

VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

impact report

2023-2024



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DEAR FRIENDS,

IT IS WITH IMMENSE GRATITUDE THAT I WELCOME YOU TO THIS EDITION OF OUR IMPACT REPORT. AS I REFLECT ON THE INCREDIBLE WORK GOD IS DOING AT VANGUARD UNIVERSITY, WE CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT THE TRUTH OF EPHESIANS 3:20-21, WHICH SPEAKS TO GOD'S ABILITY TO DO "IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US."

At Vanguard, we truly depend on this partnership with God to accomplish the good work that He has set before us—for His glory and for the benefit of our students and community.

This year's publication showcases the heart of our mission: to develop Spirit-empowered, Christ-centered leaders equipped to make a difference in the world. From the powerful initiatives like the Job Shadow program, where students gain hands-on experience in their chosen fields, to the collaboration with LeadershipTraQ, which enhances our student and staff leadership development, you will see how VU offers transformative opportunities, preparing students to step confidently into their God-given callings.

It has been amazing to watch the Freed Center for Leadership and Service come to life with students, faculty, and staff! The joy on the faces of all who enter the facility is evident. I have had so many "Holy Spirit" chills sitting in different parts of the building, thanking God for His provision to make this vision a reality. The chills come from thinking about the countless students that will be transformed in this place, in the decades to come! If you are in the area, please stop by, say hello, and take a tour.

Thank you for investing in Vanguard University and walking with us on this journey. We are honored to continue this important work for God's Kingdom, and we look forward to seeing all He will do in the lives of our students in the days to come.



With gratitude,

JUSTIN MCINTEE '98, MBA '09
VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
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DEDICATING THE FREED CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

THE JOURNEY TOWARD THE DEDICATION OF THE FREED CENTER

FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE ON OCTOBER 4, 2024 BEGAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO AS ALL MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS DO. FROM THE INITIAL IDEA TO THE OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING, A THREAD THAT TIES THE ENTIRE PROJECT TOGETHER IS A POSTURE OF THANKS AND WORSHIP.

“Vanguard University is deeply grateful to the Freed family. As a result of their gracious gift, we will now have a home for our burgeoning kinesiology program and a space where student athletes can learn and refine resilience in body and spirit,” said Vanguard President Michael J. Beals, Ph.D. “We see a bright future where we can better serve generations of students and coaches, providing student-athletes a space for the highest levels of athletic competition; where they can grow individually and as a team.”

At the “Farewell to the Pit”—the beloved, 80-year-old gym that stood on the same location as the Freed Center now stands—event in April of 2022 and the groundbreaking for the Freed Center in October of 2022, the VU community gathered to celebrate the past and look toward the future.

“Since the early 60s, The Pit has been part of the heart of Vanguard,” said Vanguard President Michael J. Beals, Ph.D. “Generations of student-athletes and fans have made wonderful memories in our beloved gym; and we’re glad we gave it the appropriate farewell. I’m confident that the Freed Center will provide a dynamic space for our community to gather and forge new memories.”

And the Freed Center is already doing just that: the first athletic competition was held in the gym on September 20 when Vanguard’s women’s volleyball team took on Azusa Pacific, the five new classes and two labs are filled with students and teaching, and the weight room and sports medicine facilities are in full use.



“Competing in the Freed Center will help our team tremendously,” said junior men’s volleyball player Logan Finlay. “Having a dedicated home gym will not only boost our morale, but also provide us with a consistent and familiar environment to practice and compete in. I hope the Freed Center becomes a hub of excellence for our volleyball program and other sports, and that it can become something that our community can bond over and love!”

“I am very excited to actively witness how our new facilities can both cultivate and optimize a dynamic learning environment for all of our Kinesiology major students,” said Paul Hwang, Ph.D., assistant professor

and kinesiology department chair. “The Freed Center provides so many blessings for our Vanguard University community. The multitude of new laboratory equipment, larger classroom spaces with active learning modalities, as well as the myriad of student lounge spaces for encouraging community and collegiality amongst peers significantly elevates the educational experience for our students.”

During the dedication ceremony, senior Amberly Gourlay, president of the student government association, reflected on the significance of the 60,000 square-foot building. “This moment feels like the culmination of what God has been saying throughout my time at Vanguard, which is to seek first my kingdom and righteousness and all

“THE FREED CENTER IS A PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION OF VANGUARD’S DESIRE TO COMPETE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND WILL HELP US DEMONSTRATE OUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE TO POTENTIAL FUTURE ATHLETES. WHEN WE BRING RECRUITS ON CAMPUS, WE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO SHOW THEM A TOP-NOTCH FACILITY DESIGNED TO GIVE THEM AN ELITE EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT-ATHLETE.”

– **EMILY REYNOLDS**, HEAD COACH, WOMEN’S SOCCER



these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33).” Gourlay was one of five student leaders who participated in the dedication, representing more than 2,200 VU students.

