

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, established on 36 acres of land in Lake Jovita, Florida in 1889 by the Order of Saint Benedict of Florida, **Saint Leo College**, now known as Saint Leo University, was the first Catholic college in Florida and is named for Pope Saint Leo the Great, Pope Leo X111 and Abbot Leo Haid, who formally dedicated the college in 1890, and since that time it has grown into a leading, well-respected institution; and

WHEREAS, arriving from Keuka College in New York, **Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr.** was named the eighth President of Saint Leo University in 1997, bringing with him wealth of expertise, experience, leadership, and a passion for core values, disciplined planning, accountability and developing the full potential of the institution into a stronger and better university; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kirk received a Bachelor's Degree in history and a Master's Degree in administration and supervision from Kean University, and his Doctorate from Rutgers University in New Jersey. He began his illustrious career at Kean University serving as the Assistant Director of the Division of College Development and Director of Alumni Affairs prior to joining Raritan Community College as Director of Development and Planning, and thereafter he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Misericordia University in Pennsylvania before becoming President of Keuka College; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Kirk's eighteen years of leadership, he established Saint Leo University's student-centered mission and core values, enhanced its commitment to educating active duty military, veterans, and their families, tripled its enrollments, faculty has quadrupled, university endowments greatly increased, the campus has substantially expanded including purchasing additional facilities, including downtown Tampa, and property for future growth, degree programs have more than doubled, and he was instrumental in the creation of Saint Leo's Center for Online Learning and the development of more than forty education offices and centers in seven states, truly making Saint Leo University a strong institution and a leading Catholic teaching university, now the third largest Catholic university in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kirk writes a blog for the Huffington Post and has authored chapters in *President to President, Volumes II and III*, and he brings his expertise and valued service to many professional organizations including the Advisory Council of Presidents of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Council of Adult and Experiential Education, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President's Council, Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee, and Board of Governors of the Greater Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of his many contributions to education, he has received the *Eternal Light Award* from the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies, inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame, and has received honors and awards from Rutgers University, Kean University and Keuka College; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is pleased to join Saint Leo University in congratulating Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr. on his upcoming retirement this summer after a stellar career, vast contributions to the institution, dedication to higher education, and his positive impact in the Tampa Bay region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Monday, April 13, 2015 as

“ARTHUR F. KIRK, JR. DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating Dr. Kirk on his retirement, thanking him for the many contributions he has made to our community and, wishing him God's blessings and continued success.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13th day of April, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor