

**VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY**

WELCOMES APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR

**PRESIDENT**



**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY





# LEAD A GROWING CAMPUS.

## ➤ THE OPPORTUNITY AT VCSU

The State Board of Higher Education for the North Dakota University System and the Valley City State University (VCSU) community invite nominations and applications for the position of President. The State Board and Commissioner of North Dakota Higher Education have charged the search committee to identify an inspirational leader who is visionary, collaborative, and deeply committed to the institution's mission and people. The ideal leader will honor VCSU's history and shared governance model while guiding the university confidently into the future—strengthening its academic excellence, community partnerships, and student centered culture.

The President will lead a university that has set enrollment records for three consecutive years and has grown 34% since 2012. The President reports to the Commissioner and the SBHE and directly oversees the vice president for academic affairs, vice president for business affairs, vice president for student affairs, executive director for university advancement, chief information officer, director for enrollment services, director for athletics, executive assistant, and director for public relations.

For 28 consecutive years, Valley City State University has been ranked among the nation's Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report. VCSU has received the No. 1 ranking among Public Regional Colleges in North Dakota for five consecutive years, and the No. 2 ranking in the 12-state Midwest from U.S. News.

Founded as a normal school in 1890, VCSU now offers more than 65 undergraduate programs in art, business, communication arts, computer systems and software engineering, education, kinesiology and human performance, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social science, and technology education. VCSU offers courses and degree programs through traditional on-campus delivery, distance learning, and hybrid formats. In 2005, VCSU began offering its first graduate program in education, the Master of Education degree. Today, VCSU's completely online M.Ed. program has six concentrations. VCSU also offers a Master of Arts in Teaching degree program and a Master of Science in Business Information Systems – both completely online.

VCSU athletics has a history of success and strong support from both the campus and local community. Student-athletes play a major role in campus life and make up about 30% of the on-campus population. As a member of the NAIA and The Frontier Conference, VCSU offers 14 varsity sports along with a coed Shooting Sports club.

The mission of the VCSU Foundation is to support VCSU by involving alumni and friends in activities and private giving that meet the university's needs and advance its welfare. The incoming VCSU President will take a lead role in fundraising and actively cultivate, solicit, and secure major financial support for the university.

The University has completed major renovation projects on three academic buildings since 2013 and opened the brand new \$32 million Larry J. Robinson Center for the Arts in 2022. The campus is nearing completion of its Forward Together Capital Campaign, which helped fund a \$13.5 million renovation to the McCarthy Hall School of Education in 2025 and an \$11 million expansion to VCSU's athletic facilities – currently under construction.



# ➤ EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT

The next President at VCSU will be personable, visible, and a trustworthy leader who listens with intent, collaborates transparently, and builds authentic relationships across campus and the community. They must understand and honor VCSU's mission while supporting innovation and academic excellence, prioritizing student success, and fostering a positive, inclusive environment that engages employees in shared governance. The role calls for an energetic, inspiring, and forward thinking strategist who can navigate the evolving higher education landscape, communicate a compelling vision, make informed and timely decisions and represent the university effectively. A strong community presence, partnership building mindset, and political savvy are essential to advocating for VCSU and strengthening its regional impact. The president will be expected to build partnerships and collaborate for the well-being of the university, the system, and the state of North Dakota.

## KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS

### Strategic Leadership and Vision

Lead the university with strategic clarity by driving purposeful, sustainable growth in enrollment, programs, partnerships, and institutional impact.

### Leadership, Culture, and Talent Development

Build and foster leadership capacity and an institutional culture that enables the university to grow and evolve while sustaining trust, engagement, accountability, and performance. Uphold academic freedom and engage transparently in collaborative consensus and shared governance.

### Advocacy and Place-Based Leadership

Serve as a visible, engaged leader who secures support from legislators and strengthens VCSU's role as a trusted partner and anchor institution within Valley City and the surrounding region.

### Student Experience and Program Relevance

Champion a high-quality, student-centered experience supported by relevant academic

programs and co-curricular offerings that promote engagement, retention, completion, and successful post-graduation outcomes. Actively support excellence in teaching and learning to nurture and educate students as engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

### System Collaboration and Governance

Successfully navigate complexities within higher education and NDUS governance, maintaining strong system relationships while advocating for VCSU's mission and interests.

### Advancement, Philanthropy, and External Relations

Serve as chief ambassador, strengthening VCSU's reputation with alumni and other stakeholders for increased financial and community support.

### Financial Stewardship and Institutional Sustainability

Strengthen VCSU's long-term financial health through responsible budgeting, resource allocation, infrastructure, and revenue diversification.







## ➤ WELCOME HOME

Valley City State University is ready for another successful leader looking to make our friendly community their home.

