



V-500 Visions

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Valley City State University
V-500 Organization

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2017-18 Board of Directors

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Show Your Viking Pride

The VCSU Foundation and the North Dakota Department of Transportation are pleased to provide an opportunity to show your Viking Pride every day as you drive your vehicle. Cost for the plate is \$25, \$15 of which goes straight to the V-500 Scholarship Program.

For more information, contact the VCSU Foundation Office or the N.D. Department of Transportation.

V-500: A Shining Success Since 1972

They often say that “good things don’t happen by accident.” That is certainly the case when it comes to VCSU’s V-500 Scholarship Program.

It was certainly no accident back in 1972 when a group of visionaries come together to put in place the beginnings of the V-500 scholarship program at Valley City State University! The group was committed to providing scholarship assistance to students at the university.

Early reports tell us that in the first year a total of \$75,000 was raised for the program. Scholarships in the amount of \$75 were awarded, and the program was off and running. The initial program required a payment of \$50 per year for a 10-year time period. Scholarships today range from \$1,500 to \$2,500 annually. Memberships are typically for a 4-year time period.

The founders of the program included Art Arfoe, Dean Lenaburg, Dale Sorenson, Neil McDonald, Orville Barber, Carol Peterson,

Curtis Olson, Calvin Foss, Janet Wick, Jim Swanke, Bob Ingstad, Dorothy Langemo, John Carlisle, and Willard Richman.

Since those humble beginnings in 1972, the program has grown to offer in excess of \$265,000 in scholarship support for the current 2017-18 academic year. There are over 300 active V-500 members today. Many individuals and businesses have multiple memberships. Some folks have contributed over \$75,000 to the program. Others have elected to include V-500 in their estate plans.

Over the 45-year history of the program, more than 6,000 students have benefited from V-500 scholarships. Last academic year alone, 150 students received V-500 scholarships. The program has become the envy of many other institutions in the region. Without a doubt, V-500 has been a key factor in the record enrollment that the university has enjoyed the past several years.

According to Larry Robinson, executive director of university

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**Cynthia (Penner) '06 and Matt Klabo '05
with children Kiersten and Tyson**

The Klabos give back to V-500

After two years at a junior college, I decided that I wanted to continue my education as a teacher. VCSU was a well known university that graduated highly educated teachers. Since I'm from Canada, I had a hard time qualifying for scholarships. Receiving the V-500 scholarship made going to college more affordable and allowed me to focus on my studies more and excel in the education field.

Matt and I have two children now, Tyson, 9, and Kierstin, 6. We live in Valley City, where I currently teach 9th grade science at Valley City Public Schools, and Matt is in his 11th year working as the vice president of the fertilizer division at FEI.

Since our graduation from VCSU, we have recognized what a large impact the V-500 scholarship has had on us. We have looked forward to continuing to donate back to V-500 to give future VCSU students the benefit just like we received.

– Cynthia (Penner) Klabo '06

V-500: A Shining Success... (cont'd.)

advancement, “We owe a debt of gratitude to the founders of V-500. They were clearly visionaries and had the students at VCSU at heart. Their work lives on and is ‘Making a Difference’ in the lives of our students.” Robinson further noted, “We often say, ‘It Takes Two, V-500 and You.’” Those words were true in 1972 and remain true today!

Although the past is history, the future of V-500 is very promising, stated Robinson. “The program has taken on a life of its own. More and more folks are seeing V-500 as a way to give something back. We have had V-500 scholarship recipients graduate, enter the field of education, and then become members of V-500 themselves. Still others take advantage of the tax incentives by contributing to this worthy cause, either while they are still living or through their estate plans. V-500 has clearly become a part of who we are as an institution.”

Robinson attributes the success of the program to a number of factors. “We are fortunate to enjoy strong support from our alumni and friends and the greater Valley City/Barnes County business

community. Our donors care deeply about VCSU and want to do their part in helping our students obtain a college degree and minimize their student debt. We have also had long list of dedicated and committed V-500 board members. These volunteers have been the real troopers, giving of their time, talent, and treasure, to insure the on-going success of the program.”

Erica Bunn, VCSU controller and current president of the V-500 Board of Directors, was a recipient of a V-500 scholarship while a student here at VCSU. According to Erica, “In my position in the VCSU Business Office, I see many students that count on the scholarship support provided by V-500. There is no doubt that many of these students would not be attending VCSU without that support.”

Robinson further noted that board member Dean Pedersen has, on his own, generated in excess of \$250,000 for the V-500 program. According to Robinson, “Words cannot express the commitment Dean has made to this program. He epitomizes the very best of what V-500 is all about!”

V-500 Recognition Banquet to be held Dec. 9

Please join us for the V-500 Recognition Banquet to be held Saturday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. in the VCSU Student Center Cafeteria. Following the banquet, guests

are invited to attend the EBC Fraternity Alumni presentation of “We’re In the Christmas Mood” in Vangstad Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Student Profiles: Taren Braunberger and Yariel Rivera



Taren Braunberger

I grew up in Rolette, N.D., and attended St. John High School. I was a very busy student with many extracurricular activities.

I will be attending VCSU to pursue a degree in biology education. After graduation, I would like to stay in the area and teach high school science.

I would love to be a mentor and educator for students, to hopefully impact their lives in some way.



Yariel Rivera

I was born in the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico. I've moved around due to my father being in the military. I have seen

many places across the United States and have been blessed to meet many great people. I have always been a hard worker in and out of school and have always enjoyed working out and running on the track team.

The V-500 scholarship means another opportunity to reach my dreams and achieve my goals for the future. While at VCSU, I plan on studying physical education and health. Once I graduate from VCSU, I plan on finding a job as a physical education instructor or a track and field coach.

V-500 Membership Application 2017-18

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Number _____

Email _____

Annual Commitment

- \$250 per year for 4 years
- \$375 per year for 4 years
Sponsor a \$1,500 scholarship
- \$625 per year for 4 years
Sponsor a \$2,500 scholarship
- \$1,250 per year for 4 years
Sponsor a \$5,000 scholarship
- 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 _____



Valley City State University Foundation
101 College St. SW
Valley City, ND 58072



Check out our
**Giving Opportunities
with Tax Incentives**
on our web page
at 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.