“Servant leadership is not self-seeking but rather it is love that extends itself to serve the other, which I believe is being displayed here tonight through your generosity, Mrs. Freed,” said Gourlay. “On behalf of the student body of Vanguard University I would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity. This building will impact the lives of students for generations to come as transformation happens in both the mundane everyday moments and the extraordinary.”

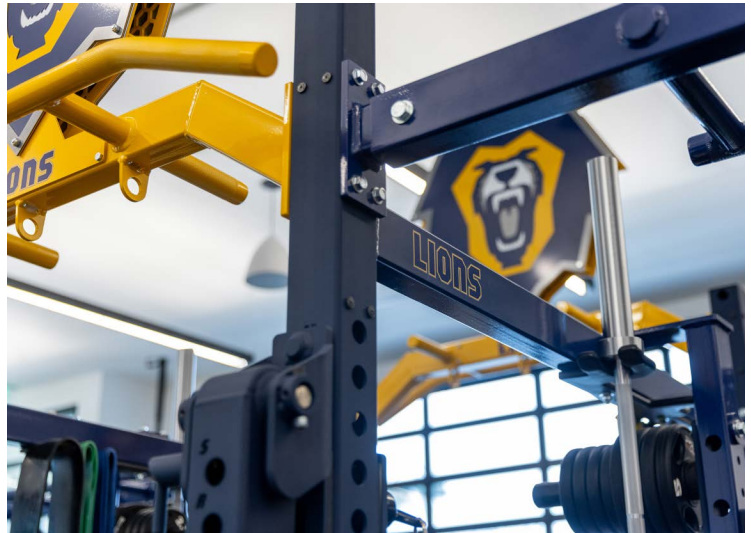


ATHLETICS

- ▶ Gymnasium Seat Count: 1,910
- ▶ Lobby, Concessions, and Ticketing Area
- ▶ Men's and Women's Locker Rooms
- ▶ Weight Room
- ▶ Sports Medicine/Training Room
- ▶ Athletics Offices, Workstations, and Conference Space

ACADEMICS

- ▶ Kinesiology Department Offices and Workstations
- ▶ Kinesiology Motion Analysis Lab
- ▶ Kinesiology Human Performance Lab
- ▶ Five New General Classrooms
- ▶ Student Meeting, Breakout, Lounge, and Study Spaces



STATE-OF-THE-ART WI-FI

- ▶ Triangulated architecture provides high speeds and broad coverage throughout the building.

ENHANCED CLASSROOM AUDIO

- ▶ High-wattage ceiling speakers ensure clear sound across all zones in each classroom.

INTERACTIVE WORKSTATIONS

- ▶ Breakout pods with 55" TVs and HDMI-USB-C inputs for collaborative learning and content sharing.

"THE FREED CENTER MEANS A LOT TO ME

BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS GROWTH, DEDICATION, AND OPPORTUNITY AS A KINESIOLOGY MAJOR AND AN ATHLETE. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS WILL COME OUT OF THE FREED CENTER!"













- ZAINAB HAKEEM '26

"MY HOPE IS THAT EACH STUDENT CAN TRULY SOAK UP EVERY VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY LIKE A SPONGE AND FURTHER MAKE THEIR DREAMS BECOME A REALITY DURING THEIR VU JOURNEY."

- PAUL HWANG, PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CHAIR

BY THE NUMBERS

THE NUMBERS FOR THE 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR DO NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY OF HOW DONORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF VANGUARD, BUT THEY GIVE A GLIMPSE INTO THE SCALE OF IMPACT SUPPORTERS HAVE ON THE STUDENTS OF VU.

<p>2,612 STUDENTS EDUCATED</p> 	 <p>VU IN THE 2024 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #13 BEST VALUES SCHOOL #44 REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES, WEST #14 TOP PERFORMERS ON SOCIAL MOBILITY #20 BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS 	 <p>98 FULL-TIME FACULTY</p>
<p>615 TOTAL FRESHMEN AND TRANSFERS</p> 	<p>TOTAL NUMBER OF MUSIC PERFORMANCES AND THEATRE SHOWS</p> <p>35 + 65 = 100</p>	<p>TOTAL CHAPELS OFFERED</p> <p>400+</p> 
 <p>560 GRADUATES</p>	<p>1,940 TOTAL COURSES OFFERED (IN-PERSON, ONLINE, EXTENSION SITE) THROUGH ALL PROGRAMS (UNDERGRAD AND GRAD)</p>	<p>1 NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</p> <p>3 GSAC TITLES</p> <p>2 TOURNAMENT TITLES</p> <p>1 NDA DANCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</p> 
 <p>30,150 COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS</p>	<p>7 MISSION AND GLOBAL EDUCATION TRIPS</p> 	<p>125 </p> <p>ATHLETIC SCHOLAR-ATHLETES MINIMUM GPA OF 3.5</p>
 <p>\$35 MILLION</p> <p>STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS</p>	<p>200+ STUDENTS ACTIVE IN STUDENT-LEADERSHIP </p>	

JOB SHADOW: VANGUARD ALUMNI INVEST IN STUDENT CAREERS

One of the most valuable aspects of a Vanguard University undergraduate education for many students is the ability to pursue a career that inspires them to make a difference for Christ. Whether they are working toward a degree in business, nursing, or the arts, VU Lions are a part of a greater community of students and professionals—one that understands the importance of each contributor using their unique talents in the world.

