

A Legacy of Excellence

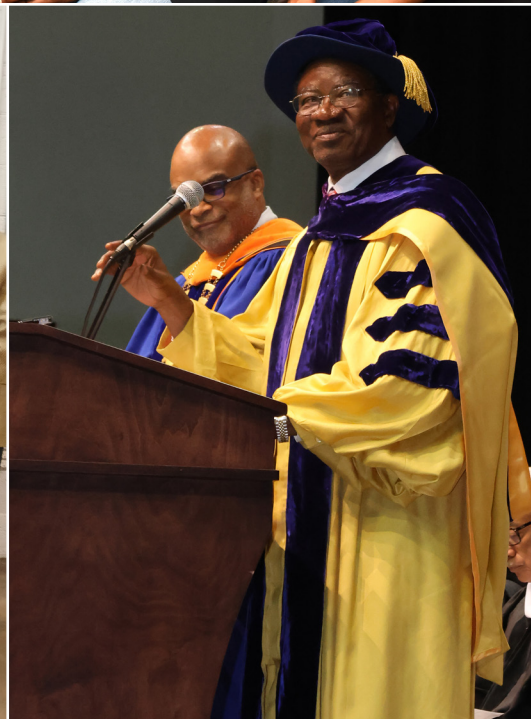
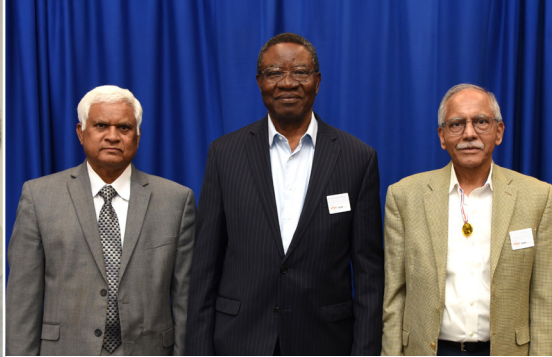
Honoring 37 Years of Impact at VSU



Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun

Dean Emeritus, Professor Emeritus, and Distinguished Professor

MAY 17, 2026



A Legacy of Excellence

Honoring Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun

Welcome

Mrs. Juliette Davis, Mistress of Ceremony

Invocation

Pastor Funmi Obilana

Occasion

Mrs. Juliette Davis

Message from the President

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

Special Tribute

Rev. Ayo Morton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Leadership Tribute

VSU Executive Leadership Team

Reflections

Dr. Charlie H. W. Hill

Deans' Tribute

VSU Deans

Faculty Recognition

Dr. Kenneth L. Lewis, Chair, VSU Faculty Senate

Student Reflections

Mr. Marquis Mason, SGA President

Colleague Remarks

Dr. Venkat Mummalaleni, Sr. Associate Dean

Dr. Hari Sharma, Associate Dean

Dr. Ephrem Eyob, Associate Dean

A Testament of Friendship

Dr. Adeyemi Adekoya

Family Tribute

Dr. Fisayo Omojokun

Dr. Lanre Omojokun Falusi

Celebration of Academic Excellence & Presentation of Honors

Dr. Tia A. Minnis

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Remarks

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun

Dean Emeritus, Professor Emeritus, and Distinguished Professor

Closing Toast

Dr. Willis W. Walter

Vice President for External Relations and Institutional Advancement



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Hayden Drive
Virginia State University, Virginia 23806

Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.
President

Telephone: (804) 524-5070

Dear Distinguished Guests, Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, and Friends of Virginia State University,

It is with profound gratitude and deep admiration that we gather to celebrate the remarkable career and enduring legacy of Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, whose decades of dedicated service have left an indelible mark on Virginia State University.

For more than three decades, Dr. Omojokun has exemplified the very best of academic leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment to student success. Since joining Virginia State University in 1989, he has served with distinction as professor, department chair, associate dean, and dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. In each role, he has demonstrated visionary leadership that has elevated our institution and transformed countless lives.



Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.

Dr. Omojokun's contributions to this University are extraordinary. As the founder of Virginia State University's Computer Science program, he laid the groundwork for innovation and technological advancement that continues to shape our academic future. His leadership in expanding academic offerings, fostering strategic partnerships, securing millions in research funding, and championing entrepreneurial excellence has strengthened both the College of Business and the University as a whole.

Beyond his many professional accomplishments, Dr. Omojokun has been a steadfast mentor, an inspiring educator, and a trusted leader whose passion for excellence has encouraged generations of students, faculty, and colleagues to aspire to greater heights. His commitment to service, scholarship, and institutional advancement reflects the very spirit of Virginia State University.

As we honor Dr. Omojokun's retirement, we also celebrate a legacy defined by innovation, integrity, and impact. Though his daily presence on our campus will be deeply missed, the foundation he has built and the lives he has influenced will continue to inspire our University community for years to come.

On behalf of Virginia State University, I extend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Omojokun for his exceptional service and offer heartfelt congratulations on this well-earned retirement. We wish him and his family continued joy, health, and fulfillment in this new chapter.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate a true Trojan leader whose contributions will forever remain a part of Virginia State University's history.

With sincere appreciation,

Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.
President

GREATER HAPPENS HERE

Office of the President

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Dear, Dr. Omojokun,

It is both a privilege and a profound honor to recognize you as you conclude an extraordinary 37-year career at Virginia State University. Across nearly four decades, your presence has shaped this institution in ways that will endure far beyond any title you have held. You have led with intention, with clarity, and with a quiet strength that has never sought recognition, yet has always commanded respect. Your work reflects a standard that is both exacting and inspiring, an enduring belief that excellence is not aspirational, but essential.

From your early years as a faculty member to your distinguished service as Dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, you have been a builder of possibility and an architect of dreams. You have guided the growth of academic programs that have opened doors for generations of students, strengthened the College's standing through accreditation and innovation, and cultivated partnerships that extend far beyond the University. Under your steadfast leadership, enrollment flourished, opportunities for students multiplied, and the College expanded its footprint across the region and beyond.

