
Thomas D. Haught **	Lombard, Illinois
Annie E. Heil *	Andover, Minnesota
Bethany Anne Hellem **	Evansville, Minnesota
Darcy Marie Henson **	Cheyenne, Wyoming
Marlee Ann Hetletved	Langdon
Emma M. Heyen **	Colfax
Lynae Hibbard	Crosby
Crystal Allura Holter	Minnewaukan
Kaitlyn L. Homola **	Gackle
Emily Ann Horn **	Tioga
Marquise Hudgen	Garrison
Steven Matthew Jacobson *	Fargo
Amelia Louise Johnson	Valley City
Brinklyn Mercedes Johnson *	Valley City
Jill Marie Johnson	Grand Forks
Adrianna Dee Johnston	Dickinson
Colleen Frances Kernan	Roselle, Illinois
Fehr M. Kilchrist	Apex, North Carolina
Madison Rose Klein	Elk River, Minnesota
Grace N. Kroshus **	Ada, Minnesota
Mary G. LaDue **	Williston
Michelle Lee Landsverk	Crosby
Kyley Rae Lauf **	Minot

Sina Lawson *	Milton
Gracie R. Lingle **	Fargo
Patricia M. Lovell *	Clark, Wyoming
Eric C. Lyss **	Colusa, California
Kalissa Paige Marcella	Rogers, Minnesota
Hadlee Mathias	Valley City
Isabella M. McCabe **	Rugby
Maria Medower **	Watertown, Minnesota
Elizabeth Margaret Michael **	Lombard, Illinois
Annie M. Michels **	Dickinson
Ira P. Mickelson	Cody, Wyoming
Lauren Vivian Miller	Bismarck
Tegan Minchow **	Gillette, Wyoming
Jenessa Angeline Miraldi	West Fargo
Mallory Claire Moen	Sartell, Minnesota
Jayden Josephine Moser	Jamestown
Morgan R. Mostoller	Valley City
Mackenzie Leigh Motter	Clifford
Hannah Lynn Nelson	Grand Rapids, Minnesota
Hannah E. Nenow **	Michigan
Abigail Ada Mae Newton	Jamestown
Justin James Nickerson	Valley City
Sean Nilles	Lombard, Illinois
Abigail Paige Nordstrom	Fargo
Stephanie M. Olson **	Minot
Ryenne Claire Pehl	Bismarck
Cameron Lewis Pero	Lashburn, Saskatchewan
Chayse Alexis Pickar	Baxter, Minnesota
Janna Jo Preteau	Roseau, Minnesota
Lelani P. Privratsky **	South Heart
Tristan Scott Raths	Donnelly, Minnesota
Grace E. Reep **	Dawson, Minnesota
Courtney Ann Richardson **	Hastings, Minnesota
Abigail McKae Rinerson	Iron, Minnesota
Dylan Rose	Morris, Minnesota
Taia M. Rude **	Fargo
Morgan Lee Sanow	Alexandria, Minnesota
Joshua L. Schaner	Bismarck
Sydney Jo Schill **	Hillsboro
Anja Rae Schmeichel	Bismarck
Cassidy M. Schmidt **	Mandan
Isabel Lee Schmidt	Medina
Ayriel T. Schultz **	Lisbon
Lexie Schwarz	Fargo
Eve M. Scott **	Wilton
Kalyn M. Sherman **	Becker, Minnesota
Taylor M. Skinner *	Rock Springs, Wyoming
Avery Anne Soine	Farmington, Minnesota
Emily M. Solien Griffin **	Wahpeton
Madison Beth Spacher	Watford City

Skylar Mae Spessard	Moorhead, Minnesota
Abigail Leanne Spletstoser	Minot
Maia Staiger	Fargo
Morgan Stangler	Fargo
Autumn S. Stanley **	Fergus Falls, Minnesota
MaKenzee Alicen Klar Stone **	Blaine, Minnesota
Georgia Mikayla Thompson	Bemidji, Minnesota
Halley Jean Thoreson	Fingal
Anastasia Ethel Tibor **	Dickinson
Lauren Alexis Tinklenberg	Bloomfield, Nebraska
LilyBeth Kathleen Townsend	Wahpeton
Mariah Rae Trangsrud	Wilton
Kathleen A. Vetter **	Linton
Delaney Lee Vilhauer	Bismarck
Cassandra A. Walker **	Bismarck
Madison R. Walz *	Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
Yasmine Wells	Valley City
Kali R. Werner **	Bismarck
Molly Ann Wieland	Brainerd, Minnesota
Reese Rodney Willprecht	Perham, Minnesota
Ellie J. Wilson **	Gillette, Wyoming
Jaenna Celine Wolff	Arthur
Elizabeth K. Woodward **	Bismarck
Trevor Michael Zawlocki	Yorkville, Illinois
Samantha R. Zurn	Moorhead, Minnesota

