



# V-500 Visions

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Valley City State University  
V-500 Organization

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## Ex-Officio Members

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## Welcome New Students and Kudos to Shane!

Your support made a difference again! Thanks to your generosity, there is a record-breaking number of students attending VCSU this year! When asked why they chose VCSU, many students attributed the V-500 scholarship as one of the most important reasons.

Meet some of the 2019-2020 V-500 scholarship recipients and the V-500 Board of Directors. Learn about Shane Hitch, a V-500 scholarship recipient who won a very competitive cyber challenge. Shane provided some helpful tips for avoiding cyber attacks on your own computer (see page 2).

## V-500 Scholarship Recipient Receives Cyber FastTrack Scholarship



Shane Hitch, West Fargo, N.D., received a V-500 scholarship in the 2018-2019 school year and is majoring in software engineering. He knew that VCSU was the college for him

after Professor Curt Hill visited him in high school.

Shane recently won a scholarship for the SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network and Security) Cyber FastTrack certification program. He had to complete more than 250 cyber challenges in this competition to earn the scholarship. There were approximately 13,000 students at the beginning of the competition that lasted from April to September. The final 100 competitors received scholarships for the certification program. Shane is the only competitor to win the scholarship in the Upper Midwest (including North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana)! He is also one of the youngest competitors. Shane will complete the SANS certification courses in conjunction with his VCSU courses in software engineering.

## Alliance Pipeline V-500 Donation

Scott Dieterle, area supervisor for Alliance Pipeline of Valley City, recently presented a \$15,000 check to the VCSU Foundation office for the V-500 scholarship program. Thank you Alliance Pipeline for your support of these great students!



## V-500 Recognition Banquet

The V-500 Recognition Banquet will be held in the VCSU Student Center Cafeteria at 5:30 on Saturday, December 7.

Following the banquet, guests are invited to attend the 24th annual EBC Fraternity Alumni presentation of "We're In the Christmas Mood" at 7:30 pm, Vangstad Auditorium



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**Hitch’s Hints to Avoid Cyber Attacks**

Shane Hitch has some helpful pointers to avoid cyber attacks on your own computers. Shane stated that “About 80 percent of cyber attacks happen through phishing links in emails. The best way to prevent these attacks is to not click on links in any emails – even if they look legitimately from your bank or someone you know.” He suggests covering the camera on your laptop. Finally, don’t use the same password on different websites. Shane says that once a hacker has your email and password figured out from one site it is extremely easy for them to hack in to other sites where you use that combination.

**VCSU Ranked No. 2 Public Regional College in Midwest by U.S. News**

Valley City State University has been ranked the No. 2 public regional college in the Midwest in the 2020 U.S. News Best College Rankings. VCSU was ranked third in the 2019 rankings.

VCSU has now appeared in the U.S. News “Best College” rankings for 22 consecutive years, and the university has been ranked in the top three Midwest public regional colleges each year since 2010.

**Stoudt-Ross Ford and V-500 “Drive4URCommunity” Event a Success!**



The Drive4UR Community event held in April raised close to \$2,400 for the V-500 scholarship program! Thank you to Ford Motor Company and Stoudt-Ross Ford for all you do for Valley City and VCSU students!



**Troy Dietz — Gwinner, N.D.**

Troy is a graduate of North Sargent High School in Gwinner, N.D. He is majoring in Exercise Science and Leisure Studies and will concentrate in Athletic Training. His future plans are to become an athletic trainer for a college football team. He decided to attend VCSU because of the atmosphere here. According to Troy “It isn’t just a school, it’s like a family. All the faculty and staff are here to help students succeed in every aspect of life, and they take pride in their jobs and watching us excel. The community is very supportive of the school, and that helps to make VCSU feel like home.”