Vanguard’s Job Shadow program is expanding on this benefit. Through this program, undergraduate

students can develop a deeper understanding of their career path while strengthening connections with VU alumni. In this program, students are connected with a mentor professional in the field they aspire to, and then can shadow them at their job for a single day.

Kayli (Cotten ’06) Hillebrand, D.Ld., associate dean of career development and experiential education at Vanguard, shares how the program gives students a broader context for their chosen career. “This high-impact program not only provides the benefit of meeting with an industry professional,

but it also introduces them to potential businesses and organizations for internships and jobs while expanding their professional network.”

While building connections with the potential for future work is an attractive feature of the program, the one-day time commitment can be just as much an asset for students. “I chose to participate because this isn’t like an internship where you are under a long-term contract,” shared Job Shadow participant and business administration major, Samantha Esparza ’27. “This is a one-day activity, making it a fast way of knowing whether you enjoy the career industry you are looking at.”

For students seeking confirmation that they are on the right career path, getting real-world experience in the field provides invaluable insight that they would not get from the classroom. “I will often tell students that discovering you don’t like something is as much of the Lord shaping your path as identifying the things you do like,” explains Hillebrand. “At times, the perception of a professional role and the realities of it can differ—this program allows students to



Nicole (Thompson ’95) Suydam, president and CEO of Goodwill of Orange County, is a Job Shadow mentor (left) for Samantha Esparza ’27.



Kayli (Cotten '06) Hillebrand, D.Ld., discusses Job Shadow with business administration major Samantha Esparza '27.

peek behind the curtain prior to committing at a vocational level and adjust if needed.”

Students can participate in the program as often as they feel they need to. Those who change majors or shift their goals for the future can continue to reap the program’s benefits as they more clearly define their pursuits. For others who feel confident in their career path, revisiting the program can allow them to shadow several roles and develop a well-rounded industry context. Business administration major Jonathan Tribble ’26, is a returning participant of the Job Shadow program. “I had the opportunity to shadow an employee at Boeing [last year]. It was an incredible and insightful day. [This year], I hope to confirm and correct my assumptions about the career path to help me better understand if this is something that I could see myself doing,” he says.

One of the most advantageous aspects of Job Shadow is that many mentors offering shadowing opportunities are Vanguard alumni. With a deeper understanding of students’ experiences, they offer genuine guidance beyond simple career advice. Nicole (Thompson ’95) Suydam, president and CEO of Goodwill of Orange County and Job Shadow mentor, shares her heart for supporting Vanguard students in their career pursuits. “I see these opportunities as a game changer for students to network with business leaders and learn what it takes to start and grow their careers,” she says. “It’s such a joy to see the expressions on their faces as they are touring our operation and learning something new.”

Building relationships with others in the Vanguard community who genuinely want to invest in their professional and academic development can also give students

confidence in their academics. “As students connect to a future career or industry and truly begin to see their path toward that goal and calling, their intentionality with their academics and the broader community flourishes in a way it didn’t before,” shares Hillebrand. Despite its relatively recent establishment at Vanguard, the program has shown to be dually beneficial—encouraging students in their current academic studies while synonymously empowering them for a future career.

The Job Shadow program thrives because of a community of professionals investing in the growth of the next generation of Vanguard graduates. “To be able to leverage the relationships in our local community and the expertise of our alumni network around the globe to partner in the development of the upcoming generation of professionals is nothing short of inspiring,” says Hillebrand.



EMPOWERING BUSINESS STUDENTS: GIVING DAY INITIATIVE FUNDS REAL ESTATE LICENSES AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



ONE INTENTIONAL WAY THAT VANGUARD UNIVERSITY IS EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN THEIR FUTURE CAREERS IS BY PROVIDING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THEIR INTENDED INDUSTRY. WHILE A QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SIGNIFICANTLY BOOSTS THE VALUE THAT STUDENTS WILL BRING TO THEIR FIELD, SETTING THEMSELVES APART IS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS IN BOTH THE SHORT AND LONG TERM.

Julius Agbor, Ph.D., professor of finance and economics, is playing a major role in supporting business students as they round out their resumes and prepare for graduation. Following his leadership in the 2023 Giving Day initiative to provide several Patty Arvielo School of Business and Management students the opportunity to obtain either a Real Estate License (REVEI) or Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, he continues to mentor students as they earn micro-credentials to supplement their bachelor's degrees. "Real estate is not just an important foundation of the U.S. economy and California economy in particular, but also probably the most resilient sector to business cycle fluctuations," explained Agbor. "As a significant investment vehicle, everyone has a stake in it, whether owners or investors.

