



Virginia State University is one of Virginia's two land-grant institutions and is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. VSU develops student leaders who are more engaged with their learning and are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be globally competitive while remaining civically engaged. Here are a select few of our VSU Points of Pride for 2023.

2023 VSU POINTS OF PRIDE

VSU

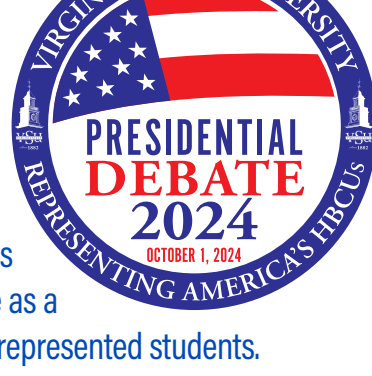
The five-year strategic plan for Virginia State University (VSU) centers on sustained excellence. Preeminence with Purpose sets forth the next chapter in our continued growth, focusing on six areas:

- Student Opportunity and Access
- Academic Excellence
- The Holistic Experience for Students
- Enhancing the Land Grant Mission of the University
- The VSU Brand
- Financial/Operational Effectiveness

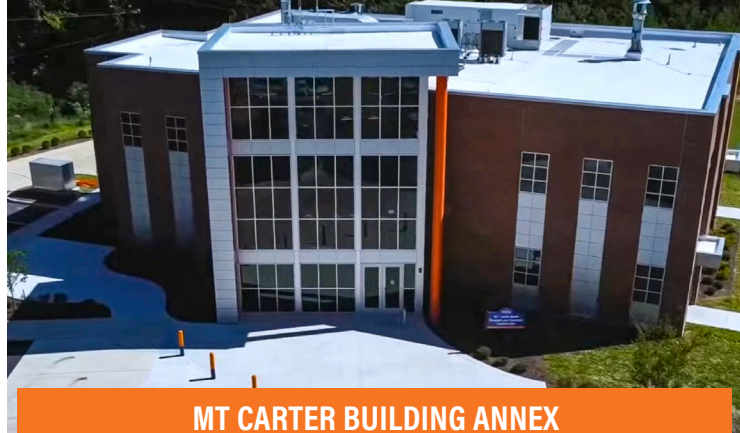
Virginia State University announced its highest year-to-year enrollment growth in school history. With an enrollment of 5190 students for fall 2023, VSU experienced more than an 11 percent increase from fall 2022. According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, this is the highest year-to-year enrollment increase of any college in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is also believed to be one of the highest increases in the country.

Virginia State University announced its highest enrollment of first-year students in school history. In the fall of 2023, the university welcomed a total of 1443 students to the first-year class of 2027.

Virginia State University made history when it was selected to host a 2024 Presidential Debate. VSU is the first Historically Black College or University (HBCU) ever selected to host a General Election U.S. Presidential Debate. The debate will be held in the VSU Multipurpose Center on October 1, 2024.



Virginia State University ranked 16th overall in the U.S. News and World Report's 2024 rankings for HBCUs. There are 107 HBCUs in the United States. The report also ranked VSU first in the state as a Performer on Social Mobility, a list that evaluates which schools best serve and graduate underrepresented students.



MT CARTER BUILDING ANNEX

Virginia State University announced the completion of the MT Carter Building Annex, a groundbreaking research and administration building for the College of Agriculture. This approximately 14,000-square-foot facility significantly expands VSU's agricultural research capabilities while supporting innovation, collaboration, and education within the field.

Virginia State University was recognized among the 2023 "Most Prestigious Universities Driving Student Success and Career Growth" by Insight Success magazine. A six-page article/ad was featured in the magazine, displaying the hard

work and commitment of our Trojan Family to ensure that Greater Happens Here.

Virginia State University announced that it is the first university in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and one of the first in the nation, to offer Wi-Fi 6E to its campus. Wi-Fi 6E is the latest generation and is considered the gold standard for Wi-Fi internet. The project was funded by a \$2.8 million grant from the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA).

Virginia State University's Trojan Explosion Marching Band ranked as top D-II HBCU Band in the country for 2023. The band will compete against Florida Memorial for ESPN's HBCU Band of the Year in the Division II/NAIA category. The competition will be held on December 15, 2023, at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA.



TROJAN EXPLOSION MARCHING BAND

Virginia State University announced a new teacher residency program to assist with the teacher shortage in Petersburg City Public Schools. HERO, or Hybrid Education Residency Opportunity, is a comprehensive and innovative program that allowed five VSU College of Education students to get real-world experience by teaching classes while completing their degree.