With more than 1800 total students, record enrollment 12 of the last 13 years, and a successful capital campaign nearing completion, Valley City State University is a campus with momentum.

New buildings, major renovations and recognized academic excellence have highlighted the last 15 years on campus under the leadership of former presidents Steven W. Shirley (2008-14), Tisa A Mason (2014-17), two-time interim Margaret Dahlberg, and our most recent president Alan D. LaFave (2018-25).

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated senior-level executive leadership experience
- Master's degree from an accredited institution

### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience as a faculty member and/or in an academic leadership role
- Earned doctorate or other terminal degree

## NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

For best consideration, nominations and applications should be received by 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2026. The application must include a letter of interest of not more than three pages; a current résumé (or curriculum vitae); and the names of five professional references with each person's position, office or home address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers. Nominations and applications should be sent electronically in MS Word or PDF format to: [VCSU.PresidentialSearch@VCSU.edu](mailto:VCSU.PresidentialSearch@VCSU.edu)

The current Interim President of VCSU is fully eligible to apply and will be given equal consideration alongside other applicants. References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the applicant. The new President will assume office on or before July 1, 2026.

The VCSU Presidential Search is coordinated internally through the North Dakota University System office and VCSU Human Resources. Additional college information may be found at [www.vcsu.edu](http://www.vcsu.edu). Additional information on the VCSU Presidential Search may be found at [www.vcsu.edu/about-vcsu/president/search/](http://www.vcsu.edu/about-vcsu/president/search/).

Questions may be directed to Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resource Officer at 701.877.5717 [jane.grinde@ndus.edu](mailto:jane.grinde@ndus.edu) or Jennifer Larson, Director for Human Resources, VCSU at 701.845.7401 [jennifer.larson@vcsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.larson@vcsu.edu).





# CAMPUS OVERVIEW

## MISSION

Valley City State University is a public, regional university offering exceptional programs in an active, learner-centered community that promotes meaningful scholarship, ethical service, and the skilled use of technology. As an important knowledge resource, the university offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond. Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

## VISION

As an innovative university, we deliver distinctive, learner-centered experiences.

## CORE VALUES

- Student-focused: We place students at the center of all decisions.
- Innovative: We try new things to help create the future.
- Learning-centered: We develop and sustain a culture of lifelong learning.
- Collaborative: We work synergistically to advance our mission.
- Engaged: We actively participate in the work of the university.

## UNIVERSITY PURPOSES

- Deliver a quality educational experience in an engaging, innovative culture and a technology-enhanced environment.
- Serve the best interests of our students, region, and society.
- Lead effectively in applying information media technologies for learning.
- Promote the appreciation of diversity and inclusion to enrich the quality of thought, discussion, and learning.
- Award degrees in education, business, and the liberal arts and sciences.

## Leadership Team

- Allen Burgad, Interim President
- Larry Brooks, VP for Academic Affairs
- Erica Buchholz, VP for Business Affairs
- Mark Nelson, VP for Student Affairs
- Cory Anderson, Executive Director for University Advancement
- Joseph Tykwinski, Chief Information Officer
- Erin Heide, Director for Enrollment Services
- Dennis McCulloch, Director for Athletics
- Anna Bratsch, Assistant Athletic Director
- Mark Potts, Director for Public Relations

## FACULTY/STAFF STATISTICS

- Total faculty/staff: 223
- Tenured faculty: 44.7%
- Full-time faculty with terminal degrees: 53.9%
- Student-to-faculty ratio: 11:1

**Total Enrollment (Fall 2025): 1,827**

## Degrees Conferred in 2024–2025 (537)

- Master's degrees: 23
- Bachelor's degrees: 295
- Associate's degrees: 10
- Graduate certificates: 13
- Undergraduate certificates: 196

**2024-2025 Completed Student Credit Hours: 36,263**

## Student Achievement Measures (SAM) Completion Rates at 6 Years (Starting Fall 2018):

54% first-time, full-time cohort  
53% full-time, transfer cohort

## FY25 Operating Budget (2025–2026)

\$13,783,537	State General Fund
\$8,400,365	Tuition & Fees
<u>\$8,500,000</u>	Other Funds
<b>\$30,683,902</b>	<b>Total</b>





# A CAMPUS WITH MOMENTUM

## THARALDSON FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER

Construction is progressing on the new Tharaldson Family Athletic Center which is an expansion of VCSU's current athletic facilities. The building is expected to open in Fall 2026 and will feature a multipurpose turfed practice space, a new strength and conditioning area, new locker rooms and team rooms, and other needed features. The project's final cost will be \$11-13 million and is the central priority for VCSU's Forward Together Capital Campaign.



