

EDUCATING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR NATION

40

YEAR ANNIVERSARY



SAINT LEO  
UNIVERSITY®

**Serving Those Who  
Serve Our Nation**

# Celebrating 40 Years of Serving Those Who Serve

**Founded in 1889**, just north of Tampa, Florida, Saint Leo University proudly celebrates 40 years of providing academic degree programs to members of our nation's armed forces and their families. Today, Saint Leo serves military students in seven states and worldwide through our Center for Online Learning. Thousands of students from all branches of military service, veterans and their families, have earned associate, bachelor's, master's, and education specialist degrees from Saint Leo University. Saint Leo University is a participating member of the Yellow Ribbon Program, designated as a "Military Friendly School" by *GI Jobs* magazine and *Military Advanced Education* magazine, and recognized as one of the top 10 private providers of education to the military.

In addition to any privately funded scholarships being available to military members and their families, there are four scholarships specifically for our military students and their spouses including the Nathan Altschuler Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Jack Callan Scholarship, Dorothy Elaine Dadez Great Expectations Scholarship, and Marilyn Ann Leitch Great Expectations Scholarship. In 2008, Saint Leo commissioned a bronze sculpture to celebrate the school's longtime commitment to educating men and women who serve in our nation's armed forces. **For Those Who Serve** was dedicated at a ceremony on Veterans Day 2010. Veterans Day ceremonies are held each year at our University Campus to reflect and honor the commitment we feel to our military members and their families throughout the Saint Leo University system.

## Our Military Tradition

In 1973, Saint Leo College's military education program was initiated as an experiment at the **Avon Park Bombing Range** in Florida. At the time, many members of the armed forces found it difficult to complete their education while on active duty. Some were stationed in conflict zones. Some served at military installations in isolated areas. Many performed shift work and could not attend regular daytime classes. Often service members were transferred before they could complete their degree programs. Saint Leo recognized this as an opportunity to fulfill its mission in a new way by serving the educational needs of those who serve our nation. In response to an invitation from military leaders, we began to build a program that would bring higher education opportunities to military personnel and base employees in places and at times that would allow them to move with ease from work or home to the classroom.

The program began to take shape during the summer of 1973. Saint Leo's plan took into account the high mobility of military personnel. Classes were scheduled by student interest with no fixed number of students required for individual classes, and qualified students were able to apply for academic credit for education and military experience. Avon Park became Saint Leo's first off-campus education

center serving military personnel and their families. The Avon Park location was quickly followed by an education center at **MacDill Air Force Base** in Tampa. Both were established in 1973.

In 1974, the college was invited to bring its education programs to several additional centers at military bases inside and outside the State of Florida. The college's first out-of-state education center was established at **Fort Eustis Army Base** in Virginia, making classes available to personnel and their families not only at Fort Eustis but to those serving at Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, Virginia. Courses were also offered at Fort Monroe Army Base in Hampton, Virginia, and the United States Coast Guard Training Center at Yorktown, Virginia. Today, course offerings at the Fort Eustis Education Office have expanded significantly. Bachelor's degree programs include majors in business administration, criminal justice, human resources management, psychology, sociology, and computer information systems.

Next, the college established a teaching center at **Naval Center South Hampton Roads**.

This center included three full-time teaching locations and eight additional registration/classroom sites. The first commencement- for one graduate- was held in the admiral's office. At the education center's first formal graduation in 1977, 40 students received bachelor's degrees and 64 students received associate degrees. Today, the South Hampton Roads Education Center offers classes at locations including Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Naval Station Norfolk, and Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. In addition to associate degrees, the center offers bachelor's degree programs in business administration, criminal justice, health care management, human resources management, psychology, religion, sociology, and computer information systems.



In 1974, the Army invited Saint Leo College to establish an education facility at **Fort Lee Army Base**, Virginia. Fort Lee is the Army's quartermaster training center, and the Army sought to make an associate degree program available to Fort Lee personnel. While service members and base personnel were not often relocated to remote locations, they still faced challenges in completing their education. Saint Leo offered its first term in October 1974 with 41 students in two classes. Asked to add a bachelor's degree program the following year, the college responded by offering a bachelor's degree in business. The Fort Lee Education Center has grown to include degree programs in business administration, criminal justice, human resources management, psychology, sociology, and computer information systems.

In 1974, a college education was being sought by increasing numbers of military personnel and civilian base staff. Saint Leo devised a program to be offered at **Langley Air Force Base** that would allow students to take classes to fit their schedules. In the ensuing years, the Langley Education Office grew to become Saint Leo's second largest military location, offering flexible degree programs in liberal arts, business administration, criminal justice, human resources, psychology, sociology, computer information systems, and other popular areas of study. A criminal justice degree can be pursued through the Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative Program (AU-ABC).

