

# The Student Leader

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VSCA State Office  
Andrea Vail  
VSCA Director  
4909 Cutshaw Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23230  
(804) 370-0822  
avail@scaleader.org  
www.scaleader.org



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## Hello Summer!

As the 2014-2015 school year comes to a close, it is time to begin planning the activities that your SCA will participate in next year. The summer is a great time to go ahead and begin to layout the plans for the next year's events.

I encourage you to have SCA workdays each summer to outline the specific goals that you have for the following year. Having a plan going into the school year will truly set the tone for the entire year.

Seniors— I wish each of you the best as you begin this next phase of your life. You have all had such a huge impact on not only your school and community, but you have modeled the way for the next group of students leaders in your building. Thank you for all that you have done for your school and for the Virginia Student Councils Association.

Newly Elected Officers— I hope that each of you take this responsibility seriously. Your peers have entrusted you to make decisions that are beneficial to your school. I hope that you will network with other students leaders and use VSCA as a resource.

Andrea Vail  
VSCA Director

# NASC Convention in Albuquerque!

The Virginia Student Council Association will be sending a delegation to the NASC Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 26-28, 2015. The delegation includes members of the SCAs from Woodgrove High School and C.D. Hylton High School, including newly elected VSCA president, Ryan Thomas, and secretary, Reagan Wampler. The VSCA delegation is excited to meet with the state student leaders from across the nation to bring back ideas to Virginia. Stay tuned to future editions of "The Student Leader" for a recap of the adventures in Albuquerque.



# Meet the New Officer Schools

*Vice-President School, Oscar Smith High School*

*Student Representative, Taylor Overton*

My name is Taylor Overton and I am the VSCA Vice President Student Representative for Oscar Smith High School. I am currently a junior at Oscar Smith, where I am enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program. I stay busy with schoolwork, clubs, and sports.

I am heavily involved with many clubs at Oscar Smith, but when I am still at school after the final bell, I am most likely staying after for SCA. SCA has definitely taught me many social and leadership skills. The Oscar Smith SCA handles many school functions which I have helped with, such as handling the football chains for JV football games, running the concession stand for volleyball and basketball games, and decorating the school for different holidays. The Oscar Smith SCA has also been involved in VSCA for the past five years, attending each annual conference. This is our school's first year as an officer school, which we are eager to execute. The SCA also runs the famous "55 or Better" Annual Dance. This event is coordinated along with the Chesapeake Parks and Recreation Department to provide a fun night out for senior citizens. This is definitely one of my favorite events, because we get to dance.

I am also heavily involved in sports. Lacrosse is my primary sport. I currently play as a Varsity defender for a club lacrosse team, administered by Hampton Roads Lacrosse. I also used to play football for Oscar Smith. This summer, I plan on playing summer lacrosse, surfing, and learning to play volleyball.

I am definitely looking forward to working with my fellow VSCA officers, Ryan Thomas and Reagan Wampler, and my SCA to maintain and improve the tradition and pride of VSCA. I hope to work towards increasing interregional cooperation throughout the year, rather than only when attending the conference. I also want to work towards increasing the efficiency in which things are accomplished within VSCA, while still maintaining all of the wonderful traditions of the Virginia Student Councils Association.



# 15 Tips for High School Graduates

By: Jed Spiker

Time Magazine, April 30, 2015

<http://time.com/3842566/15-tips-for-high-school-graduates/>

Time-wise, the transition from high school to college may only span a few months. But the big bridge—the one in which the world starts expecting more adult, less kid—can be a shaky one. With more free time (and will), students are as likely to make mistakes as they are to take college for what it should be: opportunities available, challenges accepted.

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Homecoming Queen's Dad Shares Heartbreaking Last Words  
NBC News

To cross that bridge successfully, it's not always about memorizing facts, writing papers, and meeting deadlines. It's about the extras—the mindset and strategies that will help students explore, engage, and excel. Drawing from my more than 20 years in higher education, as well as collected wisdom from peers and students, here are the most effective tactics that incoming college freshmen can use to succeed.