What distinguishes your legacy, however, is not only what you built, but how you carried that work forward. You have led by example in its purest form with discipline, with integrity, and with an unwavering commitment to those entrusted to your care. You have challenged faculty, staff, and students to move beyond what they believed possible, while standing beside them with the guidance and conviction to help them arrive there. You have not simply led, Dr. O, you have cultivated leaders.

I count myself among those who have learned from you. Your steadiness, your discernment, and your ability to see both the present and what lies ahead have left a lasting impression on me. You have been a model in every sense embodying leadership, scholarship, and a deep commitment to serving this institution with both intellect and heart. Your example has shown us what leadership looks like when it is principled, thoughtful, and grounded in purpose.

As we celebrate you, we also acknowledge the depth of what you leave behind: a college transformed, a university strengthened, and a community better because of your vision, your determination and your care. You have given so much of yourself to this institution, and in return, you have shaped its future in immeasurable ways. Your legacy lives in the lives you have transformed, the standards you have set, and the pathways you have created for others to follow.

As you enter this next chapter, please know that you carry with you the gratitude, admiration, and affection of an entire University. Virginia State University is stronger because of you, and I am personally grateful for the example you have modeled and the impact you have made.

With profound respect and heartfelt appreciation,



Dr. Tia A. Minnis



REFLECTIONS FROM FAMILY

A Tribute to a Lifetime of Service and Love

Thank you, God, for my darling husband has spent the last thirty-seven years pouring his soul into Virginia State University. We have walked side-by-side for over fifty years, and as I look back on our journey together, I am moved by the consistency of his character. Whether he was at our dinner table or in a lecture hall, he has always been the same man: prayerful, humble, hardworking, and profoundly kind and generous.

To our five children, you have been the ultimate role model. You didn't just tell them how to be successful; you showed them. You taught them that success isn't just about position, but about integrity and how you treat others. Today, seeing all five of them married and thriving, and seeing the joy in our nine grandchildren, I know that your greatest legacy isn't written in a resume—it is written in the lives of the family who adores you.

For thirty-seven years, VSU hasn't just been a workplace; it has been a calling. He didn't just see "students" in his classrooms; he saw what he affectionately called his "VSU children."

His commitment to them was tireless. He was never content with the status quo; he was always restlessly thinking, "What is next? What else can we do to ensure these students succeed?" He wanted the absolute best for all of his students and he celebrated their victories as if they were his own. I have been asked many times what it's like to be the spouse of someone so dedicated to their work. My answer has always been simple: I supported him fully because I believed in his mission as much as he did. I knew that by supporting him, I was helping him do more for the university and the students he loved so dearly. It has been my joy to be the wind at his back for all these years.

Darling, you are a man of deep peace and immense humility. You never sought the spotlight, yet today, the spotlight finds you. As you retire from VSU, you leave behind a university that is better because you were here, and a generation of students who are standing taller because you believed in them.

Congratulations on thirty-seven years of excellence. The books may be closing on this chapter, but I am so looking forward to the next one by your side.

I love you.

~Mrs. Rachel Omojokun

In 1986, when I was eight years old, I decided I wanted to be a computer scientist, even though I had never actually touched a computer. The reason was simple: my father was a computer scientist. Even then, I understood that he was someone worth emulating, not just in the way children often admire their parents, but because I sensed something exceptional in him even before I had words for it. Whatever profession he had chosen, I would have believed it was awesome.

I eventually used many computers, and I followed him into the field, but what I actually learned from him had nothing to do with code. Today, as he retires after decades at VSU, rising from assistant professor to dean, I see clearly what I sensed as a child. His career has been defined by integrity, curiosity, and a deep commitment to the people around him. He has shaped students, supported colleagues, strengthened programs, and left a legacy that extends far beyond the boundaries of this campus.

Congratulations, Dad, on a remarkable journey and a life of meaningful impact; and thank you for being such a great role model for me, my brothers and sisters.

~Fisayo Omojokun

"There are those whose light does not diminish when they leave a room because they have quietly placed that light in everyone around them."

Today, we pause joyfully, gratefully, and with hearts full of celebration to honor a distinguished man who has been so much more than a title or a post. Professor Dr. Emmanuel Omotayo Omojokun, a scholar, a builder of minds, a servant of knowledge, and for those of us privileged to call him family, an enduring source of inspiration and immeasurable pride. For over 37 years, he walked through the doors of VSU not merely as an employee but as a steward who carried the trust with extraordinary grace, intellectual rigor, and an unflinching commitment to excellence, qualities that became his signature and legacy.

As Faculty Dean, he understood that a great institution is not made of buildings or budgets, but of the quality of its ideas and the character of its people. His classroom was not a place where knowledge was merely dispensed but also a living laboratory of possibility, where students who arrived uncertain of their potential left certain of their purpose. Generations of young men and women who now lead organizations, run enterprises, and advance their communities carry within them the imprint of his teaching, his questions, his challenges, and his belief in them when they could not yet believe in themselves.

Beyond the lecture hall and the dean's office, there is another story, one told not in journals or institutional reports, but in the quiet language of family. An accomplished family man and community leader, blessed with a virtuous wife and immensely talented and God-fearing children. To those of us who share his name and his blood, Professor Omojokun is "Uncle," whom I regard as a father figure (my kids call him "Our US Grandpa") who carries a weight of admiration, gratitude, and love that few titles can match. He made excellence look attainable, showed the younger generation what was possible when talent is married to discipline, and purpose is married to persistence. His journey from Nigeria to the pinnacle of American academia was never just his own story; it was a lamp lit for all of us who came after him, proof that the world is wide and that the Omojokun name could be carried with distinction on any continent and in any room. Daddy, your recommendation to my Principal Investigator (Dist. Prof. Timothy Ratliff) was the final icing on the cake for his decision to hire me as a Postdoc in his lab in 2022.

Retirement is not a conclusion. For a man of Professor Omojokun's stature and vitality, it is a magnificent beginning, a season-long earned and richly deserved, in which the rhythms of his days are finally and entirely his own. May every morning greet you with the warmth that you so generously gave to others. And may you continually abide in the truth and knowledge of Christ for the world to be better, brighter, and more learned because you were in it, giving all that you had, for all those years.

