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The Institute at Ave Maria University Aims to Change the Future of Catholic Education

New initiative designed to equip scholars for vocations in exceptional careers

AVE MARIA, Fla., Feb. 26, 2025 – Ave Maria University is taking the faith and professional formation of its students to the next level with the establishment of the [Institute at Ave Maria University](#), a new initiative designed to not only recruit and form top students at the university but also to prepare them spiritually and professionally through individualized mentorship and fellowship to enter the workplace with honed skills, a deep knowledge of the Catholic faith and the desire to live that faith in their personal and professional lives.

Insert the Institute at Ave Maria University promo video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m498ft1aOOE>.

The Institute matches the core liberal arts curriculum classes for eight semesters that directly enhance Scholars' classroom experiences, merging academic and life/workplace skills seamlessly. Ave Maria University provides the foundation for Scholars — exceptional Ave Maria University students who fully commit to the Institute — as they work and learn within a cohesive and exclusive network of exceptional executives, leaders, businesses, faculty, partnering universities and educational providers.

The list of the Institute at Ave Maria University's advisors is particularly impressive, headlined by Maria Christina Gomez, senior vice president of North America Danone Strategic Insights & Analytics and former senior vice president of Procter & Gamble; James Keyes, a business leader and philanthropist known for his leadership as CEO of Fortune 500 companies 7-Eleven, Inc. and Blockbuster, Inc.; and Matt Birk, CEO of Matthews Building Solutions and a former NFL player.

“The modern workplace is evolving rapidly, while trust in religious, financial, civil and educational institutions is diminishing,” said Dan Schreck, director of the Institute at Ave Maria University. “Moreover, higher education often takes an either-or-approach, emphasizing practical skills at the expense of human formation or honing intellectual and spiritual development to the neglect of marketable professional skills. Here at The Institute, we take a both-and approach in which Scholars learn practical aspects of leadership and professional skills alongside their liberal arts education in sacred doctrine, ethics and western civilization.”

The Institute at Ave Maria University, a natural extension of founder Thomas Monaghan’s Catholic-focused entrepreneurship, has as its bedrock these words written by Saint Pope John Paul II in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*: “Students ... should realize the responsibility of their professional life, the enthusiasm of being the trained ‘leaders’ of tomorrow, of being witnesses to Christ in whatever place they may exercise their profession.”

To learn more about The Institute, please visit the [website](#).

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Dan Schreck, please contact Kevin Wandra (404-788-1276 or KWandra@CarmelCommunications.com) of Carmel Communications.

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About Ave Maria University

Ave Maria University is a Catholic institution of higher learning located in Ave Maria, Florida. Ave Maria University was established in 2003 as a Catholic university, according to the guidelines of the Code of Canon Law by the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. The recognition of Ave Maria University as a Catholic University is granted upon the university’s commitment to continue to be guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and faithfulness to the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. Ave Maria University is committed to helping its students develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life and grow in their appreciation of truth. The goal of AMU is simple: to build the foundation of a truly Catholic university that forms future generations of truly Catholic men and women faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. For more information about Ave Maria University, please visit www.avemaria.edu.