## GAUKLER FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER

The Gaukler Family Wellness Center is a representation of the strong relationship between VCSU and the community. This \$16 million facility opened in 2016 and is the central wellness location for VCSU students and Valley City residents. The building is owned and operated by Valley City Parks and Recreation, but VCSU maintains classroom and office space in the building for the Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance. All VCSU students have memberships to the wellness center as part of their student fees and enjoy amenities such as a pool and hot tub, workout equipment, a walking track and multipurpose athletic courts.



## MCCARTHY HALL

After undergoing a \$13.5 million renovation, McCarthy Hall reopened in Fall 2025 as the new home for VCSU's renowned School of Education and the Department of Technology Education. The new spaces have brought new energy to the students and faculty, giving VCSU's School of Education a facility that is commensurate with its reputation as the top teacher education program in the state. The McCarthy Hall project was funded by \$2 million from VCSU's Forward Together Capital Campaign and \$11.5 million from the State Legislature.

## LARRY J. ROBINSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The \$32 million Center for the Arts opened in 2022 and provides first-class learning and performance spaces for VCSU's music and arts students, along with opportunities to host community and K-12 events. The building was funded entirely by an appropriation from the North Dakota State Legislature.



RANKED A U.S. NEWS  
**BEST COLLEGE**  
28 CONSECUTIVE YEARS



**11:1** STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO

**99%** GRADUATE  
SUCCESS RATE  
2023-24 DATA



**1827** TOTAL ENROLLMENT  
FALL 2025  
34% GROWTH SINCE 2012



**#2** PUBLIC REGIONAL  
COLLEGE IN THE MIDWEST  
AS RANKED BY U.S. NEWS

**WWW.VCSU.EDU**





# HERE TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

## STUDENT-CENTERED

Our campus and employees prioritize students every day – in the decisions we make, the support we provide and the actions we take. We are a close-knit campus and the student experience at the heart of every major decision and initiative.

It's extremely common for students to tell us "it just feels like home" after their first visit to VCSU. The friendly faces, the smaller campus and the 11-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio all make for a welcoming environment where students can find their passion, become involved in the campus community and grow as people.



## EMPLOYEES WHO CARE

Roughly 35% of our 220 total faculty and staff are VCSU graduates themselves – a shining example of how impactful and influential VCSU and the Valley City community have been on their lives. Our employees care deeply about this place and believe in the mission of the university. They want that same great experience for the next generation of VCSU students. Our retention rate reflected this in 2025 as we hit all-time highs in our first-time, full-time retention. We also lead North Dakota's 4-year regional institutions in the latest 4-year and 6-year completion rates.

## FALL 2025 STUDENT INFORMATION

### ENROLLMENT

North Dakota	1349
Minnesota	182
Wyoming	43
Illinois	39
South Dakota	25
Hawaii	22
California	20
Other	147
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>1827</b>

We have students from 37 states and 7 countries that call VCSU home.

### MODE OF DELIVERY

Undergrad Face-to-Face	40%
Dual Credit/Early Entry	28%
Undergrad Online	18%
Graduate Programs	9%
NDSU Elementary Ed Dual Degree Program	5%

### GENDER & ETHNICITY

Female	59%
Male	41%

White	85.71%
2 or more races	5.20%
Black	1.97%
Hispanic	1.92%
Asian	1.31%
Am. Indian	0.77%
Hawaiian	0.71%
Not Specified	2.41%

### 2025 RETENTION RATES

First-time, Full-time	77%
First-time, Part-time	56%
Transfer, Full-time	74%
Transfer, Part-time	63%





# ACADEMICS

## TECHNOLOGY-RICH EDUCATION

Founded as a normal school in 1890, VCSU now offers more than 65 programs of study including undergraduate degrees in art, business, communication arts, computer systems and software engineering, education, kinesiology and human performance, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social science, and technology education.

To enhance teaching and learning, VCSU provides all faculty and full-time students with laptop computers, easy access to high-speed wireless networking, advanced multimedia technology, and classrooms equipped with the latest educational technology. The laptop program started in 1996 and has helped shape the equitable and innovative, technology-supported campus learning culture, a hallmark of the university.

VCSU makes courses and degree programs available through traditional on-campus courses, distance learning, and hybrid formats that combine both elements.

## MASTER'S OFFERINGS

In 2005, VCSU began offering its first graduate program in education, the Master of Education degree. VCSU's completely online M.Ed. program now has six concentrations: elementary education, English education, library and information technologies, teaching and technology, teaching English learners, and technology education. A Master of Arts in Teaching degree program, also completely online, was added in 2016. An online Master of Science in Business Information Systems was added in 2022.

## ACCREDITATION

VCSU earned a 10-year reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission in 2022. The university has been accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) since 1954. The VCSU music program received accreditation in 1997 and most recently was reaccredited by the National Association of School of Music (NASM) in 2020. The Department of Business was granted accreditation by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) in 2025.