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Fernando Gonzalez	Henderson, Nevada
Alec Kwo *	Los Angeles, California
Christopher McGough	Valley City
Paula Reynolds *	Mount Shasta, California
Peter Lee Scott	Grand Rapids, Michigan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Ward F. Adams *	Kankakee, Illinois
Stacy Lynn Allard	Willow City
Brooke Tenley Anderson	York
Madison Rose Anderson	Moorhead, Minnesota
Brandi Rose Aranda **	Hitterdal, Minnesota
Elizabeth R. Auka **	Kenmare
Richard H. Bahm	Mandan
Maycielyn Bill **	Middleton, Idaho
Taylor F. Bollinger	Wahpeton
Myah Bolluyt	Valley City
Hayden Mike Botz	Valley City
Mason John Brehmer	Bellingham, Minnesota
Tucker Brown **	Sanborn

Fallon Nicole Bruns **Valley City
 Nicholas William Earl CarlsonWest Fargo
 Sydney Jo CarlsonEdgeley
 Joseph Alexander CaveRio Rancho, New Mexico
 Noah Caswell ChambersJuneau, Alaska
 Taquez L. Chatman **Bloomington, Minnesota
 John Raymond Cison..... Lake Zurich, Illinois
 Anthony James ClarkWaldorf, Maryland
 Ty L. Combs **Buffalo
 Thomas Edward CoxEl Paso, Texas
 Cara Marie CrowValley City
 Justin A. CruzPueblo, Colorado
 Nicholas Deschamp **Dickinson
 Garrett Nicholas DykstraCentennial, Colorado
 Zach EdwardsNorthfield, Minnesota
 Isaac EichhorstWillmar, Minnesota
 Alex Elwood *Alexandria, Minnesota
 Tiora Jorgia FergusonAnaconda, Montana
 Trent R. FinneyMinneapolis, Minnesota
 Morgan Freije **Devils Lake
 Macy Ann Fridgen **Bismarck
 Andrew Scott GartrellParker, Colorado
 Jessica GilliesSturgis, South Dakota
 Kelby Lynn GjovikPekin
 Quentin Joseph GlueckertWilliston
 Alyssa GohnValley City
 Marrien GohnValley City
 Diesel Toshio GoyaKaneohe, Hawaii
 Danielle HaglerCando
 Kyler D. Haugen **West Fargo
 Lauren Jamie HaugenWyndmere
 Machayla Rae HellandPembina
 Parker W. Heydt **Bismarck
 Abby Lynn HillGwinner
 Hannah G. Houle **Devils Lake
 Joan M. HouserGranville
 Loke Z.C. Iese **Pago Pago, American Samoa
 Amy Lenora JacobsonWishek
 Tyler Lee JohnsonBelfield
 Merik Ray JunkerBig Stone City, South Dakota
 Dylan S. Kibel **Cortez, Colorado
 Justus KieckerEdgeley
 Joesi KleinValley City
 Lindsay Kleven **Minot
 Amber Rose KnutsonKathryn
 Jackalyn Paige KnutsonNew Rockford
 Amber Leigh KologiRochert, Minnesota
 Wadley LamyPowder Spring, Georgia
 Dane Terry Lebahn.....Litchville
 Elijah Dean LeikPettibone