With boundless admiration, celebration, and love from

~Dr. Olasunkanmi Seun Omojokun & Family

We are so proud of our Dad as he retires after more than 35 years of dedicated service to Virginia State University, where he built his career as a Professor and Dean of the School of Business. But to our family, his legacy extends far beyond the university. He is someone who has never been content to use his skills in just one place—whether modernizing computer systems at VSU, mentoring students into successful careers, or raising five children who all followed paths rooted in helping, teaching, and building. He taught us by example to love learning even in the smaller, quieter moments, like reading the encyclopedia for fun or watching the news show "20/20" to understand what was happening in the world.

None of this would have been possible without our mom, his partner in



every sense of the word. While Dad poured himself into his students and his university, she held our family together – working, raising 5 kids, and still making sure both of them were there to cheer us on. They are a true team. Today, on behalf of his 5 children and 9 grandchildren, we celebrate not just a remarkable career but a remarkable example. And if we know Dad, retirement will look a lot like what came before it, only with an even longer to-do list. Congratulations, Dad!

-Lanre (Omojokun) Falusi, daughter

Dad, we are so proud of you and the legacy that you are leaving here at VSU. As the youngest of your 5 children, much of what I have learned about the journey of you finishing your doctoral training and then beginning your career has been from the stories that you, Mom, and my older siblings have shared. So much of it sounds like old mythical legends—full of love, sacrifice, leadership, and overcoming the odds. I am so grateful that the part of your story that I have been present for has only been proof that those old legends are completely believable. Over the years, I have been able to watch you work so diligently to prepare for teaching your students, upgrade the university's networks (both their computer networks and their relational networks within the community), become Dean of the College of Business, and develop the first MBA program in a Virginia HBCU, and these feats only mirrored your dedication to our family at home.

As a lifelong teacher, you have helped to foster a love of education in each one of us. In our computer room—back when people had a whole room dedicated just to the house computer(s), you had a library lining the wall, full of books and other resources on a wide range of topics. I remember growing up spending my weekends and summers trying to beat my latest record in Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, figuring out how to make basic webpages from HTML for Dummies, and using the Encyclopedia Britannica CD set to do write-ups on random animals just for fun. By filling our home with educational resources, and providing for all of our other needs, you—and Mom—created an environment that cultivated an interest and passion for learning in all of us, sometimes without even having to say a word. There are so many other things that I could say about the way you have loved and supported us, disciplined and guided us, and just had fun and danced with us, but I will conclude by just saying thank you for all of the lessons that you have taught us, often by being the first example. Congratulations, Dad!

-Tolu Omojokun

If you know our dad, you already know he fostered a home environment where learning could flourish. He knew, instinctively, that a house full of curiosity is a house full of possibility — and he wanted us to feel, from the very beginning, that anything we set our minds to was within our reach. None of it would have been possible without our mom, whose quiet love and steady sacrifice were the foundation our father built upon. Together, they

gave us a childhood where we were endlessly encouraged, deeply loved, and never once made to wonder whether someone believed in us.

One of my favorite childhood memories is of a pseudo-contest we kids invented, hunting through the pages of the several big, leather-bound dictionaries that lined our shelves to find the word with the most definitions. It was the kind of game only our father's children would think to play — and exactly the kind he quietly encouraged. The search broadened our vocabulary, sharpened our patience, and taught us that knowledge rewards the people who go looking for it.

The word, it turns out, is “run.” And whether you are running your very first computer program, running a marathon, or running a thriving business, you would want our dad by your side: to encourage you until you believe you can do it, to advise you with the profound wisdom and life experience he has earned over decades, and to celebrate with you when you cross the finish line — already asking what you plan to do next.

My brothers and sisters reading this are nodding knowingly. If you are one of his former students reading this, you are nodding knowingly. If you have had the privilege of being his colleague at VSU, you are nodding knowingly. And if you have ever even shaken his hand, I imagine you are nodding knowingly too.

-Shola Omojokun

I am excited to write a tribute to celebrate the retirement of my father, Dr Emmanuel Omojokun. A tribute should be a gift or a statement to honor someone. It is only fitting we are honoring my great Dad who has been sharing his gifts with us for so many years. The growth of Virginia State University is a tribute to his work ethic and passion for academics.

Our close-knit family is also a tribute to his love for our mother, his children and grandchildren. It is truly remarkable how he has been able to balance both his work life and family life by making personal sacrifices.

Words alone cannot express what my father means in our lives. If I were to list some words to describe my father it would be: faith, dedication, perseverance and love. I am still amazed he had the time and energy to spend time with us and remain indispensable at the university. He played basketball with us. He surprised us at our school when we received an award while he himself does not like surprises.

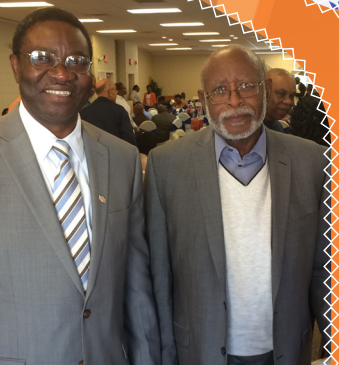
I hope Dad you now take the time to enjoy yourself. There is nobody more deserving of an enjoyable retirement. I wish you congratulations as you enter your next chapter in life.

-Morayo Omojokun



A Legacy of Excellence

Honoring 37 Years of Impact at VSU





A Tribute to Thirty-Seven Years of Teaching, Research, Service, and Enduring Legacy

The Story of Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun and Virginia State University

Once upon a time, in a place whose roots reach back to 1882, a young scholar arrived at Virginia State University and stepped into more than a job. He stepped into a legacy.

By the time Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun joined the faculty in 1989 as an Assistant Professor, Virginia State University had already traveled more than a century from its founding as the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, through its evolution as a historic 1890 land-grant institution, to the name it bears today. He entered VSU at a time when the University's proud history was already well established, but when much of its future, especially in technology, innovation, and modern academic infrastructure, was still waiting to be built.

