

# Gordon State's Green chosen to lead Valdosta State

By Ty Tagami  
Capitol Beat News Service

One Georgia college will get a new president while another loses him, as Gordon State College President Donald J. Green moves to Valdosta State University.

Green will become president of Valdosta State effective Aug. 1, the University System of Georgia announced

Friday, succeeding interim President William R. "Bill" Crowe.

Crowe has led Valdosta State since the start of the year after former President Richard Carvajal resigned to take the presidency of California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt.

Green, who earned a Doctor of Education Leadership degree

from Western Michigan University, was named Gordon State's fifth president in November 2023. There, he implemented a three-year plan to reduce the time it was taking students to graduate and to better align courses with employer demand.

The college in Barnesville surpassed many of the plan's goals a year ahead of

schedule, according to the university system.

Green said in a statement that he looks forward to aligning Valdosta State's courses with industry needs, too.

"I'm eager to get to campus, build strong partnerships with the community and local industries and create new workforce pathways that will help both

Blazer Nation and the entire region grow," he said.

Valdosta State was founded in 1906 as a women's college but is now coeducational, with more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students from nearly every county in Georgia, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and over 60 countries.



Donald J. Green

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“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

**Reflecting on the Soul, Seasonally**

Viewing the changing seasons as more than just a shift in the weather is very important. This transitional period can be an incredibly helpful time for self reflection, too. We should try to take some time to do this, really, as each new season passes, as it provides a great benchmark for personal progress. As a new season comes in, we can ask ourselves questions such as “How would I like this upcoming season to look for me?”, “How can I improve upon something, if even slightly, in the next three months or so?” or even “How have I treated others recently?” Engaging actively in an intentional self reflection such as this can be beneficial in our everyday and spiritual lives, often leading to deeper reflection. The environment around us changing, even if for a brief few months, can have effects on us we may not even recognize, though deep reflection can offset this as we understand how we simply must navigate this as any other moving part of life. Getting back into one's routine at the close of summer can understandably be difficult for some, though we must approach any change with a sense that it can serve as a period of renewal for us. Ecclesiastes helps resolve elements of this issue well in noting how there is “a season for every activity under the heavens.” While the shift to fall may bring about an end to the feelings brought by summer, we must accept and appreciate it.

—James Stone

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