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# STETSON UNIVERSITY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Giovanni Fernandez New Executive Director of Graduate Programs at Stetson University**

*Tasked with developing and expanding graduate programs*

**DELAND, Florida**, May 23, 2018 – Giovanni Fernandez, Ph.D., has been appointed as executive director of [Graduate Programs](#) in Stetson University's [School of Business Administration](#). The appointment was announced by Dean Neal P. Mero, Ph.D. as part of Stetson's ongoing efforts to build on traditional strengths in undergraduate business programs to create distinctive graduate programs that prepare graduates to meet the challenges of leading business organizations in an increasingly complex global marketplace.

Fernandez came to Stetson University in 2012 from Florida International University in Miami where he was born and raised. He was drawn to Stetson University because of the university's tradition, reputation, and low faculty-to-student ratio. His love of finance began at a young age, as his father taught finance for 36 years and is also a financial advisor, both areas in which Fernandez has chosen to follow. He now leads Stetson's financial planning finance concentration and its Graduate Programs.

"Giovanni is especially well-suited to take on the challenges of leading the creation of the next generation of business graduate programs as he is an excellent teacher and is well respected by his colleagues for his work ethic, integrity and ability to get things done," said Mero. "Perhaps most impressive is his understanding of how to blend classroom teaching with technology to create an integrated learning experience that meets the needs of millennial and Gen Z students."

According to Mero, next year Stetson University will be introducing new MBA and Master of Accountancy graduate programs to meet both the needs of students seeking a residential approach to graduate education as well as those who prefer to leverage technology as part of their learning process.

In his new position, Fernandez will oversee the creation of these graduate programs by integrating traditional and technological methods and developing teaching practices to ensure the success of the programs and its students. He has been tasked with enhancing the accessibility of Stetson graduate programs for prospective students, while maintaining the quality standard that the School of Business Administration is recognized for.

Fernandez is responsible for supervising all business graduate programs and staff across three Stetson campuses in DeLand, Celebration and Gulfport. This includes Stetson's Executive MBA program which offers an immersive learning experience for professionals ready to prepare for advanced executive leadership roles.

"I am excited about the skills and energy Giovanni will bring to the development and expansion of our graduate programs," said Mero.

#### About Stetson University

*Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida, providing a transforming education in the liberal arts tradition. Stetson stresses academic excellence and community-engaged learning, and consistently earns high marks in national rankings. Stetson encourages its students to go beyond success to significance in their lives, the lives of others and their communities. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.*