VCSU helped prepare me for vet school by allowing me to be in small very interactive classrooms that provided excellent hands on and unique opportunities and the ability to talk one-on-one with professors.



**Morgan Gentzkow '20**

Majors: Biology & Fisheries and Wildlife  
with a Wildlife Concentration





## ➤ UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

**A** Applied Kinesiology  
Art  
Art Education

**B** Biology  
Biology Education  
Business Administration

- AgriBusiness
- Human Resource and Management
- Managerial Accounting & Finance
- Marketing

Business Education  
Business Process Integration  
Management

**C** Career and Technical Education  
Chemistry  
Chemistry Education  
Communication

- Corporate Cognate
- Digital Media Management Cognate
- Journalism & Media Communication Cognate

Computer Information Systems

**D** Data Analytics & Visualization  
Digital Design

**E** Elementary Education  
English

- General English
- Literature Studies
- Professional Writing
- Technical Writing

English Education  
Environmental Science  
Exercise Science and Rehabilitative Studies

**F** Fisheries and Wildlife Science

- Conservation Law Enforcement
- Fisheries Concentration
- Wildlife Concentration

**H** Health Education  
Health Science  
History  
History Education  
Human Services

- Child and Family Studies
- Criminal Justice
- General Human Services
- Gerontology

**M** Mathematics  
Mathematics Education  
Medical Laboratory Science  
Music

- Audio Production
- General Studies
- Performance Concentration

Music Education K-12

**P** Physical Education K-12  
Psychology

**S** Social Science  
Social Science Education  
Software Engineering  
Spanish  
Spanish Education  
Sport Leadership and Management  
Strength and Conditioning

**T** Technology Education

**U** University Studies

## ➤ GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Master of Education

- Elementary Education
- English Education
- Library and Information Technologies
- Teaching English Learners
- Teaching & Technology
- Technology Education

Master of Arts in Teaching  
Master of Science in Business  
Information Systems

### Associate of Arts

Digital Design Concentration  
General Studies Concentration

### Minors

Adapted Physical Education  
Agribusiness  
Art Education  
Art  
Athletic Coaching  
Biology  
Business  
Business Software Applications  
Chemistry  
Communication  
Computer Science  
Digital Design  
Earth and Environmental Science  
English  
Health Education  
Health Studies  
History  
Human Resources  
Library Media and Information Science  
Marketing  
Mathematics  
Music Audio Production  
Music Education  
Music  
Physical Education - Elementary  
Physical Education - Secondary  
Physics  
Piano Pedagogy  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Teaching English Language Learners  
Technical Writing  
Technology Education

### Certificates

Addiction Studies  
Allied Health  
American Sign Language  
Athletic Coaching  
Business Management  
College Studies  
Communication & Leadership  
Customer Relationship Management  
Cyber Security  
Digital Design  
Digital Marketing  
Digital Studies  
Enterprise Applications  
Game Design & Development  
Music Audio Production  
Music Composition  
Non-Profit Studies  
Piano Pedagogy  
Professional Sales  
Software Development  
Spanish  
Sports Marketing  
STEM Education – Elementary  
STEM Education – Secondary  
Strategic Communications  
Strength and Conditioning

### Certificates of Completion

Middle Level Education  
Reading  
Unmanned Aerial Systems

### Endorsements

Early Childhood  
Kindergarten  
Stratigist Special Education  
Teaching English Language Learners



LARGEST UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

# SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

## STAYING TRUE TO OUR ROOTS

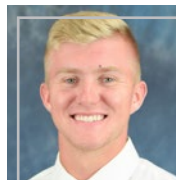
Originally founded as a teacher's college, VCSU has stayed true to its origin as the university annually awards the most undergraduate teaching degrees in the state of North Dakota.

Our teacher education programs prepare students for authentic classroom teaching by exposing them to learner centered, real-world experiences. It is these experiences that have prepared thousands of outstanding educators regionally and nationally. VCSU requires student teaching with a veteran educator before graduation to ensure they are ready to lead.

VCSU students have the opportunity to become substitute teachers during their junior and senior year. This allows a student to gain more experience in the classroom and earn additional income.

## ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Art Education
- Business Education
- Elementary Education
- English Education
- History Education
- Mathematics Education
- Music Education
- Physical Education
- Science Education
- Technology Education



**Avery Thorsgard**

Major: Elementary  
Education

"I chose VCSU

because it instantly felt like home. I come from a small town, and VCSU had that same feel right away. The people make you feel welcome, and they want to know you. This is also the best place to go for elementary education, so I knew VCSU was the place to prepare me for my future."



**1,523**

**VCSU ALUMNI**

work as teachers or administrators  
at 342 schools in 154  
North Dakota Communities



**\$13.5 MILLION**  
RECENTLY RENOVATED  
McCARTHY HALL





# BUSINESS



AGRIBUSINESS



MARKETING



HUMAN RESOURCES  
& MANAGEMENT



ACCOUNTING  
& FINANCE

## FOUR CONCENTRATIONS

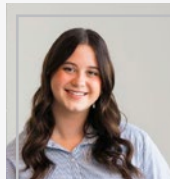
VCSU's Business Administration degree is one of our most popular paths for students and offers concentrations in four areas:

- Agribusiness
- Marketing
- Human Resources & Management
- Accounting & Finance

The Department of Business has received specialized accreditation through the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE).

**130+**

annual enrollment in business  
administration program



### Amber Knutson

Major: Business Administration

"I discovered my passion for marketing during my senior year of high school, which led me to pursue a degree in Business Administration with a focus in Agricultural Business and a minor in Marketing. This combination has allowed me to build a solid foundation in business while also tailoring my education to align with my personal interests and career goals."

# FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

## HANDS-ON LEARNING

Our Fisheries and Wildlife program is designed to help students pursue their dream of a career in the outdoors. Students enjoy numerous opportunities to learn in the field, including banding live ducks, studying fish in streams or collaborating with conservation groups on research projects.



CONSERVATION LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
FOCUS



WILDLIFE  
FOCUS

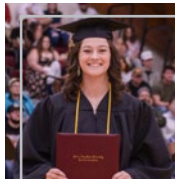


FISHERIES  
FOCUS

# EXERCISE SCIENCE

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY & ATHLETICS

VCSU's Exercise Science program is the largest in the Department of Kinesiology and Human Performance. Other popular majors in this department include Sport Leadership and Management, Strength and Conditioning, Health Education and Physical Education. Students in this department take the majority of their classes at the Gaukler Family Wellness Center – a public facility shared by VCSU and Valley City Parks and Recreation.



**Clarissa Schlottman '24**

Major: Exercise Science

"I enjoyed getting the chance to get to know my professors in my department along with my preceptors in the athletic training room. I appreciated that as I was leaving Valley City I could say I created a relationship with my professors that will last well beyond my four years here."

# MUSIC

## MODERN MUSIC SPACES

Students in the Department of Music study in the Larry J. Robinson Center for the Arts, a \$32 million building completed in 2022. This modern facility features a main performance hall and practice spaces that fuel artistry and creativity. Students can choose to major in music education, music performance, or audio production.

The Center for the Arts is also home to VCSU's art department and hosts numerous high school and community music or art events throughout the year.



**Isabelle Haugen '25**

Major: Music Education

"My time in the VCSU Music Department was the best experience I could have asked for. The professors and community here truly care about who you are and want you to succeed. Currently going into my first year of teaching, I feel so prepared from the education and support I received at Valley City State. Attending this school was the best decision I ever made."





# Academic Partnerships

Partnerships with other higher education institutions extend Valley City State University's reach and provide rich learning experiences for students. VCSU maintains more than 20 articulation agreements with college and universities in the region, including several prominent partnerships listed below.

## DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU NURSING

VCSU and Dakota College at Bottineau combine to offer a pathway to a nursing career on the VCSU campus. A portion of VCSU's Rhoades Science Center is dedicated to the DCB nursing program. DCB students may reside on the VCSU campus and earn an Associate Degree in Nursing or a Practical Nursing Certificate.

## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM WITH NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

North Dakota State University and VCSU collaborate on a human development and family science/elementary education program for NDSU students. VCSU faculty teach the elementary education coursework on the NDSU campus and in Fargo area elementary schools. Students who complete the program earn degrees from both institutions. This program annually includes between 100-150 students.

## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM WITH BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

New in 2026, VCSU and Bismarck State College (N.D.) are partnering on a dual degree program. BSC students can earn a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree from BSC, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (B.S.Ed.) from VCSU in four years. VCSU has also partnered with other North Dakota junior colleges to create easy pathways for students to earn a degree and teaching license.

## WYOMING TEACHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Wyoming students are able to take advantage of the partnerships forged between Valley City State University and Wyoming colleges. Students in this program will complete their associate's degree at their chosen Wyoming campus, then transfer to VCSU to earn a bachelor's degree in education.

## COLLEGE OF DUPAGE TEACHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

The 3+1 education teaching programs have been structured for College of DuPage (Illinois) students and include elementary, technology and engineering, history, math, and English. Students studying to become licensed teachers will have the opportunity to student teach in their local area and to work as a paraprofessional while completing online coursework.



## ACADEMIC CENTERS

VCSU is the home of four academic centers that include various outreach programs to K-12 students and educators.

The **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute for Teaching and Learning** was launched in 2025 with a \$1 million grant from the North Dakota Workforce Education Innovation Fund. Goals of the AI Institute include preparing current K-12 teachers to use AI effectively and preparing career-ready VCSU graduates who are well-versed in the use of AI tools in their professions.

