

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020-2021



VITERBO UNIVERSITY

Message from the President



As I reflect on the past year, the progress we've made as an institution still amazes me. Early last summer, nearly all employees were working remotely, the buildings were locked and essentially devoid of people, and we all wondered what the fall would bring.

One year later, we have just finished a very successful academic year that included in-person classes and on-campus living. It ended with a wonderful outdoor commencement ceremony that was a fitting celebration of the hard work and perseverance of our students and employees. The number of positive cases remained very low all spring semester. As of this writing, more than 75% of Viterbo employees have been vaccinated. Our mask mandate has officially been lifted, and it is looking more and more like we will have an almost normal fall semester.

I have given much thought recently to not only the accomplishments of the last year, but also of my 20 years at the university. As most of you know, I have accepted the position of president of Dominican University in Illinois and June 25 is my last day at Viterbo. I shared with the campus community that while I will greatly miss the people, I feel I have done what is mine to do here. During my four years as president, we have expanded and modernized our academic offerings, increased our grant funding, opened the Skogen Family Welcome Center, enhanced our community partnerships, and begun a number of important social justice and equity initiatives.

Rick Trietley, executive vice president for student success at Viterbo, will serve as interim president of the university. He has my full confidence and well wishes, as do all the dedicated and talented people at Viterbo. I am leaving the university in very capable hands, and I know the institution will flourish.

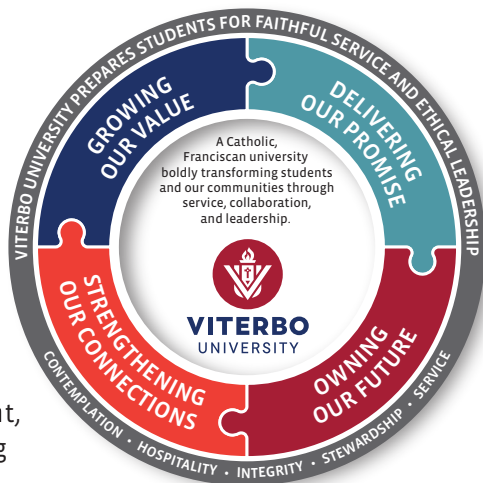
It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to be part of the Viterbo community for the past two decades and to work with our outstanding faculty, staff, students, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and friends. I leave Viterbo with countless fond memories and a deep love for the university, its people, and the surrounding community.

Glenna Temple, President, Viterbo University

Strategic Planning

Viterbo is in the midst of a five-year strategic planning process. At the close of the second year, a year that saw pandemic reprioritization, some of the most noteworthy initiatives undertaken include:

- Murphy Center updates: phased window replacement, entrance/lobby remodeling, second-floor remodeling (including The Hub)
- Developed Fine Arts Center five-year strategic plan
- Seven new academic programs approved and in various stages of launch
- Collaborations with Western Technical College, Saint Mary's University, Aquinas High School, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse



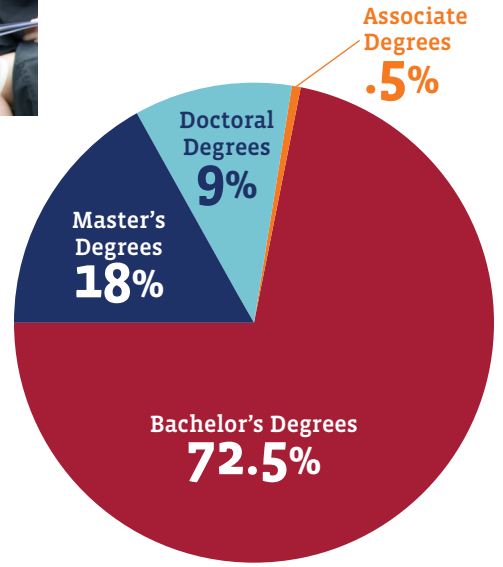


The Class of 2021

After the completion of the fall and spring semesters of the 2020–21 academic year, here's the tally of degrees and certificates earned*:

- 165 Graduate-level education certificates
- 2 Graduate-level non-education certificates
- 9 Undergraduate interpreting certificates

*NOTE: The official numbers for the Class of 2021 could increase after final degree requirement verification.