Gideon Lint	Valley City
Hunter Logan	Pearblossom, California
Emma M. Lucas	Argusville
Dalton Madcke **	Edgeley
Emma Rose Marsing	Green River, Wyoming
Tilda Mauritzson	Angelholm, Sweden
Kade Michael McKinnon	Embsen
Kailey Mae McKinnon **	Fargo
Wyatt Robert Meisch	Lamoure
Hannah Rae Miller **	Valley City
Devon Minney	Huntington Beach, California
McCoy Jason Mohl	Beulah
Sarah Catherine Monilaws	Absaraka
Daegen Alexander John Morcom	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Ethan Robert Muchow	Casselton
Emma Elizabeth Muggli	Fullerton
Howard Lee Neustel	Gwinner
Ousseynou Ngom **	Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
Ka'ua Nishigaya **	Waipahu, Hawaii
Jaxsyn Ray Olson	Bismarck
Cameron Lewis Pero	Lashburn, Saskatchewan
Hunter Kai Phelps	Honolulu, Hawaii
Landon Piehl	Marion
Kara Pranzo	Minot
Aubrey Lynn Prunty	Weaverville, California
JayCee Jo Richter	Linton
MacKenzie Arin Rist	Burlington
Zachary William Rostvet **	Langdon
Kaden M. Rozdeba	Strathclair, Manitoba
Abigail Elaine Sather	Valley City
Kelsey L. Schulz **	Valley City
Nichole Sheridan.....	Aston, Pennsylvania
Rebecca Lee Sheridan	Lindenwold, New Jersey
LaShad Smith **	Luverne, Minnesota
Ryleigh J. Smith **	Jamestown
Atibordin Sophonsakulrat	Prosper, Texas
Zach St. Aubin	Ashley
Brie A. Storsved **	New Salem
Alexandra J. Stoterau	Redwood Falls, Minnesota
Tate R. Sufficool **	Valley City
Grace Alyce Udem	Valley City
Annika Brelene Van Peurseem	Fargo
Julie Vargas *	Apopka, Florida
Alexis Velasco	Bloomington, California
Morgan Jean Wangrud **	Jamestown
Trista RaeAnne Weigelt **	Gwinner
Rhiannon Deneé Wenzel	Jamestown
Hanna M. Wieland	Dazey
Madison Marie Wilhelmi	Beach

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Terrance Michael BuckleyBolingbrook, Illinois
Alex M. Drafke Lemont, Illinois
Arun EmmanuelCarol Stream, Illinois

BACHELOR OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Gulistan AmediMoorhead, Minnesota
Gedeon Ellis..... West Hills, California
Caden Scott Grinde Spring Grove, Minnesota
Patrick David Hohe **Wheaton, Illinois
Tessa Brooke McMillion **Cheyenne, Wyoming
Brady George-Patrick Papineau Great Falls, Manitoba
Garrett L. Pemelton * Montgomery, Texas
Ida E. Purkey ** Williston
Sydni Cheyne Smith Valley City
Damian Sosa ** Hialeah, Florida
Isbet Sosa ** Hialeah, Florida
Derica Michelle Wingard Valley City

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Christopher Alan Bailey Rising Star, Texas
Clarisse A. Ebsen * Fargo
Kiarah Mikkel Enockson Bismarck
Silvon Lee Valley City
Krista Danielle Nord Enderlin
Kaycee E. Smith Lemmon, South Dakota
Zachary John Sykora ** Valley City
Alyssa Catherine Thomsen Valley City
Alexis Diane Wobbema Valley City

* Completed requirements August 1, 2025

** Completed requirements December 19, 2025

DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

Alyssa Mag Gange.....Jamestown
Carolyn Marian Schulte.....Jamestown
Emily Elise HoffJamestown
Kendra Kaylin Skramstad..... Valley City
Madisyn Lavetta Steckler Buffalo
Paighton Dawn Nottestad..... Valley City
Krysta Marie Schmiedeberg.....Jamestown

HONOR GRADUATES 2025—2026

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)*

Stacy Lynn Allard	Elijah Dean Leik
Brooke Tenley Anderson	Emma M. Lucas
Madison Rose Anderson	Hadlee Mathias
Olivia Kay Anderson	Maria Medower **
Terrance Michael Buckley	Elizabeth Margaret Michael **
Sydney Jo Carlson	Lauren Vivian Miller
Delani Laura Clarke	Sarah Catherine Monilaws
Thomas Edward Cox	Mackenzie Leigh Motter
Tara Jo Dahl **	Emma Elizabeth Muggli
Abigail Marie Dick	Hannah Lynn Nelson
Emma Morgan Dockter	Abigail Paige Nordstrom
Alex M. Drafke	Ryenne Claire Pehl
Garrett Nicholas Dykstra	Kara Pranzo
Landen James Eback	Janna Jo Preteau
Maggie Rae Fennern	JayCee Jo Richter
Morgan Freije **	Kaden M. Rozdeba
Macy Ann Fridgen **	Taia M. Rude **
Kelsea Gehling	Abigail Elaine Sather
Madison P. Giesler **	Isabel Lee Schmidt
Danielle Hagler	Kelsey L. Schulz **
Sadie L. Hansen **	Atibordin Sophonsakulrat
Thomas D. Haught **	Zach St. Aubin
Bethany Anne Hellem **	Maia Staiger
Marlee Ann Hetletved	Alyssa Catherine Thomsen
Emma M. Heyen **	Halley Jean Thoreson
Patrick David Hohe **	LilyBeth Kathleen Townsend
Kaitlyn L. Homola **	Annika Brelene Van Peursem
Amelia Louise Johnson	Delaney Lee Vilhauer
Brinklyn Mercedes Johnson *	Trista RaeAnne Weigelt **
Merik Ray Junker	Yasmine Wells
Joesi Klein	Madison Marie Wilhelmi
Grace N. Kroshus **	Ellie J. Wilson **
Mary G. LaDue **	Elizabeth K. Woodward **

