

## Welcome to the 2022-23 Academic Year

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! I hope you all had a chance to rest and recharge this summer, and are ready for the start of the fall semester. This summer looked a lot more normal than the past couple years, and I'm excited to have everyone back on campus.

Like many of you, I had an opportunity to take vacation and spend time with my family this summer, and during that time I thought about what this academic year would look like for the SLU community. And the word that kept coming to mind over and over was *hope*.

We have been through a difficult couple of years as a community, but as I walked around campus the last few weeks, something feels different. It feels like we have turned a corner from the pandemic, and we are better prepared to meet the challenges of our community due to the work we have done around mental health and wellness. I realize our work in these areas is not done, but I feel a great sense of optimism and hope going into this new year.

Here are just a few of the things renewing my sense of hope for Saint Louis University.

- We have welcomed – or soon will welcome – new leaders in the Doisy College of Health Sciences, the University Libraries and Museums, and the Division of Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement. These new leaders are already bringing new ideas and energy to SLU.
- And we are launching searches for three dean positions: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College for Public Health and Social Justice, and the new School of Science and Engineering. I will share more details soon on the search committees and timelines. Our goal is to have permanent deans in these colleges by July 1, 2023.
- After a robust University-wide engagement process, we are finalizing the Academic Strategic Plan that will guide our efforts in the coming years. We look forward to sharing more details about the forward-looking plan soon.
- We've strengthened our commitment and ability to support student well-being. You can expect to hear more on this work from Vice President Cunningham soon. In the meantime, if you're looking for student support resources, please consult [the SLU Wellbeing web page](#).

As we welcome new faculty and staff members, new undergraduates, and new graduate and professional students this fall, our community only grows stronger and more capable of realizing our goals and fulfilling our mission. I am excited about the year ahead, and I hope to see all of you around campus this semester.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.  
Provost