



This newsletter is dedicated to the students along with faculty advisors that brought home a national championship relevant to FBLA.

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## 2025: THE SUMMER IN PICTURES



Amyia Morgan demonstrated no fear of heights while studying abroad.



Lauren Parham celebrated her colleagues while interning at Under Armour in Baltimore.



Nakiyah Jones and Bob Obiora took in the wildlife while networking in Richmond.











## Shovel Some Earth

When Marquis Mason (Marketing major) arrived in the College of Business as a freshman he conveyed on a Students on Reel video in interviewing with Jonathan Young (Director of Corporate Relations) that he aimed to be part of big happenings at VSU in his tenure at the school. Fast forward and Marquis, now a senior, joined President Makola M. Adbullah and other dignitaries this summer in breaking ground on not one but two new buildings on campus including a 450 bed residential facility. Marquis also that sweltering summer morning joined the group for a ribbon cutting at the new Harris Academic Commons just next door to Singleton Hall!



To learn more about the project(s), click here:

[https://richmond.com/news/local/education/higher-education/article\\_d67f0677-de4b-4864-ae74-39b3aa6ab545.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawLjeVdleHRuA2FibQixMABicmlkETE3bnZlVFdlT1pRb0Y3amhRAR7Yeyj4f874yrg6hhuX YwBx7xhG3FnWU15K-P-PP3G7q0mtDSY3advJ4alV-w\\_aem\\_bEgKMk5hekBauJkh6RDycQ](https://richmond.com/news/local/education/higher-education/article_d67f0677-de4b-4864-ae74-39b3aa6ab545.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawLjeVdleHRuA2FibQixMABicmlkETE3bnZlVFdlT1pRb0Y3amhRAR7Yeyj4f874yrg6hhuX YwBx7xhG3FnWU15K-P-PP3G7q0mtDSY3advJ4alV-w_aem_bEgKMk5hekBauJkh6RDycQ)

## Investing in Experiential Learning

Every semester the College's novel Small Group Role-Play with Industry curriculum affords on average two hundred students the opportunity to interface with over two hundred fifty companies. Students participate in hands-on exercises every Monday and Wednesday with companies; the aim is to refine soft skills, augment career awareness and develop real world skills not often learned in traditional classrooms. Mastery of skills relate to sales, cold calls, conflict resolution, memos and reports, elevator speeches, cost-benefit analysis, customer is always right, etc.

A recurring sentiment conveyed perhaps every week from both students and industry regards 1) the need for other institutions of higher learning to emulate what is being done at VSU and 2) because of the imminent adoption of artificial intelligence, soft skills will constitute an even more substantive asset than before. Now, because of the generosity of a Lockheed Martin donation this summer the College of Business will have but another means to achieve both. Specifically, the Fortune 500 company will sponsor students that participate in the experiential curriculum providing for them to attend Lockheed Martin events where best practices will surely be among the topics.

Thank you Lockheed Martin!!

*Thank  
you!*

## National Champs!

Virginia State University students won top prizes at Future Business Leaders of America, Inc.'s National Leadership Conference. The event May 31-June 2 in Dallas drew over 1,000 college students, educators and volunteers.....In response to the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business's victory involving over 1,000 student participants from nearly 150 institutions, Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, professor of Computer Information Systems and dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, shared a reflection on the significance of the achievement and what it means for VSU. "To win a national competition against nearly 150 schools that, between them, fielded over 1,000 student contestants is not just an affirmation of the caliber of undergraduates at the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business but also proof in the pudding that at Virginia State University, Greater Happens Here. If anyone needed any additional quantifiable evidence of what is being achieved at this Historically Black College and University, they need not look any further," Omojokun said..... Dr. Aurelia Donald, Computer Information Systems Professor and FBLA Chapter Advisor, stated, "VSU couldn't be prouder of bringing home the big win!"

To read the full story as it originally appeared in the Progress Index, click here: <https://www.progress-index.com/.../virginia.../84171040007/>





## NFL Cheerleader

Sydni Fonlon (Marketing major) graduated from the College of Business in May and would soon thereafter announce the big news; she had earned a position as a NFL Cheerleader for Washington!

When in school, Sydni was very active. In addition to being an Honor's student, Sydni was a member of the Essence of Troy Dance Team, Abstrakt Entertainment, American Marketing Association, African Student Association, etc. In fact, Sydni was regarded among the busiest ladies in Singleton and arguably among the most popular. So, when she was announced the newest NFL Cheerleader students and faculty/staff alike celebrated the accomplishment not just for Sydni but also for all of the other students that though they wear many hats do them well.

So, if you are in D.C. for a NFL game and/or tuning in on TV be sure to look for Sydni and cheer but cheer not just for excellence on the field but for everything she achieved in her tenure in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business at Virginia State University. We are proud of you Sydni!! We will be watching on Sunday(s) in the fall!



