



**SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**

— EST. 1818 —

**OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT**

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March 18, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a closer look at the new developments for career services, which was summarized in my email of this date to the student body.

The Back Story

In our strategic plan, we said, “We will be celebrated as an entrepreneurial organization devoted to the pursuit of truth and a rigorous, values-based Jesuit education that superbly prepares our students for meaningful lives and successful careers. In sum, we reaffirm our dedication to forming accomplished graduates who commit themselves to be for and with others. We dedicate ourselves to ensuring that students of all backgrounds have greater access to the transformative education we provide.”

Since I arrived at SLU, I have heard from our students and regional employers that we have immense opportunities in front of us which will elevate our students experience by better integrating our academic offerings with student internships and career services.

While important, this effort is about far more than job placement rate, starting salaries, or fortune 500 internship opportunities. This endeavor is about our mission. It’s about students discovering their vocation through an iterative process of learning, applying the knowledge during hands-on experiences, reflecting on those experiences, adjusting their course of study and repeating. It’s more than a best practice. It’s deeply Ignatian.

We have a duty to help our students unravel their future possibilities to see how their immense talents can be used to help solve the world’s great problems. This project is a manifestation of the final piece of our mission. Their pursuit of truth at SLU concludes with them being prepared to apply that truth “for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.”

The Search Committee

Vice President Kent Porterfield is leading a committee to conduct the search for our new Associate Provost. He will be assisted by Professor of Law and Co-Leader of the Operational Excellence Program Doug Williams. The other members of the search committee include:

Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity, Christopher Collins,
S.J.
Associate Provost and Dean for the School for Professional Studies Tracy
Chapman
Associate Provost Rob Wood
Associate Vice President for Student Development Mona Hicks
Career Development Specialist Floyd Welsh
SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs Jordan Glassman
Professor Laurie Russell of the College of Arts and Sciences

Final Thoughts

I deeply appreciate the members of the Operational Excellence project team for student advising, particularly Dr. Debra Lohe, for thoughtful recommendations, and the career services working group led by Fr. Justin Daffron for their contributions to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fred P. Pestello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.
President

