



VSU 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 2021.

2021 VSU POINTS OF PRIDE

VSU

- Opens doors for **GREATER** access to lifelong learners
- Provides **GREATER** educational opportunities to increase the economic outlook for generations to come
- Provides **GREATER** outreach as an 1890 land-grant university extending **GREATER** expertise to improve the quality of life in our state, nation and world
- Provides a personable, stable, nurturing holistic atmosphere conducive to **GREATER** learning, growing, and transforming
- Develops **GREATER** leaders who are globally competitive while remaining civically engaged

Virginia State University placed in the top 30 in the category of Best Overall HBCUs for 2022 according to U.S. News and World Report. The annual list examines factors such as retention, alumni giving, faculty resources, graduate indebtedness, and student excellence.

Virginia State University is ranked in the top 30% in the "Performers on Social Mobility" list. This listing examines how well the university graduates students typically from low-income households within a 6-year time frame.

Virginia State University is ranked in the Top 10 in Student Retention Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The University ranked 8th on the list released by UniversityBusiness.com, using the U.S. Department of Education Scorecard for 2019-2020. The high ranking is a result of the university's ability to retain and graduate students.

Virginia State University is ranked by Washington Monthly Magazine in the top 15% of Bang-for-your-Buck institutions in the Southeast Region of the United States. The list was determined by the institution's ability to afford access to marketable degrees for non-wealthy students.

Virginia State University announced new names for four previously unnamed buildings on campus. The VSU Board of Visitors approved renaming each of the four buildings to honor Black women, all VSU alums, who have made significant contributions to Virginia State University.

The VSU Center for Entrepreneurship in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business and the Division of Research and Economic Development at Virginia State University was awarded a \$453,000 grant by GO Virginia, a Commonwealth of Virginia-funded program, to spur minority entrepreneurship via the creation of the "Minority Small Business Launch Center." The Minority Small Business Launch Center was designed to increase the self-employment rate of minorities and the performance of early-stage minority-led firms in the cities and counties within the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Virginia State University was selected by Governor Ralph Northam for a new initiative that will position the University to become a major pipeline for filling the STEM teacher shortage in Virginia. HBCUteach is a national initiative developed as an innovative way to recruit undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and prepare them to become teachers. VSU is among the first HBCUs to implement the HBCUteach program. Through the program, VSU students can receive their secondary teaching certifications while also completing a STEM major, without additional cost or increasing the number of semesters they spend in college.

The Virginia State University (VSU) Undergraduate Elementary Teacher Preparation Program was named among the top in the country for contributing to greater teacher diversity by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), a nonpartisan, not-for-profit research and policy organization. The VSU program is among only 21% of the 1,256 evaluated across the country and among only six programs in Virginia to be recognized in the new NCTQ report. The VSU program stands out for its efforts in enrolling a cohort of future teachers that is both more racially diverse than the state's current teacher workforce and reflects the racial diversity of their surrounding community.

Virginia State University enrollment grew by 280 for a total of 4300 students in fall 2021. This is an increase of nearly 7 percent over the fall 2020 semester. The increase is also the single largest year-to-year increase in enrollment at VSU in more than a decade. In addition, VSU is reporting an impressive 76 percent retention rate. Retention rate is the percentage of a school's first-time, first-year undergraduate students who continue at that school the next year. This is the highest retention rate at VSU in more than twenty years.

Virginia State University (VSU) and Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center (Massey) partnered together to use a prestigious "team science" grant to create a program that's the first-of-its-kind in the state of Virginia. The \$1.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will be dispersed over a four-year period and will focus on reducing cancer disparities and providing hands-on research opportunities to students who are historically underrepresented in science.

Virginia State University entered into a partnership to study best practices that impact STEM persistence and retention at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This collaborative work is being performed by the HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success Research Center, an initiative designed to tell the story behind the disproportionate number of HBCU students who go on to receive terminal degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math.

Virginia State University received a portion of a \$1 million donation and a commitment for a yearly gift from an online gaming company and its equity partner. VSU is one of five HBCUs presented with the first of an expected annual investment by Golden Nugget Online Gaming (GNOG) and the Virginia Sports and Technology Group (VSTG).

Virginia State University announced an initiative that makes the University a Community Center for Coding and Creativity. The program is a part of Apple's Community Education Initiative and Tennessee State University's HBCU C2. The innovative teaching and learning initiative is designed to empower Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to expand technology and creativity experiences within their institutions and broader communities.

Virginia State University announced the establishment of Virginia's first and only military cultural competency training certification program offered at a university. The online Homefront Readjustment for the Armed Forces certificate program is designed to teach students how to interact with active duty service members, veterans, and their families with consideration for military culture and sensitivities. In the program, participants learn to identify and facilitate access to essential services and resources, social support, case management, care coordination, and advocacy options for the military community.

Virginia State University created the VSU Public Health Institute which is designed to address health disparities within underserved groups through outreach, academic endeavors, public health workforce development and research agendas in preparation of public health professionals for the future.

Virginia State University established the nation's first HBCU Center for Policing Leadership and Social Justice. The newly established initiative, known as The Center, will further allow VSU and the surrounding communities to address the critical divide between law enforcement and communities of color.

Virginia State University hosted the Inaugural James Arthur Baldwin International Symposium (JABIS). The web-based research and artistic forum showcased scholars and artists from North America, Europe, Africa, and the British North Atlantic archipelago of Bermuda.

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