

Official Publication of the Valley City State University V-500 Organization

Fall 2016 Volume 22

### 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Tommy Bergan Erica Buchholz '10 Jacqueline Cordie Tom Glandt Kelli Heath Steve King Tyler Marthaler Dean Pedersen Casey Stoudt Jr. Loni Trapp Jordan Undem '14 Laurel Westby Angela Williams '97 Kara Wiebe '08

**Ex-Officio Members** 

Kim Hesch '91 Tisa Mason Loree Morehouse '89 Larry Robinson '71 Jeremy Wiebe '08

## U.S. News 'Best College'

Valley City State University has retained its No. 1 ranking among public regional colleges in the Midwest according to the 2017 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. VCSU was the No. 1 ranked public regional college in the Midwest in the 2016 rankings, and also in the 2012 and 2013 rankings. The university was ranked No. 2 in the 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015 rankings.

This marks the 19th consecutive year that VCSU has been ranked a U.S. News "Best College."



## Making a Difference, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

The V-500 scholarship program was founded in 1972. Since that time, countless students have benefited directly from the support the program has provided. Each year our students arrive on campus in late August to continue their college education. Many of these students are here because of the scholarship support provided by the V-500 program. Make no mistake about it, your contributions to this important program are "Making a Difference" in the lives of our students. That was true yesterday, it is true today and it will be true tomorrow!



With the total cost to attend one year of

college in the \$14,000 range, scholarship support is more important than ever! Depending on a number of factors, including financial need, grade point average, ACT scores, etc., the size of the scholarship may vary from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for the full academic year. That being said, feel rest assured that more often than not, the presence of the scholarship is often the deciding factor on whether or not a student will elect to attend VCSU. Competition for students is intense. Students will attend the institution where they can get a quality education, at a reasonable cost. Your support of V-500 is not only an investment in our students, but it is indeed an investment in our university and our community. Our students will go on to become teachers, scientists, accountants, business managers, doctors, attorneys, real estate brokers, and so much more. Your investment will pay big dividends, influencing the lives of students not only today, but tomorrow as well. We hope that once they enter the workforce, they too will elect to give back and support scholarship programs for the next generation!

All of us at VCSU thank you for your ongoing support of the V-500 Scholarship program. We have said it before and we will say it again, It Takes Two, V-500 and You to "Make a Difference"!

Jeremy Wiebe '08 Assistant Director of Annual Giving



Valley City State University Foundation 101 College Street SW Valley City, ND 58072 Phone: 701 845 7203 • Fax: 701 845 7464 Toll Free: 800 532 8641 x37203 http://V-500.vcsu.edu

## What V-500 Means to Me

"I am honored to receive the V-500 scholarship and very grateful for the help in defraying my expenses the first year of college. These funds will enable me to focus more on my studies and not have to worry about working as much during the school year." Kollen is a 2016 graduate of Oakes High School and plans to major in Software Engineering during his time at Valley City State University. After graduation, Kollen plans to stay in North Dakota and would like to continue to work on the family farm while working in the telecommunications field.



Kollen Knutson VCSU Student and V-500 Recipient

# V-500 Kicks off 2016-2017 Campaign

V-500 officially kicked off the 2016-2017 campaign on Wednesday, August 3rd. This year, we welcomed new members Jordan Undem, Jacqueline Cordie and Angela Williams to the board. Jordan, a Valley City native, is an Ag/Commercial Loan officer at First Community Credit Union at the Valley City branch. Jacqueline is Store Manager of the Valley City Wells Fargo Bank and Angela is an assistant professor in the Kinesiology and Human Performance Department. Both Angela and Jordan are graduates of VCSU. "We are very excited to add Jordan, Jackie and Angela to our board," says Jeremy Wiebe, assistant director of annual giving at the VCSU Foundation. "Year after year, these board members lead our campaign by example. They commit a large portion of their time, talent and treasure to V-500 and they are a big reason why the VCSU Foundation is able to award record scholarship support."

The board elected Erica Buchholz as President and Kelli Heath as Vice President. We are fortunate to have Erica and Kelli lead our Board and we are very appreciative of their willingness to assume these positions. The board agenda's main topics included campaign calls and event planning.



Back I-r: Dean Pedersen, Casey Stoudt jr., Laurel Westby, Kelli Heath, Erica Buchholz, Tyler Marthaler.
Front I-r: Tom Glandt, Jeremy Wiebe, Kara Wiebe, Loni Trapp.
Not pictured: Tommy Bergan, Jackie Cordie, Steve King, Jordan Undem, Angela Williams.

Continue the Viking Family Tradition!

Valley City State University will be awarding a \$1,000 Alumni Scholarship to FIVE freshman students attending VCSU for continuing the Viking Family Tradition!

Pictured are the 2016-17 Legacy Scholarship recipients.

For information on the Alumni Scholarship application, contact Enrollment Services at 701.845.7101 or refer a student at alumni.vcsu.edu/tradition.



(L to R): Bradyn Sand, Dalton Ondracek, Patrick McCarthy & Jessica Ronning Not Pictured: Tyler Clark

## **Student Spotlight - V-500 Recipient, Jessica Mastel**

At Valley City State University, we pride ourselves in putting our students first in everything we do. It's the main reason we are seeing growth in enrollment and retention. Long story short, VCSU is full of good people trying to making a difference for our students and students appreciate that. A big reason we are able to attract these quality students is the V-500 Scholarship Program. Meet Jessica Mastel, V-500 scholarship recipient. Jessica graduated as Salutatorian from Wahpeton High School in May 2014. She went on to earn her Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) in May 2016. While at NDSCS, Jessica served as President of the Student Senate, President of the college's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and Administrative Assistant of the Student Ambassadors. She was very active in the music department on campus, touring with the choir and stage band. Jessica was honored to be named North Dakota's New Century Scholar in 2016 and is excited to continue her education at Valley City State University. According to Jessica, a North Dakota education is one of the best in the United States. "The



significant amount of my tuition that the V-500 scholarship covers allows me to receive this amazing education at an affordable cost. I am very thankful to the donors that make scholarships like this possible so that students like me can continue to receive the best possible opportunities that will impact them for the rest of their lives," says Jessica. During her time at VCSU, Jessica plans to major in Social Science and would like to pursue a law degree after graduation.

Without the tremendous support from our alumni and friends, VCSU would not look as attractive to outstanding students like Jessica Mastel. Thank you to all our donors for Making a Difference at Valley City State University!

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## V-500 Membership Application 2016-17



#### Check out our Giving Opportunities with Tax Incentives on our web page at http://alumni.vcsu.edu.

# Leave a Legacy for V-500 at VCSU



The VCSU Foundation Leave a Legacy program is designed to encourage alumni and friends who have supported the university while they were living to continue to have an impact on VCSU after the time of their death. They can do so with a charitable bequest, which can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, life insurance, or a percentage of their estate. More often than not, attractive tax benefits are associated with such a bequest.

For further information on the Leave a Legacy program, contact the VCSU Foundation Office at 701-845-7217 or email Larry Robinson, executive director of university advancement, at larry.robinson@vcsu.edu.