Financial

Endowment balance up \$11,133,751 from May 31, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

ENDOWMENT BALANCE (as of May 31, 2021)	
2020	\$55,256,922
2021	\$66,390,673



TIME WELL SPENT

A first-generation student from Las Vegas, **Leila O'Neil** knew she wanted to stay very busy her first year at Viterbo to help avoid homesickness. She had work-study hours in admissions, but thanks to scholarships—including the Sister Thea Bowman Minority Scholarship—O'Neil could spend spare time on activities other than additional part-time jobs. An education major, O'Neil was social media editor for the student newspaper, *The Lumen*, as well as serving as a first-year representative to the Student Government Association and volunteering at the Mathy Center Boys & Girls Club.

Scholarships

New scholarships established:

2020-2021	Endowed	8
	Restricted	9
2019-2020	Endowed	2
	Restricted	5

Total scholarships (donor funded) awarded:

2020-2021	Endowed	\$400,818
	Restricted	\$509,578
2019-2020	Endowed	\$385,145
	Restricted	\$477,973



FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIP

Viterbo biology graduate **Melissa Edgar**, pictured with psychology professor **David Saunders-Scott**, will attend the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus, this fall. She was awarded the Dean's Scholarship, an incredibly prestigious and rare four-year, full-tuition medical school grant.



Grants

- TRIO/Student Support Services Grant, **\$1.75 million over five years** to assist first-generation students
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Grant, **\$1.3 million over four years** for the Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling program
- Council of Independent Colleges, Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education Program Development Grant, **\$39,012** for the Footsteps Program
- Wisconsin Arts Board CARES Act Grant, **\$8,000** toward COVID-related emergency relief
- La Crosse Community Foundation Mini-Grant, **\$7,500** for summer college preparatory courses for the Pathway to a Bachelor's Degree program (pictured above)
- Pittsburgh Conference Grants Program, **\$4,940** for purchase of scientific equipment
- Leadership Education at Duke Divinity Grant, **\$3,500** for a project titled An Exploration of the Intersection of Catholic Identity and Inclusion



Service

Despite COVID-19 challenges, the tradition of Service Saturdays continued. Here's a year of Service Saturdays by the numbers:

- 479 unique participants served 674 times for 1,914 hours
- Total community impact value provided: \$48,673
- 72 total projects, 40 unique agencies/projects

Social Justice and Equity

Last summer's season of social reckoning provoked a lot of thinking and soul searching. At Viterbo, it also prompted action.

- A task force of 30 faculty and staff collaborated during the summer of 2020 to devise recommendations on how to create a more equitable and inclusive campus. All recommendations have now been folded into Viterbo's strategic plan.
- 19 Viterbo faculty and staff members took part in a social justice and equity train-the-trainer program.
- A new Student Social Justice and Equity Council was formed, with 21 student representatives from a variety of academic programs and student organizations.
- A cohort of 55 campus leaders took part in anti-bias training for employee search committees.
- The inaugural MLK Day of Service, Learning, and Celebration drew more than 1,000 participants (in person and virtually) for the keynote address by the Rev. William J. Barber II. Viterbo community members contributed to a variety of service opportunities in the area.



COVID-19

Campus testing protocols and safety mitigation initiatives helped keep our campus open and classes face to face. Health services was expanded to meet the campus needs. Some highlights:

- Nearly 4,100 COVID-19 tests for the campus community were coordinated.
- Viterbo served as a private COVID-19 vaccination site for students, employees, and campus partners.
- More than 75% of employees have reported at least one dose of vaccine.
- More than 58% of fall 2021 registered students report receiving at least one vaccine dose.
- \$1,289,908 was distributed in direct student grants from federal HEERF funds.
- Viterbo received \$2,236,845 in federal HEERF funding for institutional COVID-19 costs and revenue losses plus \$789,584 in federal stimulus funding via the State of Wisconsin for institutional support.