With business degrees from the University of Yaoundé II in Cameroon, the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, and the University of Cape Town, South Africa, as well as extensive experience in global business and trade, Agbor offers specialty guidance and mentorship to students seeking a well-rounded business education that serves a powerful purpose in God's kingdom.

Whether specific to real estate or not, micro-credentials show future employers specific,

targeted areas of education and professional expertise. Students may choose to earn specific types of micro-credentials, highlighting their interest in a particular area. Adding micro-credentials to one's resume also shows initiative, showcasing soft skills like creativity, problem-solving, and continued learning. "Micro-credentials generally help graduates' skills become more marketable, as these credentials are often industry-certified. They also showcase evidence of mastery of specific areas, if not interest and passion," said Agbor. For students who are seeking a career in a niche sub-industry, this can be extremely helpful in setting them apart among competitors.

A secondary aspect of Agbor's Giving Day initiative was to fund the opportunity for several School of Business and Management students to present original research at the 2024 International Business Ethics and Sustainability Case Competition (IBESCC), which took place April 8-12, 2024, at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Contributing to an industry conference of this size not only prepares students for potential graduate work but also hones critical thinking and analytical and oral skills, according to Agbor.

When students are challenged to move their classroom learning to real-world application, it gives



them confidence in their professional skills and adds a distinct accessory to their business portfolio. They also have the opportunity to network with others in the industry and establish their professional position early in their career. With more professional experience in their back pocket, students have more career opportunities upon graduation.

The Giving Day Initiative raised \$3,085 and made a major impact in the lives of numerous students. As a tenured professor with a rich background working in government, academia, think tank, and the private sector, Agbor has a unique understanding of how supplemental educational opportunities such as these can make a difference in the lives of up-and-coming business professionals "Exposure to research competition on such an international scale cannot leave one the same, much like a micro-credential that fast-tracks one's professional development," he explained.

A YEAR OF CIVILITY

Election years are teachable moments on college campuses, where students are often in the midst of establishing their own opinions and building a political stance. Throughout the Fall 2024 semester, Vanguard University hosted several student events, together known as the “Year of Civility”. This program is designed to foster thoughtful conversations and promote dignity, respect, and humility among students. Events include things like fireside chats, Bible studies, and leadership practicums to help build media literacy and promote respectful engagement.

“The nature of our small campus lends itself to building meaningful community, and we want to see that community flourish, especially as we work through the tensions of an election year,” said Jess Van Winkle ’20, assistant director of student development and success. “Our student leaders will be pressing into the picture of community in Ephesians 4:2 and learn what it means to ‘bear with one another in love’ this year.”

Vice President for Student Affairs Amanda Lebrecht is leading the charge for the program alongside the newly elected Student Government Association President

Jess Van Winkle '20, Amberly Gourlay '25, and Amanda Lebrecht.



“I THINK THE IDEA OF CONVERSATION AND ELEVATING THE STUDENTS’ VOICES GO HAND-IN-HAND.

UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNIZING THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS A VOICE AND A SEAT AT THE TABLE, WHILE ALSO HAVING THIS GENERAL THEME OF ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO SPEAK OUT AND HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE— THAT’S SOMETHING I’M SUPER PASSIONATE ABOUT AND EXCITED FOR.”

– AMBERLY GOURLAY ’25,
Student Government Association President

Amberly Gourlay '25. According to Lebrecht, Gourlay's presidential campaign was a breath of fresh air.

Instead of focusing on what was broken and needed to be fixed, she positioned herself as a student of those around her, seeking to learn from and unify various groups on campus. Her election campaign included five pillars: bearing witness to God's glory, bonding the student body, boosting the voice of the student body, building an international student community, and bringing awareness to any pressing needs that may arise.

"I think the idea of conversation and elevating the students' voices go hand-in-hand," expressed Gourlay. "Understanding and recognizing that every student has a voice and a seat at the table, while also having this general theme of encouraging people to speak out and have an open dialogue—that's something I'm super passionate about and excited for."

As an international student, Gourlay brings a unique perspective on politics to the table. While, admittedly, she came to the U.S. somewhat naive to the role that politics plays in conversations, the pride she has in her own country is steering her hope for driving out apathy and renewing a sense of initiative on campus. "One of the things [Amberly] talked about in her speech was about...how South Africa approached apartheid and how they used something that could be very contentious to bring the country together and solidify their commitment to one another," Lebrecht said. "I think [her becoming SGA president] is kind of a 'for such a time as this' moment as well."

While the Year of Civility is not Gourlay's primary focus, she sees it as a unique opportunity to hear and learn from her fellow students and be an example for fostering harmony on campus. Looking forward, Gourlay hopes that the experiences students have this year become the foundation for a lifetime of respectful civil engagement. "I want to encourage all students that they have a voice in any election year, that their vote matters, and that these things are important to discuss, but it doesn't have to be an aggressive argument. It can be a healthy discussion and debate," she said.



