Avila University Names Dr. Todd J. Pfannestiel as 16th President

Kansas City, MO — Avila University has announced the appointment of **Dr. Todd J. Pfannestiel** as its **16th President**, marking a significant milestone in the institution's continued growth and commitment to missiondriven education.

Dr. Pfannestiel brings a wealth of leadership experience in higher education, most recently serving as President of Utica University, where he led a comprehensive institution through strategic growth, academic innovation, and a strong focus on student success.

"Dr. Pfannestiel is a thoughtful and mission-centered leader who understands the evolving landscape of higher education," said **Dr. Ibraheem Badejo**, Chair of the Avila University Board of Trustees. "His commitment to student success and his alignment with Avila's Catholic values make him the right leader for this moment in our university's history."

Avila University, founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is rooted in the values of service, community, and the inherent dignity of every individual.

"Avila University represents a powerful model of education rooted in faith, service, and community," said Dr. Pfannestiel. "I am honored to join a university that is so deeply committed to developing students not only for professional success, but for lives of meaning and impact. I also look forward to growing the university's contributions to the region and becoming a partner of first choice as well as an institution of first choice for students."

As Avila continues to expand its academic offerings, strengthen student support systems, and deepen community engagement, Dr. Pfannestiel's leadership will guide the university into its next chapter—one defined by innovation, access, and mission-centered growth.

About Avila University

Avila University is a Catholic institution of higher education in Kansas City, Missouri, dedicated to the education of the whole person. Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Avila emphasizes service to the dear neighbor, academic excellence, and leadership rooted in purpose.

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