

NEWS

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A.J. Santoro To Step Down as CEO of Roger Williams University

Executive cites health reasons and a desire for new activities

BRISTOL, R.I., February 12, 2001 — Anthony J. Santoro, J.D., today announced that he will step down as Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Roger Williams University. As a result, the University has launched a national search for a new CEO.

“We regret Tony Santoro’s decision,” said Ralph R. Papitto, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, “but we appreciate all that he has contributed to the University. We are also glad that he will remain CEO while we search for his successor, helping ensure a successful transition. Subsequently, he will apply his vast experience in higher education and the law to the continued growth and strengthening of the law school. There is no one I would rather have helping us build one of the finest law schools in the country.

“He will also accept other important, substantive assignments from the Board on behalf of the University as a whole,” Papitto said. “He and I are determined that none of the many exciting initiatives begun under his leadership will suffer from his stepping down.”

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In making his announcement, Santoro noted that recent surgery to correct blockage in his caroid arteries has afforded him the opportunity to reassess his personal priorities, as well as the needs of the University.

“While the surgery was a complete success, I decided that a change in personal lifestyle was indicated,” Santoro said. “At the same time, this is the perfect point in the evolution of the University for new leadership. We have an excellent administrative team in place, a strong foundation in the accomplishments of recent years, and ambitious plans for the immediate and long-term future.

“There is a second reason why I am stepping down; it is less urgent, but just as important,” Santoro said. “I taught at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary for one year after graduating from law school, but have spent the ensuing three decades as an administrator, the last decade at Roger Williams. It has been a fulfilling career, and I have been fortunate to be associated with outstanding institutions. Nonetheless, I want the opportunity to return to teaching. Scholarship and teaching are the activities of paramount importance in education, and I would like to cap my career in those endeavors. That also requires that I relieve myself of the responsibility of leading the University.

“The new CEO will assume leadership at a point of great opportunity,” Santoro said.

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The University has invested more than \$100 million in its physical plant in the last 10 years, enhanced the size and the qualifications of the faculty and student body, opened the Schools of Education and of Justice Studies, begun offering the first master's degrees in the history of the University, and gained important accreditations. All this is in addition to establishing the state's first, and still only, law school, and gaining A.B.A. accreditation for it on the fastest schedule permitted by A.B.A. bylaws. The University has advanced from Tier 4 to Tier 1 in the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT college rankings.

Papitto said that the Board of Trustees is determined to take the time necessary to identify and hire the next chief executive, relying on Santoro's continuing as CEO until his successor is hired. Papitto also said that Joseph H. Hagan, President, has asked not to be considered as a candidate for the CEO position.

"As with Tony Santoro, my friend and colleague, I am prepared to retain my current responsibilities through the transition, and to accept assignments from the new CEO once he or she is aboard," Hagan said.

Papitto said the University has retained the educational executive search firm Isaacson Miller, Boston, and has also retained Daniel S. Cheever, Jr., President of Simmons College in Boston, as a consultant in the search.

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Roger Williams University is an independent, coeducational institution offering undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts and sciences, architecture, business, education, engineering, historic preservation, justice studies and law. The University enrolls 3,700 students at the main campus in Bristol, R.I., and at the Providence Metropolitan Center for Education and Law, and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

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