Dr. Omojokun arrived not merely to teach, but to help shape what Virginia State University could become. In those early years, He arrived to teach in the Department of Information Systems & Decision Sciences, the department that would later become the Department of Computer Information Systems., bringing with him deep preparation in mathematics and computer science and a rare ability to connect technical expertise to institutional need. Very quickly, his role grew beyond the classroom. By 1991, he was serving as Director of the Institute on Computing, a unit created through the Provost's Office, and soon after he was entrusted with additional leadership as VSU's SCHEV Liaison. These were not small assignments. They were signs that the University had recognized in him not only a professor, but a builder, a strategist, and a steward of its academic future.

And build he did. In 1994, Dr. Omojokun was solely responsible for establishing the Computer Science program at Virginia State University, developing the curriculum, securing approvals, and teaching all of the first year's courses himself. At a time when technology was reshaping society, he helped ensure that VSU students would not be left

behind, but prepared to lead. He designed the first computer network on campus, helped bring internet connectivity and fiber optic infrastructure to the University, and later built systems that strengthened advising, curriculum auditing, and academic administration. In other words, he did not simply teach in a changing University, he helped wire the future of that University into existence.

Over the years, the professor became a leader, and the leader became an institution-builder. Dr. Omojokun rose from Assistant Professor, to Associate Professor, to Professor, then to Chair, Associate Dean, and ultimately Dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business in 2014. Along the way, he continued to teach, mentor, research, and serve. He created the Cyber Security and Forensics minor, established the Center for Entrepreneurship, supported the development of a minor in Entrepreneurship, and led the effort that brought the MBA program to life. As Dean, he guided the College through multiple AACSB reaccreditation successes and contributed to VSU's broader accreditation work. As a scholar and research leader, he amassed a portfolio of more than \$25 million in funded proposals and projects involving the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, and other partners. As a public servant of the institution, he also helped lead the first major study quantifying VSU's economic impact, demonstrating how deeply the University contributes to the region and the Commonwealth.

Yet the true measure of thirty-seven years is not found only in titles, grants, programs, or committees. It is found in people. It is found in the students who sat in his classrooms and stepped into careers in technology, business, and leadership. It is found in the faculty he mentored from assistant professor to tenure, from associate professor to full professor, and in the deans and colleagues he helped guide with wisdom earned through steady service.

It is found in the respect of peers, the trust of administrators, the gratitude of students, and the stronger Virginia State University that stands today because he answered its call with fidelity, intellect, and vision.

That is why his journey now leads naturally to honors that bear the University's deepest esteem: Distinguished Professor, Professor Emeritus, and Dean Emeritus. These honors do not create his legacy. They simply name what thirty-seven years have already made plain. They recognize a life's work built patiently, deliberately, and faithfully, year after year, student after student, program after program, building upon the foundation of those who came before him while preparing the way for those who will come after him.

So this is the story of Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun and Virginia State University: a story that began with a young faculty member entering a historic institution and grew, year by year, into a legacy of teaching, research, innovation, leadership, and faithful service. He came to VSU when much was still to be imagined, and he helped imagine it. He came when much was still to be built, and he helped build it. He came to serve, and in serving, he helped transform.

And now, after thirty seven years of building, he leaves more than programs, systems, and titles. He leaves people. He leaves students prepared to strike out into the world with knowledge, confidence, and purpose. He leaves faculty strengthened by his mentorship and leadership. He leaves colleagues and future generations a model of what it means to serve an institution not for a moment, but for a lifetime. That is the legacy of Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun: a legacy built in sequence, over thirty-seven years, through teaching, research, and service, and one that will continue to live wherever the sons and daughters of Virginia State University go forth to lead, to serve, and to make their mark upon the world.

In Appreciation of a Remarkable Journey



Greetings Dr. Omojokun!

It has truly been a pleasure working with you. I have a great deal of respect for leaders who collaborate with others at every level of the institution, and your willingness to do so speaks volumes about your character and integrity.

Before I even stepped foot on campus, I heard about your leadership and the positive impact you have made on the University. You have long been regarded as a respected and steady presence, and that reputation has proven to be well deserved.

You are truly a gem, and I am glad to see you receiving the flowers you so rightfully deserve.

Wishing you a joyful and fulfilling retirement. With gratitude and respect,

~**Mr. Breyon J. Glenn**

Dr. Omojokun,

With my deepest gratitude, thank you for your unwavering support for dual enrollment opportunities at Virginia State University. From the beginning, your willingness to welcome me, listen, and support helped lay the foundation for the Applied Business and Technology dual-enrollment pathway, which will be available to students across Virginia and beyond.

Your encouragement, insight, and leadership have left a lasting impression on me, one that will continue to shape opportunities for future dual enrollment students. You set a standard of excellence and generosity for me to follow and to model for others.

As you enter this well-deserved season of retirement, I wish you abundant joy, peace, and rest. I pray that your days bring fulfillment and the satisfaction of knowing the profound and sustaining impact of your work. I know that your next chapter will find you continuing to inspire and support the greater Virginia State University community.

With deepest appreciation and warmest wishes,

~**Dr. Sharon B. Lassiter**

Martin Luther King, Jr said that, "Life's most persistent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" For 37 years, you've lived the answer to that question. Your leadership, integrity, and embodiment of Virginia State University's culture have been transformational and indelible. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

~**Dr. Gabriella Waters**

Dr. Omojokun's legacy is personified in the lives he has touched and shaped, the standards he has elevated, and the wisdom he has so generously shared. His discerning eye; whether reviewing documents, offering advice or guiding professional conduct simply reflects a commitment to excellence that challenges others to rise higher. Through his mentorship and unwavering dedication, he has modeled what it means to serve with purpose, lead with integrity, and leave an enduring imprint on the students, staff, faculty and the entire VSU community. Thank you for giving your very best!

~**Dr. Benedict Uzochukwu**

Dear Dr. Omojokun,

Congratulations on your retirement and on an extraordinary 37 years of distinguished service to Virginia State University! I feel truly fortunate to have worked with you for nearly ten years.

You consistently led with professionalism, respect, and a steady smile, while holding high standards and expecting excellence. Though known as a rigorous administrator, you were deeply admired by students—a reflection of your genuine commitment to them and to the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business.