The **Great Plains STEM Education Center** provides professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and hands-on, inquiry-based learning opportunities for K-12 students. One of the signature programs is the INSTEM Academy, which conducts week-long summer STEM academies for cohorts of North Dakota Native American middle and high school students

**Prairie Waters Education and Research Center** provides environmental learning opportunities focused on North Dakota waters for students, teachers, and professionals, while also conducting research on aquatic biological resources.

The **Don Mungan Career and Technical Education Leadership Center** promotes the recruitment, retention, and succession of high-quality career and technical education (CTE) teachers and administrators.





# VIKING ATHLETICS

VCSU Athletics is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and a new member of the Frontier Conference. With 15 sports and about 280 athletes on campus, Viking athletics is an important part of the campus culture. Student-athletes make up more than 30% of VCSU's on-campus student population.

## **MEN**

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Indoor Track & Field  
Outdoor Track & Field

## **WOMEN**

Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Indoor Track & Field  
Outdoor Track & Field  
Softball  
Volleyball

## **CO-ED**

Shooting Sports



## A large group of students, mostly young women, are posing on a brick building. They are all wearing maroon t-shirts with the words "YES LIFE" and a house icon. Some students are making hand gestures, like peace signs or "L" signs. The text "ACTIVE CAMPUS" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters on the right side of the image. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, semi-transparent inset image showing a group of students in a hallway.

# CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- ACM Student Chapter
- American Fisheries & Wildlife Club
- Art Alliance
- Chi Alpha
- CRU
- DECA
- Drama Club
- Disc Sports Club
- EBC Fraternity
- Esports Club
- Fantasy Club
- Global Exploration Club
- Green Dot
- Individuals Taking Action (ITA)
- Jazz Club
- Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education
- Native American Club (NAC)
- NafME
- NSLS
- Phi Alpha Theta/History Club
- Philomathian Sorority
- Pre-Professional Club
- Psychology & Human Services Club
- School of Education Study Abroad
- Shape Club
- Social Justice Council
- Spanish Club
- Special Olympics College
- Speech, Improv and Comedy Club
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee
- Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
- Student Nurse Organization
- Student Senate
- Trap Shooting Club
- VCSU ACM Student Chapter
- Viking Ambassadors
- Viking Campus Activities Board (VCAB)
- Viking Club Tennis

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- Student Nurse Organization
- Student Senate
- Trap Shooting Club
- VCSU ACM Student Chapter
- Viking Ambassadors
- Viking Campus Activities Board (VCAB)
- Viking Club Tennis



# VCSU Foundation

## GROWING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The mission of the VCSU Foundation is to support Valley City State University by involving alumni and friends in activities and private giving that meet the university's needs and advance its welfare.

The incoming VCSU President will take a lead role in fundraising and actively cultivate, solicit, and secure major financial support for the university. The Foundation primarily raises and manages private time, talent, and financial support to provide scholarships, student support, and special projects the university can't fund with state dollars.

Governed by an independent 25-member volunteer board (with university leadership serving ex officio), it engages alumni and friends directly in fundraising and stewardship to expand opportunities for students and the university.

Additionally, the VCSU Foundation supports and coordinates the work of the Alumni Association, V-500 Scholarship organization, Athletic Booster Board, and other giving activities. In 2024-25, the foundation provided about \$1.7 million for VCSU student scholarships.

Alumni engagement is currently at record levels as the Foundation's assets have grown from \$5.9 million in 2013 to more than \$29 million today.



## FORWARD TOGETHER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The University is nearing the end of its Forward Together capital campaign, which is the first in school history. The campaign raised \$1 million for scholarships, helped fund a \$13.5 million renovation of McCarthy Hall into the new home for VCSU's School of Education, and completely funded a \$11-13 million expansion of VCSU's athletic facilities. The Tharaldson Family Athletic Center is currently undergoing construction and is expected to be open to students in Fall 2026.





# Recent Initiatives

## AI INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

Valley City State University has launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute for Teaching and Learning, positioning itself at the forefront of shaping North Dakota's K-12 education future through the integration of AI.

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education provided final approval for the AI Institute for Teaching and Learning on Sept. 23, 2025, and VCSU is moving quickly forward to provide resources and AI training for teachers across the state. The institute is a statewide collaboration of several North Dakota institutions led by VCSU.

A core priority of the AI Institute is equipping K-12 teachers with the knowledge and skills to use artificial intelligence responsibly and ethically in the classroom. Drawing on the leadership and expertise of VCSU faculty along with the partner institutions, the Institute will provide comprehensive, standardized professional development for K-12 educators and administrators. VCSU has a long and distinguished history of both preparing teachers and leading in innovation, making the AI Institute a perfect fit for the university.

