



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2025

Saint Leo University President Ed Dadez Announces Retirement After 25 Years of Service

University Board of Trustees Begins Search, Appointing Interim Leader

ST. LEO, FL – Saint Leo University President Ed Dadez, with support from the university’s Board of Trustees, announced today (February 10) he is retiring after 25 years of service and two and a half years as president. After working to grow the university’s enrollments and strengthen its Catholic Benedictine identity, Dadez is retiring for personal reasons. His last day will be Friday, February 14.

“From the moment I stepped foot on campus, Saint Leo University has always held a special place in my heart,” Dadez said. “Now with the university in a much stronger position, the time has come for me to focus on my other love, my family.”

Dadez became the 11th president of the university following the resignation of President Jeffrey Senese in 2022. He is the university’s first alumni president and held several university leadership positions before being named president.

Under Dadez’s leadership, the university was able to increase student retention rates, exceed annual fundraising goals, and strengthen new and returning student enrollment. A hallmark of his presidency was enhancing the university’s culture to place greater focus on its Catholic Benedictine identity.

In appreciation for his many years of service and contributions to the university, the Board of Trustees will honor Dadez as *president emeritus* during the commencement ceremonies in May.

“The Board of Trustees and I deeply appreciate President Dadez’s selflessness and commitment to the university,” said Ed Narain, board chair. “His impact on the university will be remembered by many.”

The Board of Trustees is conducting an immediate and thorough search for the university's next president. James DeTuccio, vice president of Business Affairs and chief financial officer, will serve as interim chief operating officer and chief financial officer until the search is complete.

About Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University is a Catholic Benedictine university dedicated to helping learners of all backgrounds and ages gain the competence and courage to be more. Offering more than 55 degree programs to more than 13,000 students each year, the nonprofit university is known for providing a values-based education in the liberal arts tradition and a community of belonging for those who seek a greater purpose in life. Saint Leo is regionally accredited and offers a campus in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, regional education centers, and several online programs. The university is home to more than 106,000 alumni. Learn more at saintleo.edu.

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