Dear LEAP students and parents,

Congratulations on being accepted into the Saint Leo University LEAP program for summer 2014. This year, the program will begin when you arrive for residential check-in on Saturday, July 12th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. A brief LEAP orientation for students and parents will follow at 3PM in the Student Community Center boardrooms. The LEAP classes, SLU-100, ENG-121, and SLU-200, will begin on Monday, July 14th and run through August 8th. There are several exciting and very important things you will need to know about the LEAP program and life at Saint Leo University, so please make certain to read this letter in its entirety and make note of all important dates listed and/or names of persons you may need to contact if you need more information or if you have any questions or concerns.

First, if you have any questions regarding your residence room or residence hall policy and procedure, please contact Residence Life at (352) 588 – 8268.

Secondly, if you have not already done so, please visit the Saint Leo University website at http://www.saintleo.edu/. From here, you will be able to access a campus map, directions from local airports and interstate highways, as well as local lodging, shopping, and dining information. The LEAP web page is also available at http://www.saintleo.edu/Academics/Other-University-Programs/LEAP-Learning-Enhancement-for-Academic-Progress

Next, here are some things you will need to know about LEAP and being a member of the Saint Leo University community. When you arrive for check in, you will be assigned to a residence room at the Marmion-Snyder Residence Hall. When you complete the LEAP program with a “C” grade or better in each of your three courses, this residence will be your permanent home for your first year of admission to Saint Leo University. As you begin your career here, therefore, you will need to bring any and all items you need and use at your own home, including clothes, bed clothes, shower supplies, etc. Cable television access, local telephone service and voice mail (bring your own telephone), internet service, common area housekeeping, and laundry facilities are available at no
additional charge to you. In addition, you will receive a lap top computer for school use when you arrive for orientation.

The LEAP program is a four week, intense preparation for academic life at Saint Leo University. It is by no means *summer camp*. You will be required to attend class from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 – 4:00 PM, four days per week. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided in the cafeteria in complement to your class schedule.

In addition to classes, you will attend a mandatory SLU-200: Academic Excellence learning lab from 6:00 – 10:00 PM, four days per week and an additional eight hours on Wednesday. In the labs, you will work with faculty members, professional staff, and Peer Educators to learn how to be successful at college and also receive assistance in completing your assignments. The Peer Educators selected for this program include SLU upperclassmen that have made outstanding academic and extra-curricular progress at Saint Leo University and proudly represent and uphold the Saint Leo University core values of *excellence, community, respect, personal development, responsible stewardship, and integrity*. Many of them are also LEAP program graduates.

The courses you will attend in LEAP are as follows:

**English 121—Academic Writing I. (3 credit hours)**
This course teaches the techniques of effective writing, logical thinking, and intelligent reading, with special emphasis on expository writing. To ensure competence in oral communications, a speech component is included.

**SLU 100—Introduction to the University Experience. (3 credit hours)**
This course promotes the holistic success of our first-year students, emphasizing positive change. The course enables first-year students to commit themselves to inquiry and productive student learning by developing creative and critical thinking strategies, exploring complex and diverse issues of social justice locally and in a global society, fostering writing skills across the curriculum, and acquiring group dynamic, teamwork, and oral communication skills. In addition, students will learn to identify university resources available to them as well as the habits and skills necessary to make a successful transition from a high school to a university academic and social environment. The course will also enhance the students’ knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of our Benedictine values and service to the community.

**SLU 200 – ST: Academic Excellence Lab. (3 credit hours)**
This three-credit course is a step in your growth and learning as a student. As you embark on this new stage of your academic and personal life, you will begin to realize and understand the role you play as an active learner. The course provides a framework of effective strategies to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. We will be assisting in your transition from high school to university. Using a collaborative learning format, we will explore many topics fundamental to being an effective learner, as well
as being successful in university life. This course provides a support group for you by examining problems and issues common to your freshman experience in a supportive atmosphere somewhat less formal than that of traditional courses. Throughout this summer session, you will have the opportunity to connect with your fellow students, the University and the local community. You will see many connections with the SLU 200 and the other courses you are taking.

The courses are taught by experienced Saint Leo University faculty members, committed to student success. Textbooks and additional materials may be purchased during the weekend of orientation; costs will be approximately $500.00. Should you want to acquaint yourself with the texts, we have provided titles and ISBN numbers below. The required textbooks are:

- **Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Times 2nd ed.** (ISBN: 031259379)

In addition to academic requirements, the LEAP program will provide you with weekend activities including residence hall entertainment programming, such as pool parties and cook-outs, and supervised field trips. You will also be required to commit to university community service on Saturday mornings, under the direction of your Resident Assistants.

LEAP students are **NOT required to take placement tests prior to coming to campus**. LEAP students **WILL receive academic advising and be registered for their fall semester classes** (upon successful program completion) while on campus.

Finally, as you can see, the LEAP program is both exciting and challenging. It is your opportunity to succeed and be an integral, permanent part of the Saint Leo University community, making a huge leap ahead of your peers entering the university in the fall. You will have committed and talented faculty members, professional staff, peer educators, resident assistants, and student service personnel available and responsible for your academic, spiritual, and personal needs. You will be living and achieving in a value-driven community that cares about your individual, personal growth and success. Welcome to Saint Leo University! I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Heather De Ronde
Administrator for Student Academic Progress
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(352) 588 – 8497