Former West Point Superintendent Named Saint Leo University President

On February 6, 2015, Dr. William J. Lennox, Jr., the former Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, was named ninth President of Saint Leo University by the university’s Board of Trustees, effective summer 2015.

Since 2008, Dr. Lennox has been a member of the Saint Leo University Board of Trustees and has served as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

“We are so pleased that Dr. Lennox will assume the presidency of Saint Leo University,” said Cindy Brannen, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “As a board member, he is already familiar with the university and understands its unique structure, which includes University Campus in Florida, the Center for Online Learning, and more than 40 education offices and centers in seven states. We are confident that he will continue to accelerate the upward trajectory that outgoing president, Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., initiated and sustained for 18 years.”

A retired U.S. Army three-star lieutenant general, Dr. Lennox earned his bachelor’s degree in international affairs from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. He went on to earn a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in literature from Princeton University, writing his dissertation on American war poetry. He was first in his class at Fort Leavenworth’s
Command and General Officer's School, and he completed the Senior Service College Fellowship at Harvard University.

General Lennox became the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy in June 2001. As superintendent, a role that is essentially the equivalent of president at a civilian college, he managed 4,400 cadets, hundreds of staff, the academic programs, and a $250 million budget on the 16,000-acre campus, and remained in that role until 2006. During his tenure, he provided strategic direction for the academic, military, and athletic initiatives. He helped transform the athletic program and oversaw upgrades to the core liberal arts program while sustaining the fourth-ranked undergraduate engineering program in the country. He also implemented and improved opportunities for cultural exposure and expanded semesters abroad to countries including Chile, China, Russia, and Spain.

While at West Point, General Lennox completed a $150 million fundraising campaign with more than $220 million, resulting in enhancements to the academic, athletic, and military programs. He recognized that the United States Military Academy was part of a larger community, so he welcomed the comments and insights from graduates and the members of the surrounding neighborhood to further involve these groups with the institution.

After graduating from West Point, General Lennox served in a wide variety of assignments in the field artillery. He also held a number of staff positions, including a White House Fellowship, as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, and as the Executive Officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

Additionally, during the course of his distinguished 35-year career, General Lennox served as the Deputy Commanding General and Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center; the Chief of Staff for III Corps and Fort Hood; the Assistant Chief of Staff, CJ-3, at Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea; the Deputy Commanding General, Eighth United States Army; and Chief of Legislative Liaison.

From 2006 to 2012, Dr. Lennox served as Senior Vice President at Goodrich Corporation, a Fortune 500 aerospace firm, in Washington, DC. In that role, he was responsible for developing and executing strategy for the company’s Department of Defense programs and
for interacting with Congress, the executive branch, state and local governments, and aerospace contractors.

Dennis Mullen, Vice Chair of the Saint Leo Board of Trustees and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, said, “Dr. Lennox has a proven track record of being a leader, not only of soldiers but also of academics. His experience with active duty military and veterans, combined with his educational background, make him an exceptional fit for Saint Leo.”

“I know first-hand that Saint Leo is a special place,” Dr. Lennox commented. “In my role on the Board of Trustees, I have seen this institution undergo remarkable growth in the last several years. Art Kirk has led this university with grand vision, innovation, and execution, and we are all grateful for his tireless efforts. In the next few months, I look forward to getting to know our faculty, staff, and students, as I prepare to work with them to make Saint Leo even stronger that it is today. I am honored to take on the role of university president.”

“The board could not have made a better choice,” said President Kirk. “I have known Bill Lennox for many years, and I am impressed not only with his remarkable leadership skills, but also his genuine commitment to our student-centered Catholic mission, our core values, and our vision. Saint Leo is in good hands.”

Dr. Lennox and his wife, Anne, have three sons: Andrew, Matthew, and Jonathan.