

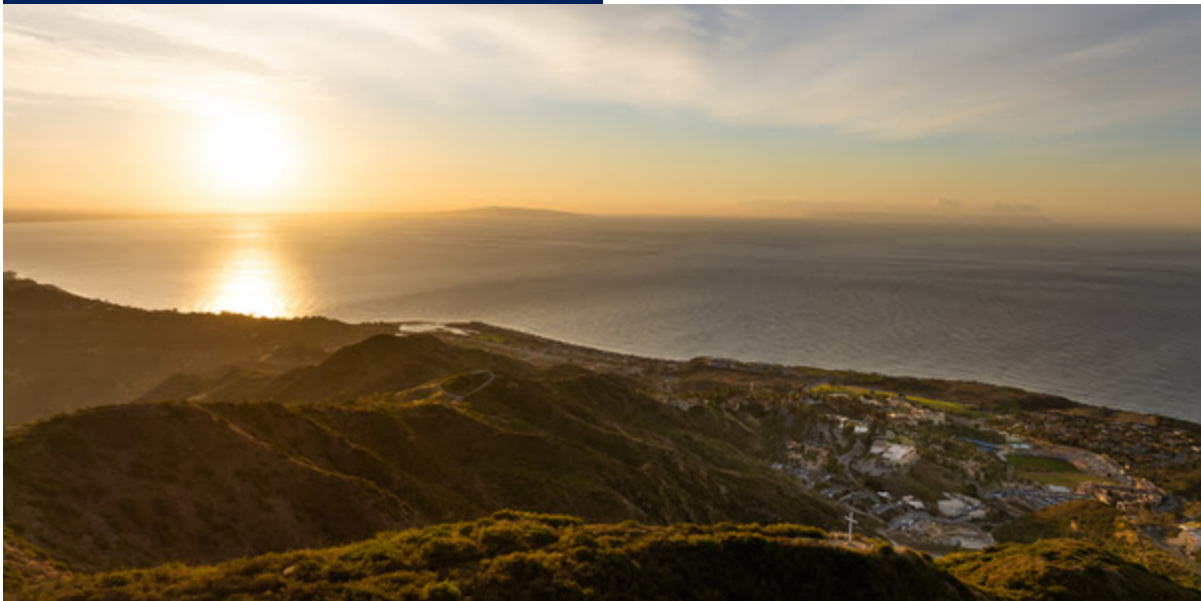
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## A Special New Year's Day Message from Tanner Gardner

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Human Resources



The turn of the year is a useful time to reflect and set goals. This process is productive. There is great value in goal setting because it provides direction. After all, if you start a race without knowing the finish line, it's difficult to win. The process can also be daunting. Setting goals, particularly big goals, comes with risk. What if we don't succeed?

There is a healthy tension in goal setting that if handled well, can bear much fruit and increase our faith in God. I fully believe we should prayerfully set big goals at the start of each year and run hard towards achieving those goals. Then, and this is where it gets challenging for high achievers like me: we entrust the results to God. The Bible tells us any successful work requires co-laboring with God (Psalm 127:1) and that He is sovereign over all (Colossians 1:17).

As we enter the new year, I encourage you to reflect on (and celebrate!) 2024. Then, prayerfully set ambitious goals for 2025 (professional, personal, and spiritual), and run hard towards those goals. In the end though, remember that no matter the outcome, God is sovereign over all. I pray for great success for our Pepperdine community in 2025, but more than that, I pray we find peace knowing God is in control of it all.

*"In their heart humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps" (Proverbs 16:9).*

**Tanner Gardner**

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