

**Subject:** Statement in Support of Major General Cedric T. Wins  
**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 8:16:49 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Andre Thornton  
**To:** BOVSecretary  
**CC:** Lester Johnson, Eugene Williams, Johnathan Mayo, ronald.norman3@verizon.net

Dear Chairman and Member of the Board of Visitors,

As supportive Alumni of VMI, we stand before you today to express unwavering support for the renewal of Major General Cedric T. Wins' contract. His tenure as Superintendent of VMI has been defined by resilience, progress, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Major General Wins took command in a very challenging time. Under his leadership, VMI has emerged stronger than ever. State funding has increased by **7.3%**, securing over **\$321 million** for essential infrastructure improvements. Admissions, once in decline, have rebounded, with two consecutive years of exceeding recruitment goals. Financial stability has been restored, with consistent budget surpluses despite national enrollment challenges.

Academically and athletically, the Institute has thrived. The **97% post-graduation success rate** among cadets speaks to his commitment to preparing future leaders. VMI's football team claimed its first Southern Conference Championship since 1977, and overall, cadet-athletes continue to excel both in competition and in the classroom.

His leadership is rooted in VMI's core values—**valor, honor, and integrity**. His administration has preserved the Honor Code, strengthened cadet leadership, and expanded opportunities for all students, ensuring VMI remains competitive with peer institutions.

The decision before you is about merit, results, and the future of VMI. Major General Wins has proven himself as a leader who delivers.

We urge this Board to stand firm in its duty—to act in the best interest of the Institute and its cadets. Renew Major General Wins' contract and allow him to continue the vital work of securing VMI's future as a premier military institution.

- Eugene Williams, VMI '74
- Ron Norman, VMI '75
- Lester Johnson, VMI '95
- Johnathan Mayo, VMI '95
- Andre Thornton, VMI '98