

**From:** Cedric Davis, Chair, Board of Trustees <noreply@spu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 9:42 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Interim President Announcement



## Board of Trustees

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I am pleased to announce that [Pete Menjares](#), provost and senior vice president for Vanguard University in California, has been named interim president of Seattle Pacific University beginning July 1. Pete is currently on the Board of Trustees for Seattle Pacific and he is also a senior fellow for diversity with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) in Washington, D.C.



Pete is an experienced leader in Christian higher education. Prior to his current role at Vanguard, he served as president of Fresno Pacific University from 2012–14. For over 18 years, he worked in leadership roles at Biola University in Los Angeles, including vice provost for faculty development and academic effectiveness, associate provost for diversity leadership, education department chair, and associate professor of education. He has been on SPU's Board of Trustees since 2015.

“Having served as a university president, provost, and faculty leader, Pete has a depth of experience and wisdom in leading, taking on challenging issues, and in bringing opposing sides closer together to create constructive learning opportunities,” says SPU Board of Trustees member Deborah Wilds. “He is committed to bringing the community together for dialogue, building understanding, and prayerfully healing. We are extremely thankful and fortunate to have Pete serve as interim president to lead the University forward.”

Laura Hartley, SPU provost and executive-in-charge, says Pete is a well-known and highly respected leader in Christian higher education. “His extensive experience in helping Christian universities tackle challenging issues, combined with his pastoral heart, is just what is needed for

SPU during this season of transition,” said Hartley. “I am looking forward to working alongside of him as SPU emerges from the pandemic and looks to the future.”

Pete is a contributing author and section editor of the book, *Diversity Matters: Race, Ethnicity and the Future of Christian Higher Education*, published in 2017 and featuring the contributions of diverse Christian leaders who offer practical tools for effective education and service in a multicultural world.

“I believe that each of my personal and professional experiences, faith journey, and administration in both the church and academic settings, have prepared me to provide interim presidential leadership to Seattle Pacific at this critical time,” says Pete. “SPU has been called to fulfill its mission at the intersection of the Kingdom of God, the Church, and a diverse academic community located in a significant metropolitan region known for its entrepreneurial and economic acumen.”

Pete earned a PhD in Education: Language, Literacy, and Learning from the University of Southern California; an MA in Education: Teaching and Curriculum from California State University, Dominguez Hills; and a BA in Religion: Pastoral Ministries from Vanguard University.

We look forward to working closely with Pete and benefiting from his experience and prayerful approach to leadership as we move forward with our presidential search.

In gratitude,

Cedric Davis  
Chair, Board of Trustees



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