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## A Special Employee Appreciation Day Message from David Smith

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Human Resources



### *Graziadio Business School 2025 Staff Appreciation Day*

I have spent a great deal of time recently thinking about the future of "the machines." We are living through a season where Artificial Intelligence can mimic our speech and automate our tasks with startling speed. However, as I engage with AI, I am reminded daily of the difference between utility and value.

Algorithms can process data, but they cannot offer grace. They can simulate logic, but they cannot embody the Christian mission that defines Pepperdine. You—our faculty and staff—are the soul of this institution. Your work is not a mere series of inputs and outputs; it is a ministry of presence, care, and mentorship. Whether you are serving to support our physical or digital campuses, please know that your "human-ness" is our greatest asset. You are irreplaceable because you are made in the image of God, something that AI will never be able to lay claim to. Thank you for the heart you bring to this community every day.

**David M. Smith, PhD**

Senior Associate Provost, Information Technology, Online Learning, and International Program  
Facilities

Professor of Economics

Graziadio Business School

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and  
female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

FOR  
GREATER PURPOSE



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