1. Your brain is not your day planner. The life skill you'll need to master in college is prioritization. That skill develops when you can see what's coming next month, next week, tomorrow, in 10 minutes, [#ohwaitthatpaperisduetoday](#). With so many moving parts in college, you simply can't afford to stay unorganized. Students get in academic trouble when they panic. They panic when they don't prepare. I don't care what method you use to keep your calendar (app or paper), as long as it's not a Sharpie mark on your palm.

2. To get plugged in, unplug. Maximize your connections through all of your social media platforms and digital tools. But for meaningful contacts that will help you develop, put down the phone. Look up. Raise your hand. Speak. Ask. Listen.

3. Your most valuable currency: ideas. We're in a world where lots of your peers have the same skills you do. The X factor: Who has the better idea? The front end of a project (time spent developing an original idea) is as crucial as the back end (time spent executing it).

4. Syllabus = law. Not all profs will handcuff you when you deviate, but it's best to assume that they will. Read the contract.

5. Handwritten thank you notes > emails > likes. The new-school communication methods are efficient and effective. Old-school ones show that you care enough to do a little extra. It's a tangible way to explain your intangibles.

6. Relationships > GPAs.\* Unless you're planning on going to graduate school, grades should feel secondary to the process of working with your peers and professors. I would rather you come into my office and to ask me about the artifact on my desk than to fight about .08 points that will mean zip to your career success. When you show you care about performance more than points, it's the signal to me—and thus to the future employers I talk to about you—that you're the kind of person they want on their team. \*Do not use this to excuse your absence from class.

7. Think of college as seven years. Your networking opportunities don't stop with professors, internship supervisors, and alums. As a freshman, you should network with the people in your class and the three years ahead of you. As a senior, you should build relationships with the people three years behind you. That's seven years of people who could be potential bosses and connections.

8. It's OK to say "no." High-achievers want to do it all. Don't. Despite many examples otherwise, the world wants you to do 15 things well rather than 50 things sloppily.

9. Learn a foreign language. In high school, you likely took a foreign language such as Spanish or Chinese or German. Now, expand what it means to speak and work in a new world. Word people could learn computer programming. Money majors could learn the art of effective writing. You stand out when you're fluent in an area where your peers aren't.

10. Create a digital hub. Put all of your best work and your social accounts in one place. Employers want to see your personal brand in a sort of digital elevator pitch.

11. Find a workout pal. Part of stress management is time management. Part of it is having enough energy to do quality work. While it's inevitable that you will sometimes eat at the \$2.99 buffet and pull all-nighters, you need good food, regular exercise, and lots of sleep. This non-academic priority will improve your academic ones.

12. Success = style + substance. No matter your field, college is about developing your skills and talents. That's substance. Now, how unique is your voice, your personality, your creativity when it comes to your skill set? That's style. In a world when a lot of people have a lot of talent, it's the difference between being hired and having your resume tossed.

13. Your goal: one deep dive. If I'm talking to an intro course of hundreds of people, I'll ask them two questions. One, when you graduate, will you have the skills that everybody else in the room does? They'll need to be able to answer "yes." And two, will you be able to do something that nobody else in the room can do? If that answer is also "yes," you've just discovered the secret to excelling: Find an area of specialty where you can develop depth; that's what makes you uniquely positioned to help an employer. Be nimble enough to do a lot of things, but deep enough to do one thing better than anyone else.

14. Play. Do it when you're not working. Do it when you are working.

15. Make your secret sauce. The greatest compliment you can receive from a professor, pro, or peer isn't "great work!" or "that's perfect!" It's this: "How in the world did you do that?" Wow us with your creativity, wow us with your ideas, wow us with your execution in ways we can't imagine. We may not know what goes into your secret sauce, but we do know that we want more of it.