Virginia State University announced a first-of-its-kind and innovative program designed to attract and retain highly qualified employees and improve the economies of local communities. The VSU-HAPI (Home Assistance Payment Initiative) provides eligible homebuyers up to a \$10,000 match toward the down payment or closing cost of a newly purchased home in Ettrick or Petersburg.



ALFRED W. HARRIS ACADEMIC COMMONS

Virginia State University broke ground, began construction, and officially named its new academic commons building. The Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons will be the largest building on the VSU campus. It will be home to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Education.

Virginia State University announced the establishment of the VSU Center for Biotechnology, Genomics, and Bioinformatics (VSU CeBiGeBi). The VSU CeBiGeBi, believed to be unique among HBCUs nationwide, is a hub for

interdisciplinary education and research on the VSU campus.

Virginia State University received over \$3.9 million from the Small Farm Outreach Program (SFOP) as a part of the Virginia Cooperative Extension. The grant is being used to educate and empower limited-resource, socially disadvantaged, and military-veteran farmers and ranchers to independently own, operate, and sustain small-scale farms and ranches with agricultural training programs that improve farm management skills and quality of life.

Virginia State University received a quarter of a million dollars from Sentara Healthcare to fund the Sentara Scholars Program at VSU. The scholarship program is designed to assist students interested in healthcare or healthcare-related fields.

Virginia State University received a \$1 million donation from Thompson Hospitality, the nation's largest black-owned and privately held hospitality company. VSU honored the donation by renaming its Hospitality Department "the Fred & Ruby Thompson Hospitality Department."



\$1M DONATION FROM THOMPSON HOSPITALITY

Virginia State University was named an HBCU partner in The Historic Fund, a new venture capital fund with an inaugural total of \$10.35 million. The fund is the brainchild of prominent investors and operators in the venture capital ecosystem who recognize the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their role in equality and belonging.

Virginia State University was named a Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader for the second consecutive year. This esteemed honor recognized VSU's unwavering support for global education and diversity during the 2022-23 academic year. Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders consistently demonstrate outstanding support for Fulbright exchange participants and effectively promote Fulbright program opportunities on campus.

Virginia State University partnered with entertainment and business leaders to highlight the importance of criminal justice reform and advocacy. The University hosted the REFORM Alliance, founded by recording artist Meek Mill and others, to raise awareness about the criminal justice system and activate students to get involved in criminal justice reform.



JOY WATSON AND BLAISE DAVENPORT

Virginia State University recognized Joy Watson and Blaise Davenport as Class of 2023 Co-Valedictorian. This is the first time in university history that two females, both STEM majors, have received this academic honor. They were recognized as part of the 2023 Commencement Ceremony on May 13, 2023.

Virginia State University hosted a Naturalization Ceremony on campus for 73 candidates to become sworn citizens of the United States of America. This was the first time a Naturalization Ceremony had been held at a

Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Virginia State University was recognized for its outstanding support of first-generation college students. The University was selected to participate in the First Scholars Network, which provides additional support and resources to advance student success at institutions of higher education.

Virginia State University announced the university's new student-parent housing program. The program provides special campus housing for six student parents (students who are also parents) and their young children. Also, in collaboration with Generation Hope, VSU is offering new resources designed for student parents, including a Family Study Room in the library, a new on-campus lactation station, and changing tables inside the student union bathrooms.



STUDENT-PARENT HOUSING PROGRAM

Virginia State University was recognized as an All-Steinway School—making it one of only five Historically Black Colleges and Universities to attain this prestigious status. This designation indicates that VSU will provide students and faculty with only the finest pianos for studying music in higher education. There are fewer than 250 All-Steinway Schools in the country.

Virginia State University made history when the Trojan Explosion Marching Band performed as part of the White House Black History Month Program. The VSU band provided the musical backdrop as guests arrived for the annual event—an honor traditionally reserved for the Marine Corps band.

Virginia State University partnered with Amazon's Career Choice program, which allows employees to further their education and advance their careers. The program offers prepaid tuition and reimbursement for books and fees to hourly employees at Amazon who wish to pursue coursework at VSU.



THE TROJAN TAKEOFF TEAM

Virginia State University announced that a team of students was selected to participate in the 2023-2024 NASA Student Launch Challenge. This is the first time in VSU history that students will compete in the national rocketry competition. The Trojan Takeoff Team will be among the 48 teams from universities nationwide designing, building, and launching a high-powered rocket at an event in Huntsville, Alabama, in April 2024.

Virginia State University Alumnus Charles Hamilton was promoted to 4-Star General. This marked the second VSU alumnus to achieve this prestigious rank, which is the highest in the U.S. Army. Virginia State University is believed to be one of the only universities in the country to produce two 4-Star Generals.

