



VSU Office of Development * P.O. Box 9027 * Petersburg, VA 23806 * (804) 524-6986



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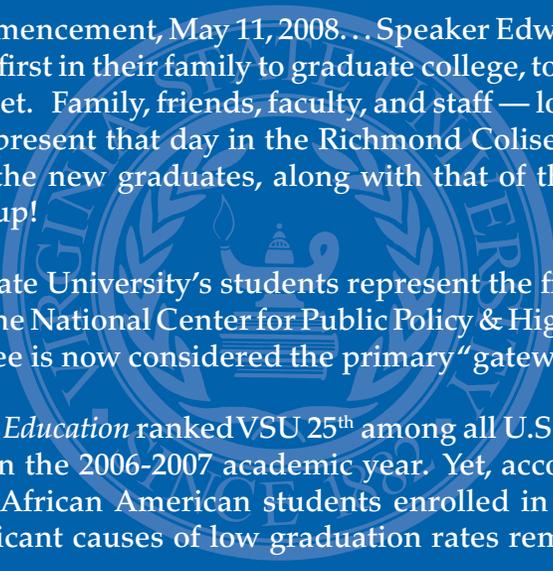
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Gift Information

Yes, I would like to help a deserving VSU student fulfill their dream of a college education!



Help More Achieve Their Dream



Flashback to VSU's Spring Commencement, May 11, 2008... Speaker Edward James Olmos asks members of the Class of 2008, who are the first in their family to graduate college, to stand. Hundreds of graduating students proudly leap to their feet. Family, friends, faculty, and staff — loved ones all — filled with pride, erupt in exaltation. Everyone present that day in the Richmond Coliseum recognized the significance of the moment. The future of the new graduates, along with that of their families, had been forever changed: They had been lifted up!

Nearly half (43%) of Virginia State University's students represent the first generation in their family to attend college; and, as noted in the National Center for Public Policy & Higher Education's report, *Reaching Up 2006*, earning a college degree is now considered the primary "gateway to the middle class."

Recently, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* ranked VSU 25th among all U.S. colleges in awarding bachelor's degrees to African Americans in the 2006-2007 academic year. Yet, according to *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, two thirds of African American students enrolled in college do not go on to earn a degree. One of the most significant causes of low graduation rates remains the affordability of higher education.

Although VSU has the second lowest tuition rate among Virginia's four-year, public universities, 95% of our students require financial aid to attend. Despite offering the best educational opportunities, while keeping costs affordable for our students and parents, there's still just not enough to go around. For some, only a few hundred dollars stand in the way of achieving their dream of a college education.

A brighter future for these students and their families is facilitated by your generous gifts to the Tuition Assistance Fund, which provides immediate direct aid that enables students to stay in school.

*Every student deserves a chance to fulfill their
dream of a college education.*

Please give to the Tuition Assistance Fund.