Virginia State University (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 2022.

2022 VSU POINTS OF PRIDE

- 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 enrolled the University's largest incoming class of new students in more than three decades. In fall 2022, VSU welcomed more than 1700 new students (first-time freshmen and transfer students). This is an increase of more than 550 new students over the fall 2021 semester.

Virginia State University recorded the single largest year-to-year increase in enrollment in over a decade. In fall 2022, VSU enrollment grew by 348 students for a total enrollment of 4648 students. This is a year-to-year increase of more than 8 percent—topping the 7 percent increase the University experienced in fall 2021.

Virginia State University ranked as the top HBCU in Virginia and in the top 12% of all "Bang-for-your-Buck" institutions in the southeast region of the United States. The list is determined by an institution's ability to afford access to marketable degrees for non-wealthy students.

Virginia State University ranked in the top 15% of the 2022 Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This ranking by College Consensus combines the results of the most respected college ranking systems with the averaged ratings of thousands of real student reviews.

Virginia State University ranked in the top 30 in Best Overall HBCUs, according to the 2022-2023 U.S. News and World Report college rankings. The University rose from 29th to 26th in the annual list, which examines factors such as retention, alumni giving faculty resources, graduate indebtedness, and student excellence. There are 101 HBCUs in the United States.

Virginia State University ranked in the top 20% in the 2022-2023 list of "Performers on Social Mobility" of Regional Universities South. This listing, by U.S. News and World Report, evaluates which schools best serve and graduate underrepresented students.

Virginia State University expanded its online programs. The new programs include a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Hospitality Management, a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Nursing, an M.Ed. in Education (Special Education Concentration), a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Administration and Supervision, and a Certification in Homefront Readjustment for the Armed Forces.

Virginia State University broke ground on what will be the largest building on campus. The $120M Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons building will replace the old Harris Hall and Daniel gymnasium. It will house both the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Education and feature 110 offices, 40 classrooms, a theater, a gymnasium, and a pool.

Virginia State University announced the expansion of the University's athletic opportunities to include men's soccer, women's soccer, men's lacrosse, and women's lacrosse.

Virginia State University's Reginald F. Lewis College of Business was reaffirmed for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, International (AACSB).

Virginia State University established the University's first Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging. This office prioritizes support for LGBTQ+ and others who experience discrimination.

Virginia State University started an innovative program to address the Richmond and Petersburg Teacher Shortage. The VSU program offers free tuition to graduate students who agree to work in the local school systems after obtaining their degree.

Virginia State University partnered to win a portion of a $1 billion grant to boost Virginia's Pharmaceutical Industry. VSU and several strategic partners submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) to establish an advanced pharmaceutical cluster in Central Virginia. The cluster won a total of $52.9 million in shared grant funding.

Virginia State University was named a 2022 Fulbright Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Institutional Leader. Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders demonstrate outstanding support for Fulbright exchange participants and promote Fulbright program opportunities on campus.

Virginia State University received a $1.45 million grant to assist enrolled student-parents (students who are also parents) with childcare costs. The funds will be used to offer student-parents access to affordable childcare services both on and off campus.

Virginia State University received a $14 million grant to study soybean genetics. The National Science Foundation grant will be used to study the nutritional value of soybeans and edamame and to identify the genes responsible for those key nutritional traits.

Virginia State University received a commitment for a $500,000 gift from Dr. Audrey Shields Penn, B.S., in honor of her aunt and VSU trailblazer, Ms. Otelia Roberts Howard. In 2021, VSU renamed a building in Ms. Otelia Howard's honor. Howard, a Petersburg native, served Virginia State University for over two decades as a professor, advisor, and charter member of two organizations on campus.

Virginia State University received a portion of a $1 million Health Innovation and Research Grant. VSU is one of five HBCUs in the country to be awarded $200K for visionary projects focusing on health-related research. The Propell Center grant supports faculty and students' world-class research and innovation opportunities.

Virginia State University joined an initiative that has the potential to impact college debt for thousands of students. Student Freedom Initiative offers an income-contingent alternative to federal Parent PLUS loans.

Virginia State University was selected as one of six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country to take part in a research and design project focused on building an integrated framework for digital learning at HBCUs. The project is a first-of-its kind, $25.5 million Digital Learning Infrastructure (DLI) initiative led by Complete College America (CCA) and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Virginia State University established the Center for Biotechnology, Genomics, and Bioinformatics (VSU CeBiGeBi). The goal of the newly established VSU CeBiGeBi is to provide training in biotechnology, genomics, and bioinformatics; to offer a Bachelor of Science degree program in biotechnology and bioinformatics; to attract external programmatic and research funding.

Virginia State University created the VSU Center for Creative and Entertainment Arts, designed to provide academic offerings, research, workforce development, and entrepreneurship in the arts.

Virginia State University hired a full staff of licensed counselors to address student mental health. In addition, the University formed a holistic health and wellness team, trained employees on mental health first aid, and held mental health/wellness events on campus.

Virginia State University unveiled the new "Greater Happens Here" street mural believed to be the first of its kind on a college campus. The mural inspired by the Black Lives Matter mural in Washington, D.C. spans a full block on University Avenue in front of the Foster Hall Student Union.