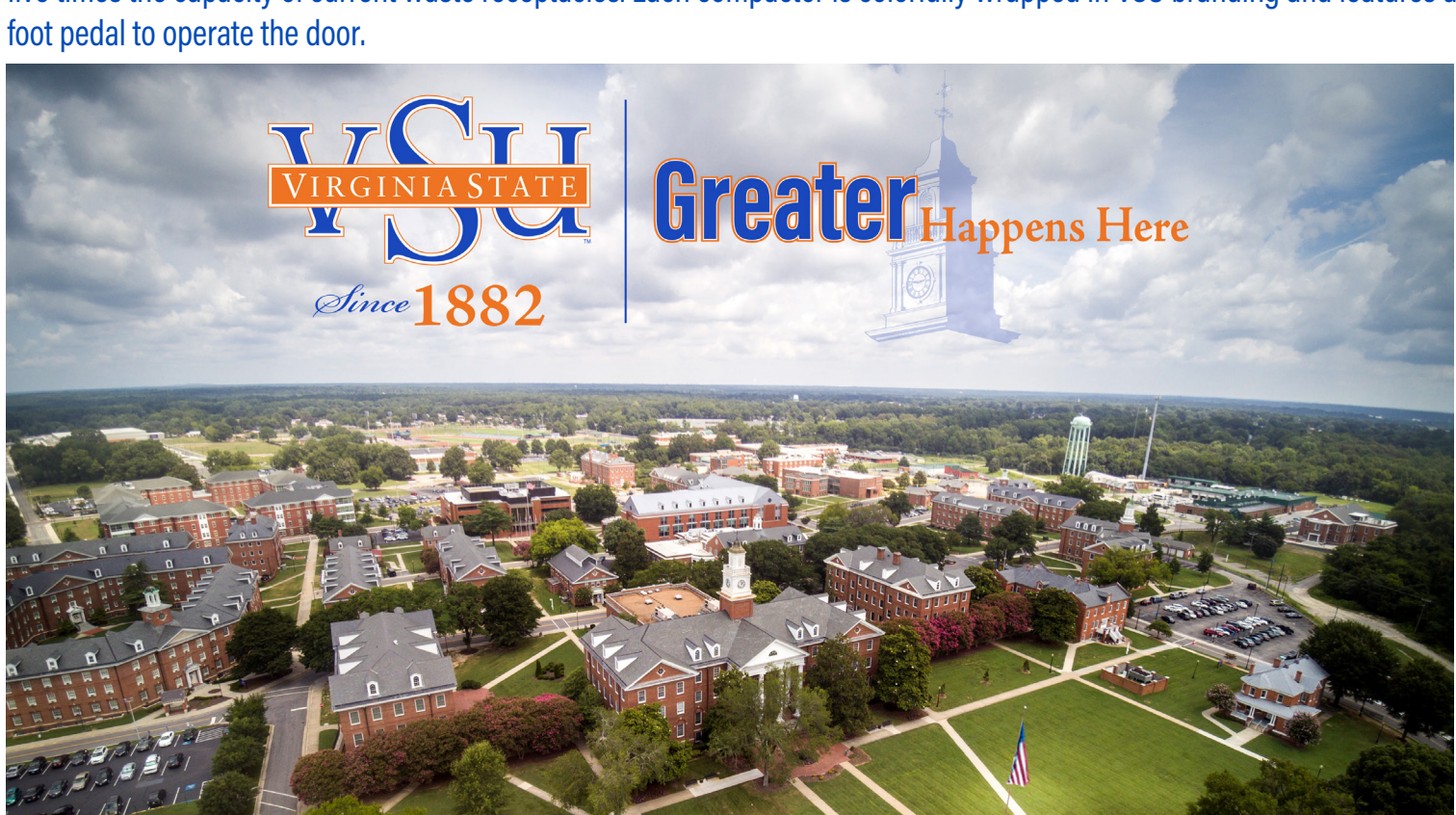
Virginia State University welcomed the Rector and President of the only higher education institution for engineering in the Republic of Moldova. The leadership from the Technical University of Moldova (UTM) visited VSU as part of an academic partnership facilitated by the U.S. Embassy in Moldova.

Virginia State University was chosen as the host site for ESPN's Black College Live show on September 22. In front of a national audience, VSU showed the traditions, atmosphere, and environment around college football at a premier HBCU. The episode included performances from the marching band, Woo Woos, and Greek organizations.



ESPN'S BLACK COLLEGE LIVE AT VSU

Virginia State University took another step toward going green and expanding its effort for a cleaner campus by adding fifty (50) new solar-powered trash compactors to its campus. Each unit can compact up to 150 gallons of trash, five times the capacity of current waste receptacles. Each compactor is colorfully wrapped in VSU branding and features a foot pedal to operate the door.



To donate, visit giving.vsu.edu