Your leadership and example have left a lasting impact on the university and

on those of us who worked with you. I wish you all the best in a well-deserved and fulfilling retirement.

With sincere congratulations and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

~**Annie C. Redd, Ed.D., Chief of Staff, Office of the President**

Dr. Omojokun has been a strong supporter and champion of my work in student success and AI. I have always appreciated his encouragement, vision, and willingness to support new ideas. He will always stand out to me as an example of what innovation and leadership should look like.

Thank you, **Brian L. Sayre, Ph.D.**

Dr. O's smile opened the door, but his purpose set the standard. With warmth and quiet resolve, he made it clear that student success was not optional but a priority for everyone.

~**Rodney D. Hall**

Working with you has truly been a pleasure. Your calm, steady presence and professionalism never went unnoticed. Your legacy and impact at Virginia State University are etched in stone. Wishing you a well-earned and fulfilling retirement.

~**Jameelah Scott**

I have always found Dr. O to be brilliant, kind, and deeply responsive, a true champion for his students and a steady example of what it means to handle business with integrity and purpose. His leadership has never been about visibility but about impact, and that distinction has shaped both people and possibilities across this institution. I will miss his soft wit, his enduring smile, and the quiet confidence he carried into every room.

~**Gabrielle D. Pina, Ph.D.**

Farewell and Congratulations

Dr. Omojokun,

Congratulations on your retirement and a warm welcome to the Retirement Club. This milestone marks the beginning of a new chapter, and I hope it brings you joy and relaxation.

Reflecting on Our Collaboration

I truly appreciated our professional relationship. Your insightful budget questions and our many conversations about the various happenings within the College of Business made a lasting impact on me. Working alongside you was a great privilege.

Gratitude for Your Service

Thank You for your dedicated service to our university. I look forward to seeing you on the "Cruise Ship," enjoying the well-deserved rewards of retirement.

Best Wishes, **Val Berry, "The Money Lady", CFO, Reginald F. Lewis College Of Business**

Thank you Dr. Omojokun for your mentorship, partnership, and friendship over the years. Your leadership and unwavering commitment to Virginia State University have made a lasting impact on the students, faculty and staff of the institution. Congratulations on completing 37 years of dedicated service and best wishes in retirement!

~**Daniel Roberts, Ed.D.**

Dr. Omojokun,

Congratulations on your retirement! I'm still convinced you're the one who



brought the internet to VSU, and honestly, that alone deserves a lifetime achievement award!

On a more serious note, I want to thank you for the way you lead. Your calm spirit, steady presence, and the genuine respect you show others have always stood out to me. There's a reason I tend to find a seat beside you in meetings, I've learned a lot just by being in your orbit.

I also deeply appreciate your responsiveness and your integrity. You always follow through and keep your word. That matters more than people often say.

You leave behind an incredible legacy at VSU and within the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. Wishing you all the best in this next chapter... you've certainly earned it!

~**Jewel Bronaugh, Ph.D.**

I extend my sincere congratulations to our esteemed and legendary Dean on the occasion of his retirement. His years of dedicated service have left an indelible mark on the university. I have long admired Dr. O for the professionalism and poise with which he conducts himself. His unwavering commitment to his students is evident in the lasting impact he has made, instilling in them a profound sense of professionalism, integrity, and purpose.

~**Kevin W. Davenport**

Dr. Omojokun:

Congratulations on your retirement. It gives me great pleasure to have had the opportunity of working with you during your tenure here at Virginia State University. You have been an inspiration to me and so many others at VSU. You have made an outstanding contribution and left a legacy that surpasses others, but now it is time for you to spend time with your family and loved ones, relax, and enjoy your retirement. I pray and hope that you enjoy as many years of retirement as you invested here at Virginia State University. May God continue to shower blessings upon you.

With Trojan Love – **Dorothy “Dot” Yancey.**

Dr. Omojokun has been invaluable to the Career Services office and the career readiness for our students. He continues to elevate our students to the next level of professional excellence.

~**Joseph Lyons**

Dr. Omojokun's distinguished career, spanning nearly four decades of dedicated service to Virginia State University, stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence and the advancement of our institution. I have had the privilege of working closely with him for the past 18 years—first as fellow Department Chairs in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, and later in my role as Associate Dean during his tenure as Dean.

When Dr. Omojokun assumed the deanship, the College faced a period of significant challenge and uncertainty. With steady leadership, sound judgment, and quiet resolve, he guided the College through those turbulent times. Like a seasoned captain, he not only steadied the ship but set it on a clear and purposeful course, ensuring that it continued to perform at a high level.

What has always stood out to me is the manner in which he led—with both strength and empathy. He earned the respect and loyalty of faculty and staff by consistently supporting and nurturing their growth, while also representing the College with distinction across the University. Through his service on key committees, he became a trusted and influential voice—one who carried the confidence of both colleagues and the administration.

As Dr. Omojokun prepares to retire, he leaves behind not only a strong and well-positioned College, but also a community of colleagues who hold him in the highest regard. His legacy is reflected not just in institutional accomplishments, but in the goodwill, respect, and admiration he has cultivated over the years.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for continued success, fulfillment, and happiness in his well-deserved retirement.

~**Dr. Venkat Mummalaneni, Senior Associate Dean
Reginald F. Lewis College of Business**

Dr. Omojokun,

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your extraordinary 37 years of service to Virginia State University. Your impact on this institution, its students, and the broader community is both profound and enduring.

I am personally grateful for your leadership, your unwavering commitment to excellence, and the way you have consistently placed students at the center of your work. You have not only taught students, you have believed in them, invested in them, and made their success your highest priority. That legacy will live on in the countless lives you have touched.

Your stewardship of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business has been exemplary. You have led with strategic vision, innovation, and integrity, positioning the College for continued growth and distinction. Your leadership has set a standard that will guide us for years to come.

Thank you. You will be deeply missed, but your legacy of excellence will continue to inspire and shape this institution.

With sincere appreciation,

~**Dr. Tia A. Minnis**

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your outstanding leadership and dedication as Dean of the School of Business. Your impact on students, faculty, and the entire university community will be felt for years to come. Wishing you a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and many new adventures ahead.