The AI Institute received a \$1 million grant from the North Dakota Workforce Education Innovation Fund (WEIF), which provides funding to NDUS institutions for creating and improving educational programs that address the state's workforce needs. The fund was established by the North Dakota Legislature in 2023.

Two other early areas of focus for the AI institute include preparing career-ready graduates who are well-versed in AI, and the use of AI to create and improve personalized learning pathways for students.

## ND NETWORK FOR PERSONALIZED LEARNING

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) has selected VCSU to serve as the intermediary for the North Dakota Network for Personalized Learning (NDNPL), a statewide initiative to advance innovation, student engagement, and personalized learning across K-12 and higher education.

The NDNPL will connect educators, district leaders, and partners from across the state to co-design strategies, share best practices, and scale innovative approaches that reflect the diverse strengths and needs of North Dakota learners.

Through a \$1 million legislative investment, VCSU will establish and coordinate the North Dakota Center for Innovation and Personalized Learning, which will serve as the hub for advancing learner-centered practices that promote agency, equity, and well-being for every North Dakota student. As intermediary, VCSU will guide and evaluate the statewide scope of work, including:

- Supporting district and school innovation through professional learning, coaching, and evidence-based implementation models.
- Aligning higher education and K-12 systems to ensure future educators are prepared to design and deliver personalized learning experiences.
- Building professional networks that connect educators, leaders, and partners focused on transforming learning for every student.
- Measuring statewide progress using clearly defined success criteria focused on learner engagement, inclusion, and postsecondary readiness.



## AI INSTITUTE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**TEACHER TRAINING**

**CAREER-READY GRADUATES**

**CREATING PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS**

**AI ENGAGEMENT & EXCELLENCE**

**UBIQUITOUS ACCESS**

**MODEL INSTITUTION**



**VALLEY CITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY



# Valley City Community



## THE CITY OF BRIDGES

Known as the “City of Bridges” and nestled in the beautiful Sheyenne River Valley, Valley City’s population is about 6,600. The city features a robust retail district, several beautiful parks, and many restaurants. Expedia previously named Valley City the most beautiful town in North Dakota. The community annually welcomes VCSU students each fall with “Summer Vikes on Central” – a giant block party downtown with food vendors, live music and activities.

Located just off Interstate 94 less than an hour’s drive from Fargo, Valley City offers the peacefulness and security of small-town living along with a host of outdoor activities. Within minutes, a person can go from work to recreational pursuits, such as birding, fishing, golfing, hunting, hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail, or participating in wellness/fitness activities and city-league sports.

## VCSU’S IMPACT

According to a North Dakota University System study, Valley City State University’s impact on the Valley City area economy is estimated to be more than \$75 million annually. The large financial impact is recognized by area leaders, and the university and the local community enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship.

Valley City State University faculty and staff serve leadership roles in community organizations; and community leaders, likewise, are on university boards. VCSU students are an integral part of the Valley City workforce through part-time jobs and internships, and VCSU campus facilities serve the local community. The Valley City area includes a high percentage of VCSU alumni. The university receives much of its private financial support from these loyal alumni, local individuals, and businesses.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

VCSU and Valley City Public Schools (VCPS) enjoy a close partnership and collaborate in numerous areas, including dual-credit offerings, student-teacher placements and a unique substitute teacher program that gives VCSU education students real-world experience and extra income while allowing VCPS teachers time for professional development.

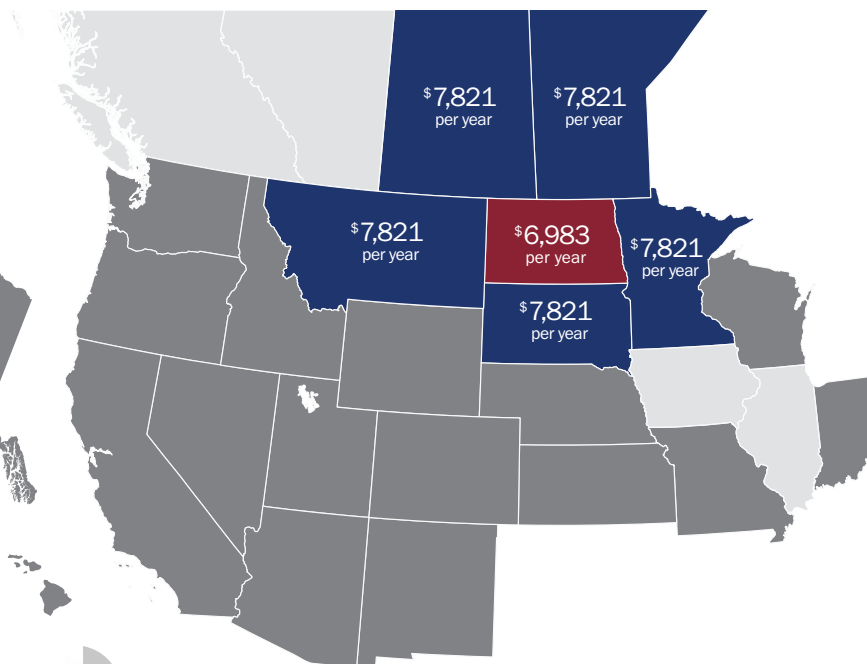
After a successful school bond referendum passed in 2025 with 63 percent support, Valley City Public Schools is currently in the process of building a brand new school for grades 3-12 in the northeast section of town.





AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

# COSTS TO ATTEND



Open educational resources help students save money on textbook costs every year.

## VCSU ANNUAL COSTS FOR STUDENTS

### TUITION

North Dakota \$6,983

Neighbor Rate \$7,821

Student Exchange States, Republics And Provinces \$8,729

All Others \$12,220

### OTHER EXPENSES

Room & Board\*\* \$7,950

Fees\*\*\* \$2,027

#### North Dakota Example

TUITION \$6,983

+ ROOM/BOARD \$7,950

+ FEES \$2,027

\$16,960  
total per year

APPROXIMATELY

**87%** OF INCOMING FRESHMEN RECEIVE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS

VCSU ANNUALLY AWARDS NEARLY

**\$2 MILLION**

IN SCHOLARSHIP AID TO STUDENTS



- 1 Larry J. Robinson Center for the Arts
- 2 Memorial Student Union
- 3 Graichen Gym
- 4 Allen Memorial Library
- 5 Vangstad Auditorium
- 6 McFarland Hall
- 7 McCarthy Hall
- 8 L.D. Rhoades Science Center
- 9 W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse
- 10 Softball Complex
- 11 Lokken Stadium
- 12 John & Diane Hill Track & Field Complex
- 13 Snoeyenbos Hall
- 14 McCoy Hall
- 15 Mythaler Hall
- 16 Robertson Hall
- 17 Kolstoe Hall
- 18 University Apartments

## COMMUNITY AREAS

- C1 Gaukler Wellness Center
- C2 The President's House & Garage
- C3 Medicine Wheel Park



## P

## PARKING

- P1 Facilities Parking
- P2 Rhoades Rear Parking
- P3 Power House Parking
- P4 Rhoades West Gravel
- P5 North River Gravel
- P6 Foss East Parking
- P7 Foss West Parking
- P8 Student Center North Parking
- P9 Student Center West Parking
- P10 Center for the Arts Parking
- P11 Lion's Court Parking
- P12 Snoeyenbos Parking
- P13 Mythaler Parking
- P14 Kolstoe Street Parking
- P15 State Fleet Parking
- P16 McCarthy Parking
- P17 Fieldhouse East Parking
- P18 Fieldhouse West Gravel

## FACILITIES

- F1 Facilities Main Office
- F2 Campus Shop
- F3 Campus Storage
- F4 Athletic Storage
- F5 Greenhouse
- F6 Ceramics Lab
- F7 Metals Lab
- F8 Heat Plant



## CONFIDENTIALITY OF APPLICATION MATERIALS; RECORDS RETENTION; VETERAN'S PREFERENCE

Pursuant to NDCC 44-04-18.27, applications and any records related to the applications that identify an applicant are exempt from public disclosure, except that records related to the finalists for the position shall be open to the public after the search committee has identified no fewer than three finalists. Pursuant to the North Dakota University System's General Record Retention Schedule, all records related to this search will be maintained for a minimum of three years, and all applications and related materials shall be retained for a minimum of six years, though the application materials of non-finalists shall remain confidential.

Semi-finalists will agree to an on-campus visit which will include public forums with constituent groups.

Pursuant to NDCC 37-19.1-02(4) this position is not subject to Veteran's preference

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Valley City State University is fully committed to equal opportunity in employment decisions and educational programs and activities, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, for all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, information protected by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), marital status, disability, age, veteran's status or any other protected characteristic under applicable law.

<https://www.vcsu.edu/about-vcsu/offices/human-resources-and-payroll/>

Human Resources | Valley City State University  
101 College Street SW | Valley City, ND 58072  
Phone: 701-845-7401 | Fax: 701-845-7409

For North Dakota Relay Services, go to:

<https://www.relaynorthdakota.com/>

This position requires a criminal history and credit record check. Finalists will participate in a TriMetrix® HD assessment. Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States and there is no sponsorship for this position. VCSU determines employment eligibility through the E-Verify system. Successful completion of a criminal background check and a credit review consistent with the fiduciary responsibilities of the presidency is required for all finalists.



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