Lebrecht shared similar sentiments about the future of Vanguard's student body, "I hope that it will help them to think critically and further develop their political ethics, and begin to think, 'who do I want to be in these spaces? How do I want to show up in these spaces? What do I value?'" Perhaps more than ever, Vanguard students have an opportunity to be a light to others through the way they respond in politically controversial environments. Year of Civility events offer groundwork for building citizenship, while the Vanguard community creates opportunities in and out of the classroom to engage in thoughtful, respectful conversation about current politics.

Gourlay pointed out that, as students at a Christian university, Vanguard students have a responsibility to put God first, even in their political stances and conversations. "I really hope we have the narrative of seeking Him first and everything else comes second," she explained. "Keeping him on the throne of our lives and recognizing that at the end of the day, we have that eternal hope."

The Year of Civility was designed to take place from the spring semester of 2024 through November 2024, and included speakers such as Eugene Cho, author of *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk*, and Nathan Gonzalez '00, editor and publisher of *Inside Elections*. Specific topics for discussion included recognizing bias, how to critically analyze news media and social media, migration and immigration, and more.

LEADERSHIPTRAQ GIFT ENHANCES STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Whether students enter Vanguard University pursuing a degree in biology or music, nursing or education, their academic journey is infused with the university's mission "to pursue knowledge, cultivate character, deepen faith, and equip each student for a Spirit-empowered life of Christ-centered leadership and service." Curricular and co-curricular experiences help students discern their purpose and strengthen their skills to contribute to their communities as leaders is crucial to delivering a valuable education.

From all corners of the university's offerings, students are offered opportunities to learn and practice Christ-centered leadership skills. A recent leadership-level gift from Mick and Louise Ukleja of LeadershipTraQ, a leadership-consulting organization based in California, will infuse resources and unify the many existing opportunities to participate in leadership growth and development education.

**"LEADERSHIP CREATES CULTURE;
CULTURE CREATES BEHAVIOR; THEREFORE,
WORK ON LEADERSHIP BECAUSE THAT
CHANGES BEHAVIOR. BY GAINING
ACCESS TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
SKILLS, STUDENTS ARE DOING FAR MORE
THAN GIVING THEMSELVES A LEG UP IN
THE WORKPLACE."**

- MICK UKLEJA, PH.D.,
Founder and President of LeadershipTraQ

"From a theological perspective, leaders are raised up by God and nurtured in community," said Chip Espinoza, Ph.D., dean of strategy and innovation at Vanguard. "By bringing LeadershipTraQ to Vanguard, we're giving students a head start on learning about leadership."

Nearly half of Vanguard students already participate in leadership roles or training. The LeadershipTraQ gift will coalesce campus leadership opportunities, connecting them with curriculum and training. In the Spring of 2025, several campus groups will participate in LeadershipTraQ training, including students serving in roles in Residence Life, Student Engagement and Inclusion, Spiritual Formation, and the Student Government Association. In addition to students, faculty and staff will be offered LeadershipTraQ curriculum focused on career-development.

"Vanguard has always impressed me with how they value leadership in the lives of all their students and in everything they attempt," Mick Ukleja, Ph.D., founder and president of LeadershipTraQ. "It starts at the top and trickles down to the students. Everything rises or falls with leadership, beginning with the belief that you cannot lead others until you lead yourself."

As emerging leaders, students often face complex challenges and dynamic work environments that require not just technical expertise but also the ability to inspire, influence, and guide others in a way that respects diverse personalities in the workplace. Strong leadership skills enable them to take initiative, foster teamwork, and drive innovation, all of which are essential for career advancement and organizational success.

Dr. Ukleja points out that leadership in a professional sense is just one piece of the puzzle; it's also an opportunity to deepen their character and use leadership as a tool to be a light in their communities. "Leadership creates culture; culture creates behavior; therefore, work on leadership because that changes behavior," he shared. By gaining access to leadership development skills, students are doing far more than giving themselves a leg up in the workplace. They are shaping their personhood, building skills to be valuable members of society, and discovering what it looks like to be in community with others.

Leadership does not always look like being the one in charge. Being a strong leader can mean stepping back to let others challenge themselves, or even encouraging healthy communication in a lower-level department. "Leadership is two sides of the same coin—leader and

follower—working together to accomplish a common goal. It's a dynamic process, and everyone gets better," Ukleja explained. "The line between the leader and the follower blurs when leadership moves people toward a common goal."

"Vanguard students will have a competitive advantage over their peers, because they're going to understand not only the leadership lingo, but also how to present themselves and how to do a quick assessment of situations," Espinoza explained. "Think about how that can help you at that first company you're going to work for."

The gift from Mick and Louise Ukleja to establish LeadershipTraQ at Vanguard marks a transformative moment for the Vanguard community and legacy, empowering students to excel as Christ-centered leaders and contribute positively to society.