~**Myra H. Phillips**

Dr. O,

As you prepare to retire after 37 remarkable years of service to Virginia State University, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the lasting impact you have made on this institution and on those of us fortunate enough to work alongside you.

Your leadership has been defined not only by your deep commitment to VSU, but also by the care, wisdom, and compassion you consistently extended to others. On a personal note, I am especially grateful for the support and encouragement you have shown me in my role as Dean. Your guidance has meant a great deal, and I will carry those lessons with me.

You leave behind a legacy of integrity, dedication, and genuine care for this university community. While your presence will be deeply missed, your influence will continue to shape the work we do moving forward.

Wishing you all the best in this next chapter—may it be filled with rest, joy, and continued fulfillment.

~**Dr. Isis N. Walton**

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you for now more than a decade in my capacity as Chair of the College's Industry Council(s). I have always appreciated your enthusiasm, optimism and celebratory appraisal of your College. Your commitment to your faculty/staff, alumni, industry and of course students distinguishes you and merits a special debt of gratitude from everyone so fortunate to have worked with you.

~**Bernard Robinson**

Wow!!!! Dr. O literally made me understand the importance of excellence on every level!!!

~**Lionel King**

A Legacy That Will Always Be Remembered



Congrats!!! Good for him!! Definitely one of my favorite people at VSU! He taught me a lot!

~**Torkorche' Ferguson**

Thank you Dr. Omojokun for all of your hard work and dedication to VSU!. Thank you for your encouragement way back in 2018 when I was overwhelmed but so close to the finish line. Because of you and a few others I walked across the stage, I am forever grateful. CONGRATULATIONS on your retirement!!!

~**Lniquebone Freeman**

It is with great pride that I recognize and celebrate Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun for his distinguished service and outstanding leadership as Dean of Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Omojokun demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, student success, and the advancement of the university's mission. His leadership, scholarship, and dedication have left an enduring mark on the Virginia State University community. Through his mentorship and guidance, he has influenced the lives of countless students, faculty, and colleagues, helping to shape future leaders and strengthen the academic foundation of the institution. Dr. Omojokun's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. As he enters this well-deserved retirement, we extend our deepest appreciation for his many contributions and wish him continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in the years ahead. With sincere gratitude and congratulations,

~**Willie C. Randall**

As a 2010 graduate of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your leadership and dedication during your tenure as Dean. I truly appreciate everything you have brought to the school and to Virginia State University as a whole. Thank you for your service and commitment to our success. Best regards,

~**Ryan Gilbreath**

I am writing to show my gratitude, and thank you for your leadership at the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business and, more importantly, for the personal mentorship you've provided. Your ability to lead by example has set a high bar for what it means to be a business professional and student-centric. I have particularly valued the way in which you were always open to conversation and a new way of doing things, especially coming from a students' perspective. Which gave the belief and warmth that we were truly a part of something greater. Thank you for investing your time not just in my growth, but for a future that extends far beyond. I wish you all the best, thank you!

~**Nigel Stewart**

We met when I was a member of the Board of Visitors (BOV) of Virginia State University and you were the Faculty Representative to the Board. I chaired the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on which we worked together. You were our connection to the rest of the faculty. It was my pleasure working with you and I was not at all surprised when you were named Dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, previously known as the School of Business. That name change was made during our time with the BOV. I felt a strong connection as we talked, because I am a graduate of VSU and the then School of Business. I remember walking through Singleton Hall looking at how the building had changed since my time there. My class ('66) was the first to hold classes in Singleton after it was built. My husband, Jimmie, later surprised me by naming a room in my honor in Singleton Hall. He got help pulling off the surprise from you, Jonathan Young and Louis Dabney. Dr. "O" thank you for all you gave to Virginia State University and I wish you a most relaxing and wonderful retirement. Come back to visit,

~**Barbara Steverson**

Dr. Omojokun's leadership during the latter part of my time at Virginia State University left a lasting impression on me. His commitment to excellence and strengthening connections between the School of Business and industry was evident both as a student and later as a member of the Industry Council. Congratulations on a remarkable tenure and best wishes for continued success and fulfillment in this next chapter. Thanks,

~**Marnelle Fanfan**

Dr. Omojokun - Congratulations on your retirement after 37 years of dedicated service to Virginia State University! As Dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, your leadership, mentorship, and commitment to excellence—including launching the MBA program—have transformed countless lives. Thank you for your profound impact on the Trojan community. Wishing you much joy and relaxation in this next chapter! Thanks,

~**Drexel N. Harris**

Dr. Omojokun, enjoy the retirement. Your 37 years of service are truly remarkable. I was greatly impacted by leadership at the School of Business and your positive influence at Virginia State University, like the first AACSB-accredited MBA Program at a public HBCU in Virginia. Thank you!

~**Elton Wright**

Congratulations on an incredible 37 years of dedicated service to VSU! Your commitment, leadership, and impact have helped shape countless lives and strengthen the university community in lasting ways. Nearly four decades of hard work, wisdom, and excellence is truly something to celebrate. As you step into retirement, may this next chapter be filled with well-deserved rest, new adventures, joy, and all the things you didn't have time for before. Thank you for the legacy you leave behind — VSU is better because of you. Wishing you a happy and fulfilling retirement!

~**Jada A. Moore**

Congratulations Dr O. Thank you for the incredible support and encouragement. Enjoy your next chapter.

~**Abolade Ajibolade**

Dr. Omojokun is one of a kind! An exceptional visionary leader!

~**Sabin P. Duncan**

Congratulations Dr. O. Thank you for the incredible work you did at our beloved VSU.

~**Adrian Petway**

Dr. O is amazing! As the mom of a VSU RFLCB student, I'm appreciative of all the ways he's vested in his students' successes. Enjoy your retirement Dr. O!

~**Connie Day McClinton**

Above all else, Dr. O has an incredible heart, and we will miss him!

~**Katelyn Bendinsky**

Wow !! Well deserved!

~**Whitney Barner**

Congratulations Dr. O!!

~**Eric Hunter**

Few persons will leave an oversized impact on any organization as significant as what Dr. Omojokun achieved in nearly four decades at VSU.

~Jonathan Young

Leadership is measured not merely by position, but by influence and lasting impact. You embody both with rare distinction. A remarkable leader, an exceptional administrator, a devoted mentor—and above all, a man of deep faith and character. A leader of few, gentle, yet profoundly powerful words that carried uncommon strength. It is a true honor to call you my mentor and a blessing to have known you at VSU. Wishing you a retirement filled with joy, purpose, and continued impact.

~Oluwarotimi Odeh



Congratulations, Dr. Omojokun! Thank you for 37 remarkable years of dedication, leadership, and service to Virginia State University. Your commitment to education and to the success of your students and colleagues has made a lasting impact on the university community. Your dedication to innovation, excellence, and student success has created a legacy that will continue to benefit the university for many years to come. Wishing you a joyful and well-deserved retirement filled with new opportunities, continued inspiration, and many rewarding moments ahead. With sincere gratitude and congratulations on an extraordinary career.

~Donovan McCrea

Congratulations Dr. O!!! Thanks for decades of dedication and service!!! Enjoy the next chapter.

~Patricia A. Perry

Excellent work, Dr. O! Enjoy the next chapter.

~Kenya C. Ramey

Congratulations Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun! Enjoy your retirement!

~Jade Davis

Congratulations on your retirement, and thank you for your years of leadership and dedication to the College of Business. I have always appreciated the positive impact your leadership has had on the school and its students, myself included. Wishing you all the best in this well-earned next chapter. Sincerely,

~Brandan Christian

Congratulations on your retirement, and thank you for your dedicated leadership of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. Your impact on students, faculty, and the broader university community will be lasting. Wishing you continued success and fulfillment in this next chapter.

~Ricky Parker

Congratulations on your retirement. Your leadership and dedication at the VSU School of Business have made a lasting impact on so many of us. Thank you for the guidance, inspiration, and high standards you brought to every day. Wishing you joy and fulfillment in this next chapter. With appreciation,

~Latoria Henderson

Congratulations on your retirement, Dean! Your leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence at VSU have left a lasting legacy in the School of Business.

~Rodney and LaChanda Lee

Thank you for your unmatched leadership as the Dean of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. For you, leadership is not just a word. It is creative action for which many stories abound. For example: leading the campus disruption for the installation of internet, securing millions in grants, launching a Cyber Security program and creating the Center for Entrepreneurship. And of course, your latest success, the MBA Program. There are just too many actions to account for! Except the prestigious AACSB accreditation! But to me the most important action was your recognizing who your customer is: your students. They were always first with you. Your belief in them inspired others. Your Student Success Fund combined with the Experiential Education program provides students with real world experiences which prepares them for day one on the job. This is invaluable!

And as a former member of the Alumni Advisory Board, I watched with pride as our students excelled at every mission on which you sent them. So, congratulations Dr. O, for your almost 40 years of love, dedication and commitment to our beloved Virginia State University.

~Brenda Stith Finch

My goodness Dr. Omojokun! I wish you the very best in a much-deserved retirement, but boy will we miss you! You are a precious jewel in VSU's crown, and I can't imagine the university without you. Wishing only wonderful adventures in your next act!

~Jane Harris

It has been a privilege to serve under your leadership. Your dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact on our academic community. Thank you so much for your years of service.

~JK Hwang

Dr. O., thank you for everything. Some around campus would say that you have spoiled me. I rather say you have shown me with being a superb leader looks like and I am forever grateful. Enjoy retirement why because you absolutely deserve it. You are loved & appreciated.

~Taneisha Brown

Congratulations on your retirement, Dr. Omojokun, and on a truly distinguished career. Your leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business have made a lasting impact on students, faculty, and the broader VSU community. Thank you for your years of service and for the legacy you leave behind. As you enter this well-earned retirement, I hope you take time to celebrate your many accomplishments, relax, and enjoy this exciting new chapter. You have certainly earned it!

~Aurelia Donald

Dr. Omojokun as a professor and subsequently as Dean of the College of Business, your distinguished leadership, principled service, and unwavering commitment to academic excellence profoundly strengthened our institution and advanced its mission. As a colleague and friend, I remain sincerely appreciative of your counsel, professionalism, and mentorship, which have had a lasting and meaningful influence on many of the faculty, staff and on Virginia State University. I wish you the best in your retirement.

~Ephrem Eyob

Dr. Omojokun, it has been an honor and a pleasure working with you over the years. Thank you for your outstanding service to Virginia State University's Reginald F. Lewis College of Business and for believing in me. Your support has meant more than words can express, and I am forever grateful. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement, and may God continue to bless you richly. Best regards,

~Sharon Taylor

Congratulations on your retirement. Thank you for your kindness, encouragement, and support during my time as your purchasing officer for the College of Business. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Wishing you a wonderful and fulfilling retirement. ~Bernita Green

Continued...



