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BROOKLINE

Pine Manor College names 11th president in school's 103-year history

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 14, 2014 03:09 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Boston.com Staff

Pine Manor College on Tuesday named the 11th president in the 103-year history of the private, four-year liberal arts school located in the Chestnut Hill section of Brookline.

E. Joseph Lee II will take over as president on a full-time basis after working for the past six months as interim head, campus officials said.

“His commitment to academic excellence and student-focused learning, along with his substantial management expertise, make him ideally suited to lead our institution during this period of growth,” said a statement from the chairman of the school's Board of Trustees, Serena Strazzulla Kokjer Greening.

“His vision for the liberal arts education – one that encourages academic and personal growth, community service and the practical application of knowledge – embodies the qualities that have made Pine Manor College a truly transformative experience for students for more than 100 years,” she added.

Lee has more than 35 years of experience working in higher education, including as president of St. Joseph's College in Maine and Thomas More College in Kentucky, officials said.

“I'm proud and honored to serve as president of Pine Manor College, a place where students are truly encouraged to achieve their full academic and personal potential,” Lee said in a statement.

“As president, I am committed to building on the rich traditions of Pine Manor,” he added. “We will focus, expand and enrich the academic experience, increase enrollment, and create and renew partnerships, internships and philanthropic connections. I am tremendously excited about the opportunity in front of us.”

In his time as interim president, Lee led the college during major transition.

The former women's college became a co-educational institution at the start of this month after voting to make the change last summer and getting approval in the fall from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges last September.

The school said that during Lee's interim presidency it also passed an accreditation review and has seen “significant” increases in applications and enrollment after Lee launched an “ambitious and aggressive effort” to expand its outreach to prospective students, establish more partnerships and to return the college to financial stability.

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Lee holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from St. Michael's College, and a doctorate from Boston College.

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