

Faculty and Staff
La Sierra University

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to share with you the news that I have formally submitted to Board Chair Ricardo Graham my notice of intention to conclude my service as president of La Sierra University on June 30, 2019.

This has been a difficult decision for me to make as I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as your president for what will be 12 years. However, due to the continuing challenges with my eyes following four eye surgeries within the last 18 months, and after much reflection, prayer, and counsel with my family, I have come to the conviction that this is the appropriate decision for me personally, as well as for the university. Deanna and I plan to relocate to our home in Washington the first week of July.

I have loved my work here, and I am deeply mindful of the way in which you have encouraged me through your commitment, your friendship, and your belief in what we daily accomplish in and through the lives of our students.

La Sierra is a dynamic Adventist university committed to being inclusive, progressive, and hopeful. It is recognized for its exceptional faculty, dedicated staff, service-oriented students, supportive alumni and donors, and informed constituency. I could not ask for a better senior leadership team; they are outstanding. I am grateful for the academic leadership of the Faculty Senate that continues to take seriously the role of faculty governance. In addition, I am thankful for the departmental leadership that daily aligns the work of the staff and the faculty with the university's mission. Likewise, the university's Board of Trustees is deeply committed to the mission of the university in its role as the university's highest governing body.

When I began my career as a pastor in the Oregon Conference in 1980, I could not have imagined the direction my life would take. How grateful I am that I have been privileged to serve on college campuses since 1985—as a college chaplain, professor, seminary professor, and as a university president for what will be 21 years of leadership on three campuses. Without a doubt, I could not have asked for a more invigorating place to conclude my work in Adventist higher education than La Sierra University.

La Sierra University has not only been good to me professionally—it has been good to my family. Deanna and I are grateful for the outstanding education La Sierra provided our son and daughter-in-law, Alexander and Leslie. We take pleasure in the quality of friendships our children continue to nurture with classmates and with a number of you as their esteemed faculty members.

I have assured Dr. Graham that I will do whatever I can to be of assistance as the search for the next president begins. The university has several key documents that outline the search process that will guide this effort. I am sure that Dr. Graham will communicate directly to the campus in the days ahead.

Over the coming months I will have opportunity to reflect upon my work—and the continuing work of the university—with the Board of Trustees and with the campus family. This is an important moment in the life of our La Sierra learning community, and I look forward to giving my best during the final months of my tenure as president.

When I first arrived at La Sierra, I was drawn to the Glory of God's Grace sculpture. It was clear that this learning community was focused upon grace—and over the years I have been passionate in sharing this. Today, I still sense the goodness of God and this gift of grace that permeates our campus. I have no doubt that the coming years will be good for La Sierra as the university family continues to hold fast to this overarching truth.

Thank you for your generous embrace of Deanna, Alexander, Leslie, and me. We will always be grateful.

And finally, never underestimate the value of your dedicated work on behalf of our students; it is so very important—it is, without a doubt, what most inspires me.

Randal Wisbey
President