Mick and Louise Ukleja





VANGUARD AND THE SAMUELI FOUNDATION PARTNER TO BRING TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TO OC SCHOOLS

In June 2024, Vanguard University's Global Center for Women and Justice (GCWJ) was awarded an \$825,000 grant from the Samueli Foundation. Founded in 1988, the Samueli Foundation is a Southern California-based private foundation whose mission is "to make Orange County a thriving mosaic of community well-being by supporting and uniting catalytic forces whose innovations yield a higher quality of life for everyone."

"We are immensely grateful to the Samueli Foundation for this generous grant, which will allow us to bring vital human trafficking awareness and prevention resources directly into Orange County classrooms," said Global Center for Women and Justice Director Sandra Morgan, Ph.D. "This innovative program will empower hundreds of students with the knowledge to recognize exploitation and skills for staying safe."

This grant, which is the result of a developing partnership and collaboration with the Samueli Foundation to address human trafficking, allows Vanguard and the GCWJ to launch the pioneering "Safe Communities; Safe Kids" (SCSK), bringing evidence-based, peer-to-peer prevention strategies to Orange County schools, implementing California laws for human trafficking prevention education.

Through the Safe Communities; Safe Kids program, Vanguard University students will be hired and trained as peer educators to deliver an interactive curriculum on recognizing trafficking risks and building healthy relationships. Throughout the next three years, these student facilitators will reach hundreds of middle school students across Orange County.

With Safe Communities; Safe Kids, Vanguard students continue their legacy of participation in such initiatives.

Beginning in 2006, students on Live2Free teams (a club that empowers and trains

college youth to raise

awareness, be peer-to-peer mentors, and be student abolitionists on the issue of modern-day slavery) have been present in schools, participated in study abroad trips, and strengthened research and education opportunities in the classroom with the Women and Justice Minor.

In addition to educating youth, the SCSK program will provide professional development for teachers. Educators will participate with their students, equipping them with additional tools to build sustainable school-based prevention models.

Vanguard continues to impact the local and global community by equipping students to become leaders in combatting exploitation through interdisciplinary courses and practical experience. The Safe Communities; Safe Kids program will take the GCWJ to a new level to "Study the Issues. Be a Voice. Make a Difference" as it educates VU to serve the community to build strategies for keeping children safe.



GLOBAL CENTER *for*
WOMEN *and* JUSTICE

Vanguard University

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MATTHEW KENSLOW '24

One of the challenges that many students face entering college is choosing a career path. And as technology rapidly advances, the options available are becoming even more diverse. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about one-third of college students change their major at some point. But for Matthew Kenslow '24, his professional calling has always been clear.

“I’ve wanted to be a teacher since I was in first or second grade; I had those passions inside of me. I remember playing school at home and teaching what my teachers taught,” he recollected. “I believe this is what God has called me to do.”

In addition to the fulfillment he gets from helping students develop a deep understanding of the curriculum, Kenslow believes he has a unique perspective in the

classroom. As a person on the autism spectrum, he has learned how to use his experience to cater to students’ diverse needs. “I have first-hand experience of how learning can be difficult for some students. Of course, everyone’s unique and different,” he explained, “but there are also overarching themes that people with autism tend to have.”

Kenslow is embarking on a journey to educate students in a way that best serves them while “shining the light of Christ” wherever he goes. He seeks to create a classroom that feels like a safe space for learning and asking questions, where learning feels like an exciting opportunity rather than a burden.

While pursuing his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and master’s in education at Vanguard, Kenslow has had the opportunity to explore different ways to engage with students. “I’ve learned a ton of things I didn’t know, like UDL, which is universal design for learning, SEL, social and emotional learning, and different ways to reach every student despite their background,” he said.

Kenslow’s hope is to use his experience to help students feel comfortable in the classroom and be an advocate to help them overcome challenges. One way he does this is by speaking at school assemblies throughout the Orange County School District. While sharing his experience and encouraging young students to persevere through trials, he uses juggling and magic tricks to illustrate his arguments.

Beyond his local community, Kenslow is a published author and an online influencer. His first book, *Juggling the Issues: Living with Asperger’s Syndrome*, was published in 2019. His second book, *Unstoppable*, was published in 2023 and explores his journey becoming a teacher with autism.



“Matthew’s latest book title captures his spirit and his mindset: Unstoppable,” said Jeff Hittenberger, Ph.D., dean of Vanguard’s School of Education. “Along his journey, many people underestimated Matthew’s capacity to be a teacher, but at Vanguard he found a community that believes everyone can fulfill their God-given calling. We call this ‘Education for Love and Wisdom.’ Matthew embodies that vision, and he is making a profound and life-empowering difference in the lives of the students he serves.”

Online, Kenslow has more than 1 million followers on Instagram, where he uses his platform to bring awareness to the experience of living with autism and encourages others to pursue their dreams despite their potential setbacks. “I hope [my advocacy] brings inclusion and people believing [in] themselves, self-confidence, and [the encouragement] that people can do whatever they set their heart and mind to do, as long as it’s practical and attuned to God’s call,” he shared.