MAGNA CUM LAUDE
(with high honors, 3.89 to 3.75)

Olivia Jaclyn Avdem	Tilda Mauritzson
Bailee Banet*	Kailey Mae McKinnon **
Haylee Barker **	McCoy Jason Mohl
Nila F. Bashqawi **	Hannah E. Nenow **
Carla E. Bjornson **	Krista Danielle Nord
Sophia Catherine Boe	Lelani P. Privratsky **
Rebecca Bohrer	Grace E. Reep **
Ella Johanna Boucher	MacKenzie Arin Rist
Elle K. Bruggeman **	Zachary William Rostvet **
Bella Jeanette Carlson	Morgan Lee Sanow
Anthony James Clark	Sydney Jo Schill **
Natalee Cook **	Anja Rae Schmeichel
Carter A. Gill **	Eve M. Scott **
Madelyn Ann Groven	Madison Beth Spacher
Lauren Jamie Haugen	Morgan Stangler
Alec Kwo *	Autumn S. Stanley **
Michelle Lee Landsverk	Hanna M. Wieland

CUM LAUDE
(with honors, 3.50 to 3.74)

Tanaya R. Aaseth	Elizabeth Ruth Guggisberg
Jaydan Joseph Anderson	Leah Alicia Hagen
Elizabeth R. Auka **	Noah Andrew Hatch **
Claire L. Bauer	Lynae Hibbard
Abigail Rianne Becher	Abby Lynn Hill
Stacie Elizabeth Betti	Crystal Allura Holter
Maycielyn Bill **	Joan M. Houser
Ryan G. Boots **	Marquise Hudgen
Kevin E. Borg	Colleen Frances Kernan
Hayden Mike Botz	Madison Rose Klein
Miriam Anne Breen	Amber Leigh Kologi
Alexis Ann Busch **	Kyley Rae Lauf **
John Raymond Cison	Tessa Brooke McMillion **
Renee Patricia Cross	Hannah Rae Miller **
Caitlyn Michelle Daniels	Tegan Minchow **
Brooke L. Eggermont	Jenessa Angeline Miraldi
Isaac Eichhorst	Mallory Claire Moen
Kiarah Mikkel Enockson	Morgan R. Mostoller
Leah Ann Erickson	Ethan Robert Muchow
Trent R. Finney	Abigail Ada Mae Newton
Cody Wyatt Frounfelter	Sean Nilles
Kyle A. Gader **	Stephanie M. Olson **
Alexis Danielle Garza	Aubrey Lynn Prunty
Tiffany Marie Gerbracht	Abigail McKae Rinerson
Cara Lynn Gigstad	Joshua L. Schaner
Kelby Lynn Gjovik	Ayriel T. Schultz **
Alyssa Gohn	Avery Anne Soine

Skylar Mae Spessard
Abigail Leanne Spletstoser
Brie A. Storsved **
Alexandra J. Stoterau
Lauren Alexis Tinklenberg

Grace Alyce Udem
Kathleen A. Vetter **
Madison R. Walz *
Kali R. Werner **
Molly Ann Wieland

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.

Olivia Kay Anderson
Elizabeth R. Auka **
Maycielyn Bill **
Hayden Mike Botz
Mason John Brehmer
Natalee Cook **
Emma Morgan Dockter
Landen James Eback
Brooke L. Eggermont
Kiarah Mikkell Enockson
Leah Ann Erickson
Morgan Freije **
Macy Ann Fridgen **
Madison P. Giesler **
Noah Andrew Hatch **
Lauren Jamie Haugen
Emma M. Heyen **
Lynae Hibbard
Kaitlyn L. Homola **
Amelia Louise Johnson
Merik Ray Junker
Joesi Klein
Madison Rose Klein
Grace N. Kroshus **

Hadlee Mathias
Kailey Mae McKinnon **
Elizabeth Margaret Michael **
Tegan Minchow **
McCoy Jason Mohl
Mackenzie Leigh Motter
Emma Elizabeth Muggli
Hannah E. Nenow **
Janna Jo Preteau
Lelani P. Privratsky **
Zachary William Rostvet **
Abigail Elaine Sather
Sydney Jo Schill **
Isabel Lee Schmidt
Ayriel T. Schultz **
Kelsey L. Schulz **
Skylar Mae Spessard
Zach St. Aubin
Halley Jean Thoreson
Grace Alyce Udem
Annika Brelene Van Peurseem
Kathleen A. Vetter **
Elizabeth K. Woodward **
Trevor Michael Zawlocki

* Completed requirements August 1, 2025

** Completed requirements December 19, 2025

DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

GRADUATES WITH HIGH HONORS

Krysta Marie Schmiedeberg

GRADUATES WITH HONORS

Carolyn Schulte
Kendra Skramstad
Madisyn Steckler

HONOR SOCIETIES AT VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

Alpha Lambda Delta honor society is for students who have achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher during their first year or term of higher education. Students receive maroon and gold honor cords.