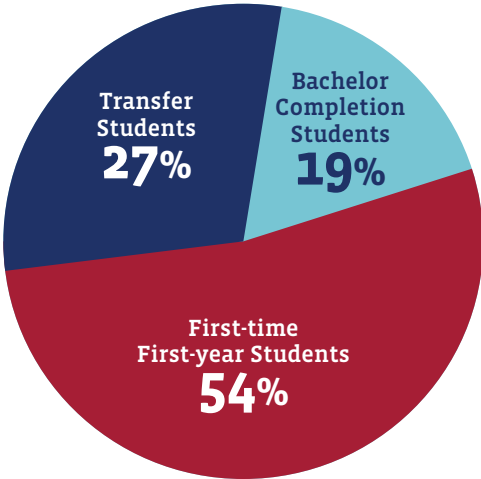


Conservatory for the Performing Arts

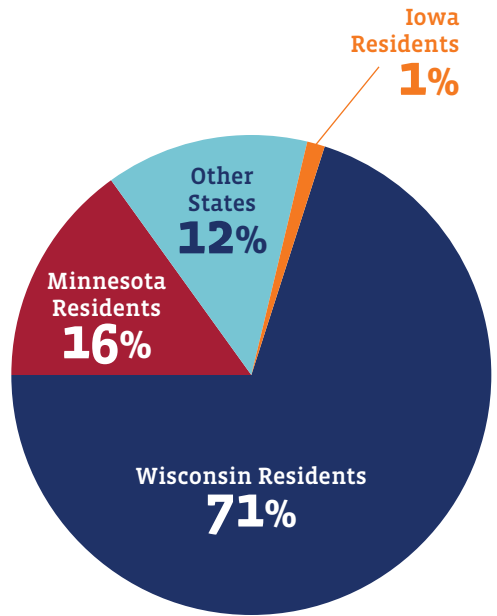
The 2020–21 academic year saw the unveiling of Viterbo’s Conservatory for the Performing Arts, a program that embraces a new approach to training that values and honors the liberal arts tradition while providing essential skill development necessary to succeed in a demanding and highly competitive professional world. Theatre, music theatre, and music majors are offered along with minors in arts management, dance, theatre, and music. The conservatory will also seek to identify new fields of study related to performing arts and the live entertainment industry and expand opportunities for interdisciplinary pursuits.

Here's a look at the cohort of 559 new first-year undergraduate students who started at Viterbo in fall 2020:

- First-generation students: 173 (43%)
- International students: 12 (2%)
- Students of color: 97 (17%)



The Class of 2024



Success Rate

Viterbo's success rate (formerly called placement rate) overall for 2020 (the most recent statistically complete year) was 99%, far exceeding the national average of 84%. That means 99% of the graduates about whom data was collected was employed, in the military, involved in volunteer service, or enrolled in graduate school or other continuing education. The success rate for graduates getting jobs in their fields of study was 95%.

Graduate Program Growth

The number of Viterbo University graduate programs has expanded nearly threefold in eight years, with 11 programs now enrolling students or poised to launch, up from four programs in 2012.

The most recent additions include a direct entry master of nursing program for those holding a bachelor's degree in another field and a doctoral degree in school counseling.



READY TO WORK

A transfer student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Jacob Lee** will be in the first cohort of Viterbo engineering graduates when he completes his degree next May. He has already put his engineering skills into action in the real world through internships. During a spring semester internship at Inland Packaging, he helped develop a new method of measuring static electricity that will improve the label production process at the company. "Nobody in the world tries to measure static electricity the way we're doing it," Lee said.



VITERBO UNIVERSITY

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La Crosse, WI 54601

Honors and Distinctions

The annual Distinguished Alumni Awards drew 130 people for a virtual ceremony honoring:

SPIRIT OF FRANCIS AWARD – Malinda Gerke, FSPA '60

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AWARD – Colleen Walsh '63

RISING PROFESSIONAL AWARD – Angela Mensink '12, '14, Samantha Pauly '12, Amanda Vetsch '17

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – Julianne Brienza '99, Naomi (Hemesath) Harm '99,
Lisa Skemp '77



Viterbo moved up in rank to the silver designation in the 2021-22 Military Friendly Schools survey.



EMPLOYEE ROSE AWARDS: Margy Krogman, director of residence life, was named 2021 Employee of the Year and Nursing Professor Robin Haugh was named 2021 Teacher of the Year.

Athletics

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR:

Ashley Caswell (senior, women's track and field) and Jack Monis (sophomore, men's basketball)

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR: Noah Fredrickson (senior, men's basketball) and Maya Roberts (senior, women's volleyball)

CHAMPIONS: Women's volleyball, NSAA conference championship; women's cross country, NSAA conference championship

ALL-AMERICANS: Nyah Brooks (dance), Maddie Dibble (dance), Jack Monis (men's basketball), Maya Roberts (women's volleyball), and Jessalyn Wilson (dance)