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Vanguard University

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE IS A GROUP OF DONORS DEDICATED TO MAKING A PROFOUND IMPACT AT VANGUARD UNIVERSITY.

Members support a host of programs and departments across the university, partnering with Vanguard to advance and support our mission and vision.

LEARN MORE AT
vanguard.edu/presidentscircle

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS 2023-24

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE GIVE \$1,000 OR MORE EACH FISCAL YEAR, ACCELERATING THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

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STELLA AYO-ODONGO	DANIEL AND REBECCA '76 BORJAS	SCOTT '87 AND PAM CARMAN	JIM AND AMANDA DARLACK
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VISION STRATEGIES



ACCESS

PAVE CLEAR PATHWAYS TO A VANGUARD EDUCATION



AFFORDABILITY

MAKE THE VANGUARD EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FINANCIALLY ATTAINABLE



FACILITIES

BUILD FACILITIES THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE VANGUARD EXPERIENCE



SUCCESS

CULTIVATE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR ACADEMIC AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

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THE MISSION OF VANGUARD UNIVERSITY IS TO PURSUE KNOWLEDGE, CULTIVATE CHARACTER, DEEPEN FAITH AND EQUIP EACH STUDENT FOR A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED LIFE OF CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE.

VISION

VANGUARD UNIVERSITY WILL BE THE LEADING SOURCE OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA.



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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30.	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,713,752	\$7,524,921
Student accounts receivable and other related receivables, net	2,525,852	2,385,239
Prepaid expenses	827,820	1,114,902
Unconditional promises to give, net	6,600,494	11,793,282
Investments	21,980,497	15,615,545
Student loans receivable, net	379,215	987,243
Other assets	219,648	313,117
Land, buildings, and equipment, net	97,461,062	81,467,283
Operating lease right-of-use asset	845,082	1,051,252
TOTAL ASSETS	\$132,553,422	\$122,252,784
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	635,926	536,911
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	5,992,968	4,158,862
Deposits and deferred revenue	2,625,435	2,833,076
Retention payable	2,950,288	1,233,213
Student refundable credits	156,382	221,735
Tuition remission liability	141,959	169,885
Operating lease liability	836,168	1,024,111
Notes payable, net	50,100,468	42,541,451
Perkins loan liability	255,060	870,032
Trust and remainder life obligations	76,153	146,757
TOTAL LIABILITIES	63,770,807	53,736,033
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	30,461,090	33,908,763
With donor restrictions	38,321,525	34,607,988
TOTAL NET ASSETS	68,782,615	68,516,751
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$132,553,422	\$122,252,784

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30.

2024

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
Tuition and fees	\$74,250,734	—	\$74,250,734
Less: scholarships and grants	(35,707,579)	—	(35,707,579)
NET STUDENT TUITION AND FEES	\$38,543,155	—	\$38,543,155
Auxiliary services	11,598,803	—	11,598,803
Contributions and private grants	1,639,553	3,152,226	4,791,779
Other income	930,784	—	930,784
Federal grants	562,485	—	562,485
Investment income, net of investment expenses	467,250	152,800	620,050
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of donor restrictions	1,609,903	(1,609,903)	—
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$55,351,933	\$1,695,123	\$57,047,056
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Program services:			
Instructional	17,233,570	—	17,233,570
Academic support	2,917,305	—	2,917,305
Student services	12,443,360	—	12,443,360
Auxiliary services	12,300,296	—	12,300,296
Support activities:			
Institutional support	13,384,104	—	13,384,104
Fundraising	854,626	—	854,626
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$59,133,261	—	\$59,133,261
Change in net assets from operations	(3,781,328)	1,695,123	(2,086,205)
Other changes in non-operating activities:			
Net assets released from restrictions			
Buildings and equipment placed in service	333,655	(333,655)	—
Endowment investment income, net of expenses	—	1,743,106	1,743,106
Endowment contributions	—	679,567	679,567
Net change in split-interest agreements	—	(70,604)	(70,604)
TOTAL OTHER CHANGES IN NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$333,655	\$2,018,414	\$2,352,069
Change in net assets	(3,447,673)	3,713,537	265,864
Net Assets, beginning of year	33,908,763	34,607,988	68,516,751
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$30,461,090	\$38,321,525	\$68,782,615

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30.

