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Pestello to lead Saint Louis University

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Fred P. Pestello, former provost and senior vice president for educational affairs at the University of Dayton, has been named president of Saint Louis University, a Catholic, Jesuit university in St. Louis.

Pestello left the University of Dayton in 2008 to become the 13th president and first lay leader of Le Moyne College, in Syracuse, N.Y.

A sociologist, Pestello joined UD's sociology faculty in 1984. He served as UD's chief academic officer for seven years, served as associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, and chaired the department of sociology, anthropology and social work.

"I am pleased to see Fred continue his career at Saint Louis University," said University of Dayton President Daniel Curran. "He is a dynamic leader in Catholic higher education who has demonstrated, both at the University of Dayton and LeMoyne, his ability to build a strong leadership team and develop academically excellent programs."

Saint Louis University was founded in 1818 and enrolls more than 8,800 undergraduates and 5,100 graduate students, including medical and law students. LeMoyne College enrolls approximately 2,800 undergraduate and 800 graduate students.

Pestello succeeds interim president William Kauffman, who served since the retirement last September of the Rev. Lawrence Biondi, S.J., who had led the university for 26 years.