

## New President Backgrounder



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Following a national search, Dr. William (Bill) Pepicello was named as the new president of University of Phoenix in September. Dr. Pepicello, 57, has been with University of Phoenix since 1995. He became Provost in January 2006 and acting president of University of Phoenix in June 2006. Dr. Pepicello was also nominated for membership on the University's Board of Directors. As the sixth president of the University of Phoenix, Dr. Pepicello is responsible for the leadership of the largest private university in the United States.

Dr. Pepicello welcomes the opportunity to discuss his vision for the University. Among the many exciting things happening at University of Phoenix, Dr. Pepicello can speak to:

- University of Phoenix is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall; he can discuss the past, present, and his vision for the future of the university
- What's new at University of Phoenix- including new degree programs and innovative new academic initiatives
- University of Phoenix has not come to prominence without some skepticism and controversy. Dr. Pepicello welcomes the opportunity to sort through common misconceptions and address what is really at the heart of the issues
- University of Phoenix recently entered into a partnership with the Arizona Cardinals to name the new University of Phoenix stadium; he can discuss the reasoning behind the partnership and what it means for the Valley
- Dr. Pepicello is a prominent expert in American higher education, and he can discuss the changing landscape of the industry both in Arizona, and the United States.

## **Biographical Information**

Bill Pepicello was born and raised in Erie, PA, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Classics from Gannon University. He holds both master's and doctorate degrees in Linguistics from Brown University and has held faculty positions at the University of Delaware, Temple University, and University of the Pacific. He has conducted research and published in the areas of classical languages, linguistics, psychology, anthropology, folklore, and humor studies.

Bill has held a number of administrative positions, including Department Chair for Classics at Temple and Regional Dean for Southern California for National University. Bill came to University of Phoenix in 1995 where he served as the first Dean of the College of General and Professional Studies. He subsequently held the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs until 2000. At that time, he assumed the position of President of the University of Sarasota; he helped transform that institution into what is today known as Argosy University.

Bill returned to University of Phoenix in 2002 as the founding Dean of the School of Advanced Studies—housing the University's doctoral programs. In November of 2003 he became Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and was promoted to Provost for the University in January of 2006..

Bill is frequently requested as a guest and keynote speaker and has addressed audiences across the country regarding for-profit higher education, non-traditional education, and the changing landscape of American higher education. He also serves as a Consultant-Evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the University's accrediting body.