“Through my classes and experiences at VCSU, the scholarship will allow me to grow and become more confident in myself, and it will provide chances for me to reach out and get out of my comfort zone academically and socially. The V-500 scholarship will help me become more of a leader and develop into someone who others can look up to. Thank you for supporting my education and for investing in my future. Thank you for all the support you give to the university and students at VCSU. It is an honor to attend VCSU.”



**Shawn Peters — Aberdeen, S.D.**

Shawn comes to VCSU from Central High School in Aberdeen, S.D. He is seeking a degree in music education and hopes to be a band or choir director following graduation. He enjoys singing, composing music and playing the trombone. In his free time, he composes music using the Noteflight website.

Asked why he wanted to attend VCSU, Shawn said it was between VCSU and another university. “The faculty at VCSU made me feel welcome!” He’s also excited to see President LaFave on campus. Shawn added that the V-500 scholarship helped him get to

the school he really wanted to attend.

Shawn wants to thank donors for contributing to the V-500 scholarship program. Perhaps he will perform at the V-500 Recognition Banquet in December. (See page 1 for information on the banquet.)



**Maddie and Gabbie Wilkie — Rolla, N.D.**

Madeline and Gabrielle are twin sisters who arrived at VCSU from Mt. Pleasant High School in Rolla, N.D. Gabby is seeking a B.S. degree in business administration, looking to eventually use that degree in the healthcare industry. Maddie is pursuing a degree in health science. Both are very involved in golf.

Maddie and Gabby decided to attend Valley City State University because of the great education that is offered at VCSU and because VCSU was a little bit smaller than the other universities in North Dakota —

“it felt instantly like home.”

Both Maddie and Gabbie are thankful for the V-500 scholarship. “It will help immensely with the cost of college for my family, especially since there are two of us attending college at the same time.” Gabby added, “The scholarship I received will help me achieve my goals and dreams!”



**“Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference”**

**- Kathy Calvin**



**Meet your 2019-2020 V-500 Board!**

Seated: Erica Buchholz, Loni Trapp, Dean Pedersen, Oscar Suniga, Casey Stoudt Jr., Bill Carlblom and Tom Glandt

Standing: Larry Robinson, Loree Morehouse, Emma Tufte, Kelli Heath, Angie Williams, Sharon Bratrud, Al LaFave, Tyler Marthaler, Matt Sorenson, Ross Pritchert and Maggie Heinle

Not pictured: Jackie Cordie and Kaleen Peterson



**Tufte and Suniga Join V-500 Board**

Emma Tufte is a 2014 VCSU graduate (M. Ed.) and works for the City of Valley City. “You can support VCSU in many different ways. The V-500 Board is an opportunity for me to be involved with VCSU again and share the gift of time. I look forward to connecting with the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of VCSU through the V-500 Scholarship drive.”

Oscar Suniga is an admissions counselor in the VCSU Enrollment Services office and a 2018 VCSU graduate. “I give to the V-500 scholarship fund because I know firsthand how much a scholarship can help with a student’s decision to go to college. It may not seem like it but every little bit helps.”

**V-500 Membership Application 2019-2020**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Commitment**

- Recurring \$ \_\_\_\_\_/month
- \$750 per year for 4 years  
**Support a \$3,000 scholarship**
- \$375 per year for 4 years  
**Support a \$1,500 scholarship**
- \$1,500 per year for 4 years  
**Support 2-\$3,000 scholarships**
- Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Payment Frequency**

- Annual
  - Quarterly
  - Semi-Annual
  - Monthly
- If you would like to make your payment during a specific month, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**

- Check:** Payable to VCSU Foundation/V-500
- Credit Card:**  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  Check here to automatically charge this credit card when payments are due.

**Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature on Account \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Validation Code \_\_\_\_\_

- Automatic Withdrawal:** Enclose voided check.  
I authorize the VCSU Foundation/V-500 to withdraw \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on the 15th of the month to begin in \_\_\_\_\_

Signature on Account \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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**VCSU**



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<http://vcsualumni.org>

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