

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Academic Year

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

While there are other operational updates and announcements I will soon share with various audiences, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you all and offer a few thoughts on how, both individually and collectively, we might succeed in the most meaningful ways this new academic year.

For most of you – students, faculty, and staff – this fall term is a continuation of your personal and professional journey at SLU. I hope you had a restful summer break, and I am thankful for your renewed commitment to SLU as part of that journey. And to our new students, faculty and staff: Thank you for choosing to make SLU your new home. We hope you find your place in our community – *and there is a place here for you all.*

Whether SLU is a place of learning or a place of work for you (or both), we are intentional about our commitment to you holistically. We hope you find courses that inspire you, work that fulfills you, teachers and mentors who guide you, and friends who are true companions on your journey.

If you ever find yourself struggling to connect, or to be inspired, or if you need mentorship – please reach out. We know it's not always easy. But we are blessed with so many resources to support you personally, educationally, and professionally. In our post-pandemic world, we are more intentional than ever about fostering healthy balance in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff.

Finding that balance can, admittedly, be a challenge when you have so many commitments. SLU feels that, as well. For example, in 2023-24 we will begin implementing our new [Academic Strategic Plan](#) to guide our academic, research, community well-being and educational access efforts for the next five years. We have new leaders in the [School of Science and Engineering](#) and the [College for Public Health and Social Justice](#), and we'll soon begin searches for new leaders for our School of Law, Chaifetz School of Business, and Madrid campus. We will welcome our first bachelor's degree students from refugee camps in Africa via our partnership with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). And we need to fulfill our commitments to an ever-growing, increasingly diverse student population.

Those commitments, however, will only be fulfilled if, as a community, we care for each other, and for each other's holistic well-being. There are only so many hours in a day, and so many days in a term. As faculty and staff, we cannot do it all, all the time. As students, you cannot do it all, all the time.

So I close these remarks with a well-known prayer for serenity, for the peace in our hearts that best enables us to do what truly matters most:

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

I wish you all the best this academic year.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost