

A Message to the VSU Alumni
Eddie N. Moore, Jr., President

2008-2009

Annual Fund Drive

December 2008

Fifteen years ago, I arrived at Virginia State to find a university beset by challenges but blessed by unlimited promise and potential. I discovered a community of dedicated students, faculty, and staff – a true academic family – proud of their university's heritage and equally optimistic about its future. For almost two decades, we have endeavored to realize that promise, to draw upon our historic legacy and shape an institution that would confirm the bold vision of its founders.

In many respects, we have succeeded. Our endowment has doubled every five years, recently breaking the \$20 million threshold. Our fiscal house, once disheveled, is in order. We have launched new programs and awarded our first doctoral degree. We have attracted more talented students and faculty. We have built technologically-advanced classrooms, modern labs and enviable athletic facilities.

U.S. News & World Report named VUS the finest public HBCU in American, among master's level institutions, in 2007 and again in 2008; fifth best public HBCU overall; and, 15th best HBCU (public and private) in the country. As well, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* ranked VSU 25th among all colleges in the United States in awarding bachelor's degrees to African Americans in 2006-2007 academic year.

We have accomplished much recently...but we are far from finished. Our success has spurred us to reach even further, to test the limits of what this university can become. Our blueprint for the future – our *20/20 Vision Plan* – exhorts us to expand academic opportunities for students, to pursue an aggressive research agenda, to redesign our campus, to recruit top faculty and students, and to strengthen community outreach throughout Virginia.

As a state-assisted institution, we rely on public funds to help us achieve this vision: Yet, public funds alone are insufficient, providing less than half of our annual operating budget. This is why I want to offer you a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the one of America's most prominent Historically Black Colleges and Universities, through your gift to the Virginia State University 2008-2009 Annual Fund Drive. Your support is critical. Virginia State simply cannot continue to thrive without your investment.

Your likely have heard that I intend to retire in 2010. Until then, I will strive to ensure that this university secures the resources necessary to realize its ambitious goals. This can be accomplished through even greater participation from our over 20,000 alumni, parents, and friends.

Virginia State is a special place, and those of us fortunate enough to be a part of it know why. Please join me in helping our university ascend even higher to meet the expectations of future generations. Please give to the VSU 2008-2009 Annual Fund Drive.

Sincerely,
Eddie N. Moore, Jr.
President