2023

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
Tuition and fees	\$72,658,900	—	\$72,658,900
Less: scholarships and grants	(34,288,185)	—	(34,288,185)
NET STUDENT TUITION AND FEES	\$38,370,715	—	\$38,370,715
Auxiliary services	11,712,722	—	11,712,722
Contributions and private grants	1,428,558	6,967,434	8,395,992
Other income	1,152,808	—	1,152,808
Federal grants	1,166,395	—	1,166,395
Investment income, net of investment expenses	246,590	—	246,590
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of donor restrictions	650,250	(650,250)	—
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$54,728,038	\$6,317,184	\$61,045,222
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Program services:			
Instructional	17,261,246	—	17,261,246
Academic support	2,320,268	—	2,320,268
Student services	11,744,872	—	11,744,872
Auxiliary services	12,579,278	—	12,579,278
Support activities:			
Institutional support	14,419,713	—	14,419,713
Fundraising	950,965	—	950,965
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$59,276,342	—	\$59,276,342
Change in net assets from operations	(4,548,304)	6,317,184	1,768,880
Other changes in non-operating activities:			
Net assets released from restrictions			
Buildings and equipment placed in service	175,052	(175,052)	—
Loss on disposal of equipment	(237,068)	—	(237,068)
Endowment investment income, net of expenses	—	943,095	943,095
Endowment contributions	—	6,214,626	6,214,626
Net change in split-interest agreements	—	(20,733)	(20,733)
TOTAL OTHER CHANGES IN NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$(62,016)	\$6,961,936	\$6,899,920
Change in net assets	(4,610,320)	13,279,120	8,668,800
Net Assets, beginning of year	38,519,083	21,328,868	59,847,951
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$33,908,763	\$34,607,988	\$68,516,751

SCHOLARSHIPS

Altha A. Greear Endowed Scholarship
 Alumni Endowed Scholarship
 Art and Betty Price Endowed Scholarship
 Candi Thorne Endowed Scholarship
 Doti Tamburo Endowed Scholarship
 Flossie Way Endowed Scholarship
 Hopkins Family Endowed Scholarship
 Marie Smith Endowed Scholarship
 Mark Bell Memorial Scholarship
 Morris/Kuhl Inner-City Endowed Scholarship
 Nell Rediger Memorial Scholarship
 Renee Myers and Winthrop Stewart Endowed Scholarship
 Takashima-Campbell Endowed Scholarship
 The Hap Byers Endowed Scholarship
 The Jacquot Family Endowed Scholarship
 Truda Viola Fairris Litzmann Endowed Scholarship
 William J. Seymour Endowed Scholarship

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Charlotte McNutt Memorial Scholarship
 Dixie Arnold Endowed Scholarship
 Jeanie Beechan-Dukette Endowed Scholarship
 John Lackey Family Scholarship
 Markey-White Christian Educators Endowed Scholarship
 Marty and Seon Burbank Endowed Scholarship
 Mel and Marita McNutt Memorial Scholarship
 Myers-Haneke Endowed Scholarship
 Tom and Donna Watt Endowed Scholarship
 Ward Williams Christian Higher Education Endowed Scholarship
 Waymann and Charlene Carlson Memorial Scholarship

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Don and Marilyn Fontana Endowed Music Scholarship
 Edwin Elliott Endowed Music Scholarship
 Haynes/Kraiss Endowed Music Scholarship
 Holly Lash Visel Memorial Scholarship
 Linnie Olson Endowed Keyboard Scholarship

Mark Thallander Endowed Organ Scholarship
 Norma Willson Endowed Voice Scholarship
 Patricia Crouse Leggett Endowed Music Scholarship
 Ralph Carmichael Endowed Scholarship
 Ruby E. Merrill Endowed Scholarship
 Valdez Family Endowed Music Scholarship

PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

Jerre White Endowed Scholarship
 Myrna LeGrand Endowed Scholarship

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D.T. Jenkins Endowed Scholarship
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 Dorsey-Bogdan Endowed Scholarship
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 Florence Blossom Beck Endowed Scholarship
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 MaryBelle Sauter Cox Endowed Scholarship
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 Religion Endowed Scholarship
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 Robert and Marian Sauls Endowed Scholarship
 Ruby Keener Memorial Scholarship
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 Victor and Mona DeRouis Endowed Scholarship
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 William and Alma Williams Endowed Biblical Languages Award
 William Seaberg Endowed Scholarship
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 Willyla Bushnell Endowed Scholarship

SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Bonnie and John Livingston Endowed Scholarship
 Larry McHargue Endowed Science Scholarship
 The Dr. Virgil Galey, DDS Endowed Scholarship

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Doug and Iris Dee Barnes Athletic Scholarship

VETERANS SCHOLARSHIPS

Fletcher Jones Foundation Veterans Endowed Scholarship
 Veterans Endowed Scholarship in Memory of Thomas W and Katherine J Prince

GLOBAL CENTER FOR WOMEN AND JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIPS

GCWJ Survivors Endowed Scholarship

ENDOWED FUNDS

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 Artist in Residence
 Bruce Howard Lindsay Endowed Library Fund
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 Career Services & STEM Endowed Fund
 Charles and Virginia Tipton Endowed
 Donald Lorange and Larry McHargue Science Research Fellowship
 General Endowment
 Library Endowed Fund
 Patty Arvielo School of Business and Management Endowed Fund
 Valdez Family Endowed Fund

ENDOWED LECTURESHIPS

Bill and Joanne Larson Lecture for Ethics & Business
 Wayne E. Kraiss Distinguished Chapel Series