In 1975, Saint Leo was invited to bring its now well-known military education program to **Shaw Air Force Base** in South Carolina. Saint Leo tailored its course offerings at the Shaw Education Center term-by-term, weaving them around a single-minded focus on service to students. This dedication to service continues today.

Shaw originally was a World War II Air Force training base. Later it became a Tactical Air Command, and then an Air Combat Command base. Constantly changing military assignments and varying levels of deployments over the years make delivery of high quality education a serious and important priority at the center. Today, Saint Leo meets the needs of its Shaw Education Center students with a combination of course formats: classes are held in the classroom, online, as a combination of both formats, and via the school's video teaching technology. Undergraduate degrees are offered in business administration, criminal justice, human resources management, health care management, and human services.

During 1975, new Saint Leo education centers also were established in Atlanta, Georgia, at Fort McPherson, Fort Gillem, Naval Air Station Atlanta, and in the southernmost city of the United States, Key West, Florida.

Key West is home to **Naval Air Station Key West** and Saint Leo's Key West Education Center, established in 1975. Military personnel stationed at Naval Air Station Key West are able to pursue bachelor's degrees in business administration with specializations in management and technology management, and in criminal justice, human resources management, human services, and computer information systems. Today the Key West Education Center is a great example of the university's ability to serve the shifting needs of its military students. Key West students pursue their studies in the classroom, online using our distance learning program, through the university's Video Teaching and Teleconferencing (VTT), Internet Connected Classroom (ICC) classes, or by using a combination of these formats. These learning modes serve the unique needs of our Navy students and the residents of Key West.



Twenty years later in 1995, Saint Leo staff at the newly established Naval Air Station Ingleside Center in Texas knew that to meet the needs of a working naval station and its seagoing population, Saint Leo would need to do more than offer a traditional learning model. Thirty-two students enrolled for the first term in 1996. A year later, enrollment had increased to 164 students. Naval Air Station Kingsville students also enrolled in courses at the NAS Ingleside Education Center. With the government closure of the Naval Air Station Ingleside, Saint Leo continues to serve the military with a new teaching location at **Naval Air Station Corpus Christi**. Today, high-tech and innovation are the watchwords at this center. Video teleconferencing brings virtual instructors to campus when on-site instructors cannot be scheduled. Located 1,200 miles from Saint Leo's University Campus, Corpus Christi is an active model for how the power of technology can be harnessed to deliver first-rate education to distant locations. The Corpus Christi Education Center offers degree programs in business administration, criminal justice, computer information systems, and human resources management.

Less than a year later, Saint Leo was selected as the provider of bachelor's level education at the **Mayport Naval Station** near Jacksonville, Florida. Mayport is the second largest naval station on the east coast. Today, degree programs are offered in business administration, criminal justice, and computer information systems. Saint Leo also offers distance learning courses to those students who are seagoing or who find it difficult to attend class onsite. Programs such as the Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership (NCPDLP) and Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) help to make this possible.

In December 2005, Saint Leo opened the **Naval Station San Diego Office**, Naval Base Coronado Office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Office, and Coast Guard Alameda Office. San Diego is the homeport of the U.S. Naval Surface Force. Saint Leo offers Navy personnel an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice through the university's Distance Learning Program CD-ROM course format.

In 2008, the university opened a new education center at **Columbus Air Force Base** in Columbus, Mississippi, home to the 14th Flying Training Wing of the U.S. Air Force. Approximately 3,100 military, civilian, and contractor personnel work on the installation in eastern Mississippi.

The university then opened smaller teaching locations in South Carolina and Florida at Naval Weapons Station Charleston and **Eglin Air Force Base**. The Eglin Education Office offers degree programs in business administration and criminal justice.

Today, Saint Leo University's highly respected academic programs continue to exceed the expectations of busy adult learners. From the time of its founding in 1889, the mission of Saint Leo- to educate and serve- has been illuminated with instances of resourcefulness, ingenuity, and fulfillment of purpose. It was more than 40 years ago that Saint Leo College brought courses for the first time to 176 students at Avon Park and 13 students at MacDill Air Force Base. Today more than 5,000 men and women of the armed forces are enrolled in Saint Leo University degree programs.

The university is proud of its military students and remains dedicated to providing them with outstanding academic programs and personal attention. Saint Leo shines in its commitment to its mission: providing an excellent education combined with a high degree of personalized service in small classes. To further support our military veterans and mission, the Office of Veteran Student Services opened in 2011. The Office of Veteran Student Services works collaboratively with all university departments and community organizations to best meet the needs of our students in order to ensure the opportunity to accomplish individual goals. Saint Leo honors its commitment to those who serve our nation by working diligently to meet the needs and promote the success of each individual student.



*Saint Leo University's sculpture, **For Those Who Serve**, pays tribute to each branch of the armed services, celebrating Saint Leo's educational commitment to the military.*



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