First Generation honor cords are worn by students who are the first generation to graduate with an Undergraduate degree. Honor cords are red and royal blue.

DECA honor cords are blue and white with a DECA Diamond pendant and are given to students who achieve at or above a proficient score at the state competition and have participated in DECA guiding principles on the local level.

DECA honor stoles of white with a blue DECA logo are for students who scored proficient or above at the International Career and Development Conference and Competition.

Blue represents sincerity and influence.

White represents loyalty and expertise.

The DECA Diamond is a symbol of the guiding principles, and it represents the unique learning methods, creative solutions, business partnerships, and competition.

Kappa Delta Pi is an international honor society that recognizes and supports excellence in education. The organization's mission is to inspire teachers to prepare students for future challenges. Students are given jade green and violet honor cords.

Military & Veteran honor cords are worn by students who are members of the United States Armed Forces or military veterans in recognition of their service. Honor cords are red, white and blue.

National Society for Leadership & Success is an organization that provides a life-changing leadership program that helps students achieve personal growth, career success, and empowers them to have a positive impact in their community. Students are given a white and black honor cord.

Phi Alpha Theta is the history honor society that recognizes high academic achievement for undergraduate and graduate students. Students wear red and blue honor cords or a red stole.

Psi Chi is a college student honor society in psychology with international outreach. Students receive a platinum and dark blue honor cord.

Sigma Tau Delta is a US-based, international honor society for students of English at four-year colleges and universities who are within the top 30% of their class and have a 3.5 GPA or higher. Students are given cardinal and black honor cords.

VCSU Student Senate – Members who have been a part of Student Senate for five semesters or more are given a red and navy honor cord.

VCSU Viking Campus Activities Board – Members who have been a part of VCAB for three years receive a yellow, red, and navy honor cord.

Viking Athletics – Students participating in collegiate sports at VCSU wear a red lanyard with the Viking Head.

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 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 and Master of Science degree on September 3, 2021.

The total number of diplomas and degrees conferred on the graduates of Valley City State University will be 28,425 after the commencement exercise on May 16, 2026. The total number of degrees conferred on master's graduates of Valley City State University will be 713.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

James W. Sifton, 1890–1892
George A. McFarland, 1892–1918
Carlos E. Allen, 1918–1936
J. Frederick Weltzin, 1936–1938
James E. Cox, 1938–1942
Eugene H. Kleinpell, 1942–1946
Roscoe L. Lokken, 1946–1970
Howard C. Rose, 1970–1974
Ted D. DeVries, 1974–1982
Charles B. House, Jr., 1982–1993
Ellen E. Chaffee, 1993–2008
Steven W. Shirley, 2008–2014
Tisa A. Mason, 2014–2017
M. Margaret Dahlberg (interim) 2014, 2017–2018
Alan D. LaFave, 2018–2025
Allen Burgad (interim) 2026

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

Kevin Black Chair, Minot
Donald Campbell..... Vice Chair, Mandan
Danita Bye Member, Stanley
Curtis Biller Member, Fargo
Michelle Kommer Member, Fargo
Tim Mihalick Member, Minot
Patrick Sogard Member, Willison
Anna Kinney..... Staff Advisor, Grand Forks
Lisa Montplaisir, Ph.D. Faculty Advisor, Fargo
Maxwill Eriksrud Student Member, Grand Forks

Star Spangled Banner

John Stafford Smith

Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early
light, What so proud we hail'd in the old flag's first
beam? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the
petal'd sky light, O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so
glare'd in streams, and the rock star red
glare, the bright bursting in air, gave proof thro' the
night that our flag was still there. O say does that
star-spangled banner yet wave? O'er the
land — at the sea, and the home of the brave

VCSU Alma Mater

Josephine Wright Rhoades '17
arr. Dr. Stephen Cunningham

Al - ma Ma - ter, staunch and true with thy ban - ner red and blue. May the years that
May our lives for ev - er prove all our grat - i - 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 every son and daugh - ter

serve you faith - ful - ly. Then hail! All hail! Dear Al - ma Ma - ter our S. C.