

NewsRoom

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New College picks Tampa business leader as board chairperson

Lucy Marques; Tampa Bay Times

New College trustees on Thursday named Tampa lawyer and business leader Ronald Christaldi as the board's chairperson.

Christaldi is a New College alumnus and partner at Tampa business firm Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP.

He's held leadership roles at the Tampa Bay Chamber, Tampa Bay Economic Development council, the Tampa Museum of Art and Leadership Florida.

Christaldi joined the board in 2019. He voted to fire former president Patricia Okker three years ago, alongside trustees Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed to turn the small, liberal arts school into a conservative college.

Christaldi said in a statement that his focus will be on academic excellence, student success and responsible stewardship. He also said he will ensure that New College prepares students to think independently and engage with different perspectives.

It's the trustees' responsibility to create an environment where students and faculty can thrive, he said.

"New College gave me an extraordinary education and helped shape the way I think, lead, and approach complex challenges," Christaldi said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to this remarkable institution."

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