Family, colleagues and loved ones, it is with a gladsome heart, I want to acknowledge and celebrate Dr. Emmanuel O. Omojokun, today and always, on behalf of Virginia State University (VSU), and the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business (RFLCB). I also want to express a profound gratitude to our most esteemed Honoree – the one and only Dr. O! For the benefit of those who might not be privy to our shared experience, I have known him for more than 50 years now since our days together at the University of Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria. He was a member of the Academic staff, and I was a student at that time. In fact, I would not be immodest to share that he was instrumental to my employment here at the university in the early 1990s when I arrived at VSU. So, it is a joyful obligation to contribute in a little human way, to his retirement party knowing fully well that he deserves even more than this token of appreciation. I make bold to say that over the years that I have known him, he has consistently proven himself as a person of quality with a high-bar and almost perfectionist tendencies. Academically, Dr. O. was a child of promise and was bright and smart from early life. He graduated (First Class/Summa Cum Laude) with Distinction from the prestigious University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He thereafter, proceeded to University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and finally, to the University of Colorado where he completed his academic training and higher degrees culminating in a Ph.D. in Computer Science. His academic prowess at his North American Universities was no less impressive than the pace-setting standards he established in college in Nigeria. Professionally, his resume speaks volumes about him, and his accomplishments can therefore, not be spoken about in whispers. He is a smart-hard individual and worker whose capacity for sheer hard work has never been in question nor controvertible. Hard work apart, he is extremely generous and would readily extend himself to people, particularly, the needy and the less unfortunate in society. It is relevant to point out that his tenure and work-life here at VSU have been defined by service, courage and enduring commitment to RFLCB in particular, and VSU in general. His life stands out as a testament to good leadership and impactful service. His commitment to meritocracy and excellence is beyond reproach. He literally brought his wealth of experience and expertise to the Deanship; a role that further strengthened RFLCB richness and reach thereby, supporting the overall VSU's development agenda. This clearly reflects the administration's dedication to building a competent, results-oriented vision and team, capable of meeting our students, faculty and staff needs. Also, it is on record that he almost-singlehandedly introduced the "Internet" as we knew it to VSU, and led the building of a modern-day digital capacity here on campus, by helping ab initio, to install, configure, and implement the very first computer-network at Virginia State University. I would be remiss if I do not also share some of the other attributes that characterize him: for he is a quintessential family man, larger-than-life personality, and an incredible teacher and mentor, to literally hundreds of his learning-audience and students (both past and present). He is an administrator extraordinaire, who has a significant interest in, and sincere love for his administrative sphere-of-influence and far beyond. For him, it is God, his family, and his official responsibilities or nothing. He is physically and figuratively a towering figure who exudes hands-on leadership and academic excellence. Overall, Dr. O. deliberately and without fail, forges the growth and development of our prized family here at RFLCB - students, and of course, the staff and Faculty – he has from time immemorial, been our NorthStar! Dr. O. will definitively leave a legacy of excellence, distinction and achievement and completion, that I believe are prerequisites for a great and successful retirement and latter life's twilight. We are grateful to you sir, your exemplary life, your family and your stellar accomplishments here at RFLCB, VSU at-large, and more. May God continue to keep you and bless you. We wish you God's speed. Bravo!

~Adeyemi A. Adekoya

Dr. Omojokun, as you retire from Virginia State University and the RFL College of Business, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the profound impact you've had on my journey. Under your leadership, I not only served as a student but truly grew as an individual. With your full support, I had the honor of walking across the stage as the university's high-ranking senior

in the Spring of 2019, an achievement I will always carry with pride. Because of your commitment to creating opportunities, I was able to attend the PhD Project and participate in organizations like Beta Gamma Sigma, experiences that have shaped my aspirations in meaningful ways. Thank you as well for the opportunity to return after completing my master's degree to serve as an adjunct faculty member, an experience that solidified my decision to pursue a PhD in Finance. Your belief in me has made all the difference. Thank you, Dr. Omojokun. I hope your next chapter is as fulfilling as this one, and I look forward to inviting you to my graduation. Very Respectfully,

~Tiffany Tucker

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest appreciation to the retiring Dean of the RFL College of Business, Dr. Omojokun, for a remarkable career defined by vision, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. While your presence will be greatly missed, your retirement marks the beginning of a well-earned new chapter, one filled with pride in all that you have accomplished.

~Stephen Harris

Dr. O, I am deeply grateful for your leadership and example. To know you is to experience genuine care, wisdom, and excellence. Your life and service reflect a quiet strength and faith that have inspired me and uplifted so many others. Your lasting impression will forever be etched, not only on Virginia State University, but on the hearts and minds of all who have had the privilege to walk alongside you. Sir, because of you, GREATER HAPPENS HERE

~Gwen Williams Dandridge

"Thank you, Dr. Omojokun, for being an example of professionalism and grace that truly exemplifies "Greater."

~Desmond Stephens

Dean Omojokun, My Most Distinguished Dean,

Thank you for your remarkable 37 years of service to Virginia State University and for the guidance, wisdom, and support you have extended to me throughout my journey. Working alongside you has taught me the value of clarity, consistency, and purposeful leadership.

You have invested more in me than words could ever fully express, and for that, I remain genuinely grateful. Your legacy extends far beyond your professional accomplishments—it is reflected in your faith, your family, your character, and the countless lives you have impacted along the way.

I wish you continued joy, peace, and fulfillment in this next chapter. Thank you for your leadership, your example, and the lasting impression you leave upon us all.

~Antonio T. Cole

Dr. Omojokun, Professor Emeritus, Dean Emeritus, Distinguished Professor, thank you for all that you have done for Virginia State University, our colleagues and students. I wish you and family all the best.

~Dr. Michelle M. Corley

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Office of the President
- Office of the Provost
- Office of Finance and Administration
- Office of Institutional Advancement
- Office of Procurement Services
- VSU Conference Services
- CHSS & Department of Mass Communication
- Reginald F. Lewis College of Business
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Thompson Hospitality
- The Omojokun Family



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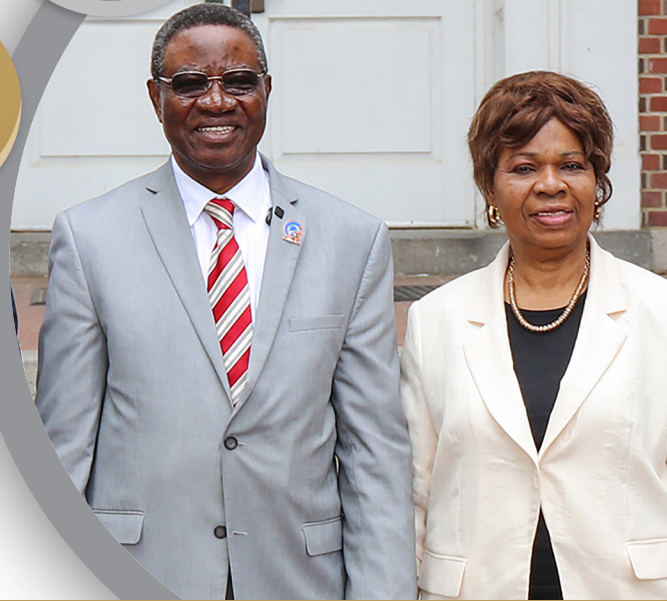
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Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Honoring 37 Years of Impact at VSU

