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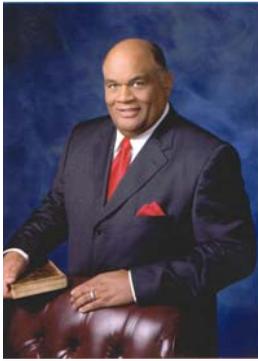
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Office of Development
P.O. Box 9027
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**2008 - 2009
ANNUAL FUND
DRIVE**

*Every Student,
Every Day,
Every Year.*



A Message from the President

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 VSU the finest public HBCU in America, among master’s level institutions, in 2007 and again in 2008; fifth best public HBCU overall; and, 15th best HBCU [public or 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 the 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. That is why I want to offer you a unique opportunity to help shape the future of 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.

You 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 only 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 part of it know why. Please join me in helping our university ascend ever higher to meet the expectations of future generations. Please give to the VSU 2008-2009 Annual Fund Drive.

ABOUT THE FUND

Annual contributions to Virginia State supply the University with a steady stream of unrestricted funds that can be used for multiple purposes. Unrestricted gifts support core academic and programmatic needs, and provide the University flexibility to respond to a changing economic climate and emerging academic initiatives.

Whether you donate \$10 or \$10,000, every gift makes a difference! Many college rankings consider the size of the annual fund and the percent of alumni participation. Please contribute today so that others may learn about and/or share in everything that makes VSU special.

Simply put, your gift impacts **Every** Student, **Every** Day, **Every** Year!

ANNUAL FUND GIVING CLUBS

Virginia State University has established giving clubs to honor our donors. Membership is based on giving level – including corporate matching gifts -- during the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Donors contributing at or above the President’s Club level receive participation mementos and special benefits associated with University events.

YES, I want to help Virginia State University fulfill its mission with my donation of:

- \$1 - \$99** **Orange & Blue Club**
- \$100 - \$249** **Century Club**
- \$250 - \$499** **Trojan Club**
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- \$1,000 - \$2,499** **President’s Club**
- \$1,250** **VSU Athletic Club (VAC)**
 - \$250 VAC, \$250 Athletics, \$750 President’s Club; **OR**
 - \$250 VAC, \$250 Athletics, \$750 Trojan Athletic Club
- \$2,500 - \$4,999** **Leadership Club**
- \$5,000 - \$9,999** **University Club**
- \$10,000 - \$24,999** **Board Club**
- \$25,000 or more** **Founders Club**

My employer is a matching gift company. To increase my gift, I am enclosing a completed matching gift form.

Please complete both sides of this form, including credit card information, if that is your preferred form of payment. Otherwise, make your check payable to Virginia State University and return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.