

**Virginia State University
Ground Breaking Ceremony
for
Gateway 500 Residence Hall
Tuesday, August 12, 2008
10:00 a.m.**

Welcome --- President Eddie N. Moore, Jr.

Today marks another historic moment for “*the Virginia State University*”.

The Virginia State University is opening the first new residence hall since 1980...twenty-eight years. The Gateway 500 will house 500 students, 144,498 square feet, integrating spaces for suite style bedrooms, tutorial classrooms, computer labs, study lounges, a wellness center, kitchens, laundry rooms, a beauty parlor, a game room, and an intimate lobby with fire places, and learning and living communities. This building is much more than a residence hall. It is the inception of our first living and learning residence hall, where social and intellectual interaction will occur daily. It will become a hub of social and intellectual exchange and gatherings.

Gateway 500 architecturally compliments the academic and auxiliary buildings on campus. It was constructed at a cost of \$21M and was finance through State Treasury Revenue bonds. The Real Estate Foundation administered the project and Student Suites of Blue Springs, MO to design and construct the housing facilities.

For 15 years, I was quoted as saying.....”We had one of everything.”..... This project has changed that. It is the beginning of master plan to construct Gateway Phase II and Howard Quad Suites as the realization of the 20/20 Vision plan becomes a reality.