## Invited and Accepted



The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business prioritizes relationship building exercises for students with industry and already the following organizations have committed and are scheduled to visit Singleton Hall this semester; Bloomberg, Northrop Grumman, Morgan Stanley, Southside Medical Center, Virginia Supportive Housing, Amazon, Aces Payments, C&F Bank, Learn with Me Academy, Prince George County, Rise Up Homeschool Academy, PAFCU, Green Air, Design Electric, Henrico County, Tori Bird, U.S. Department of the Interior, Korn Ferry, Speller Consulting Group, Crown Castle, Navy Federal Credit Union, Waterstone Mortgage, Timmons Group, Susan Jensen Marketing, Brown Edwards, City of Colonial Heights, Dominion Energy, DMV, U.S. Defense Logistics Agency, Brunch on Broad, PSMJ Resources, U. S. Small Business Administration, X-RAY Market Research, Towne Bank, Chesterfield County, OneBridge Advisors, Super Radiator Coils, Pace-Equity, Tanika Mann & Associates, CASA Chesterfield, Winter HR Consulting, Bank of America, U.S. Department of Agriculture, County of Dinwiddie, DPR Construction, Fed Reserve, Footwear Distributors and Retailer of America, M.H. West & Co., Medicines for All Institute, MAHOVA, United Bank, Flying Squirrels, Clear Cor Consulting, Classic Granite and Marble, Qualified Staffing, Pierce Group Benefits, Richmond Public Schools, Pritchard Industries, Lamar Advertising, Media to Millions, HumanKind, Tiramisu For Breakfast, Keiter, Gilbane, Mike King Biz, Arcus Consultants, Virginia Department of Health, VCU, Burns & McDonnell, Atlantic Union, Sports Backers, DC Metropolitan Police Department, VDOC, Xponent21, Waffle House, Capital Area Health Network, Capitis Advisors, Century Construction, Brightpoint Community College, Defense Contract Audit Agency, Spider Management, Man by Design, Simpli.fi, Growing Perspectives Career Consulting, VACU, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Montgomery County, Coast Guard, VEDP, VCU Health, MM Consultants, Alliance Group, Virginia Society of CPA's, Deloitte, GTT, Edward Jones, The Midtown Group, Capital One, BPV Management Co., New Jersey Courts, Ball Office Products, AT&T, Henrico County, Branch, DauvCo, ngcCARE, Myers & Stauffer, CoStar, UVA, Historic Home Re-animations, Embassy Suites, Henrico Public Schools, Saint MGMT, ChamberRVA, AWOMANUP, Stealth Startup, Smithfield Foods, Onelife Fitness, FlxAble Business, Concepts and Solutions, Global Financial Impact, Better Business Bureau, U.S. Treasury, Ten Feet Tall, Saks OFF 5<sup>TH</sup>, HealthEquity, King and Queen County, Farm Credit of the Virginias, Broderick Communications, Silver Recruiting, RL Dash Consulting Services, Karen Gloyer Books, Weichert Realtors Brockwell & Associates, Rita Ricks, Wright Time Financial, Northwestern Mutual, USO, Richmond Ed Fund, Commonwealth of Virginia Consulting, Virginia Information Technology Agency, The Revenue Doctor, Moore Street School Foundation, Lnique-Mone, Swift Creek Insurance & Realty, Lyons HR Consulting, ImpactAssets, Ameriprise, Networking Technologies + Support, Gather, Kids on First, The Idea Center, Recruitment Process Outsourcing Association, Ray International, The W Company, Abstract Security, NN Family Services, Nfina Technologies, Cetera Investment Services, D.C. Sentencing Commission, Hickey Global, Guidehouse, Truist, ECPI, Easterly Government Properties, Maryland Broadband Cooperative, ASLA, Partnership for the Future, Focused Project Management, With Wonder Creative, Repost Productions, Richmond Region Tourism, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Skinner Law, Black Sport Business Academy, Accel Talent & Development Group, Brunswick County Schools, Robert Half, Focus Investment Banking, Homeland Security, Primis Bank, Coherence Collaborative, Mobelux, Commonwealth Fund Services, GALE, Harkins Builders, MBL, Baskervill, Carvana, Hourigan, CSX, Markel and USA for UNHCR. The preceding organizations will lead hands-on exercises amounting to experiential education. The objectives include refining soft-skills, augmenting career awareness, and developing real-world skills not often learned in a traditional classroom.



## Summer Internships are Fun

Justin Francis (Accounting major) interned this summer at Needham & Company relevant to the Wall Street Diversity Accelerator and analyzed financial statements and valuation metrics to identify potential investment opportunities, attended IPO's, roadshows and investor conferences.



## Scholarships

Congratulations to the seventy students in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business that because they submitted an application in June were recommended for award a total of \$40,000 in scholarship support for the 2025-2026 academic year. Congrats!

## More Pictures













## Women Entrepreneurs

The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business partnership with the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) has materialized in ladies in the College earning certification subsequent to training in starting and operating a business. What is more, students earned capital for their businesses and this summer Shelby Moore (Accounting major) participated in the WBENC conference in New Orleans. It should be noted that when Shelby isn't in New Orleans (side joke) she is networking with other female entrepreneurs in Richmond. A full-time mom, a full-time student, and a full-time entrepreneur; Shelby just assumed yet another responsibility, i.e. full-time mentor. Thanks for what you do Shelby!





## HBCU Connect

Bob Obiora (Accounting major) participated in the HBCU Connect Career Fair in Washington D.C.

## Virginia21

The College of Business again this summer participated in the Virginia21 Summer Leadership Institute held for five days at the University of Richmond. Inclusive of workshops, networking, and camaraderie with undergrads from other institutions of higher learning, attendee Kyra Royal (Management major) said, *"I had a great time and learned so much!"* Taylor Williams (Marketing major) concurred!

## Message from the Dean

Even in the summer at the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business our faculty/staff and students are accruing all kinds of accomplishments too many to cite them all herein however a special acknowledgement is due for the Future Business Leaders of America students along with their faculty advisors for bringing back a national championship! Job well done!! We couldn't be prouder!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean



Produced by Jonathan Young Photography by Jonathan Young

