Volunteer Voices Newsletter - February 2014

Volunteering -
verb. generally considered an altruistic activity of assistance to others, which is intended to shape one's community, promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect, showing dedication toward society's future.

Welcome Week Barbecue Volunteers

Supporting Our Mission

Our volunteers are dedicated Northern Arizona University alumni, parents, and friends from diverse backgrounds who help make it possible for the Office of Alumni Relations to complete its mission to provide
the best service possible for the university and community. A volunteer is one who gives without compensation, of their time and talent, to help the university in activities, programs, and events for the betterment of all involved. Volunteers help to further the university mission by: advocating NAU’s mission, providing leadership, supporting projects, engaging alumni, and encouraging philanthropic efforts. We welcome and encourage your support. Thanks to Barriett Smith ’80 BSED (pictured above left), for volunteering all the way from Germany at Kaiserslautern College Night!

Launching Lumberjack Alumni Clubs

We are proud of our 138,000 NAU alumni who are making a difference in their communities professionally and personally. Many connections take place in your geographic areas with each other. This is an opportunity to expand the impact of those connections and build more. Arizona alone is home to 85,000 alumni. Our top 10 populated areas outside of Arizona are: 1) California 10,918; 2) Colorado 4,528; 3) Texas 2,897; 4) Washington 2,646; 5) New Mexico 2,302; 6) Oregon 2,063; 7) Nevada 2,014; 8) Illinois 1,252; 9) Utah 1,107; and 10) Virginia 1,067. We will be seeking key volunteers and interested parties for club creation in some of these areas throughout the next couple of years.

The premise of forming clubs is to establish a network of alumni that can facilitate local connections with each other. From networking opportunities, to cultural and social events, to service projects, NAU Alumni Clubs will elevate, enrich and engage alumni communities. If you have an interest in clubs, or know someone who might have an interest, please email Georgette.Vigil@nau.edu.

ENCORE Volunteer Program

The Empowered Network Centered On Recruiting Excellence is a customized program that seeks to find the best fit for each volunteer based on the current campus need. A relatively new program, so far volunteers have been partnered with specific college departments as guest speakers and mentors. Some alumni have generously offered internships within their companies. ENCORE volunteers share their experiences in the working world and give a snapshot of life in different professions. NAU wants alumni as partners in our ongoing commitment to excellence. For more information about the ENCORE Program contact: Rosanne Burton at 928-523-2512 or Rosanne.Burton@nau.edu or visit nau.edu/alumni/volunteer

Volunteer Alumni Network
The Volunteer Alumni Network (VAN) Program is now in its 13th year of working hard to match alumni volunteers with NAU Admissions staff to recruit the top students across the nation. With VAN members from Arizona to Alaska and beyond, the outreach and influence of alumni continues to grow and make a positive impact on the future of NAU. This program is a collaborative effort with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation, in which alumni volunteers assist with recruitment information sessions, college fairs and high school awards events throughout the country. Last fall, VAN members contributed more than 188 hours towards student recruitment and various Alumni Outreach events.

In the spring, VAN will focus their efforts on Senior Yield events which are geared towards high school seniors who have been accepted to NAU but not yet committed, and Junior Information Sessions which will prepare future Lumberjacks for the road to college. With more than 30 recruitment events this semester, take a look at the events schedule to see if there is an event near you that you can assist with! Note: you must register to assist with these events.

NAU strives to recruit and recognize the top high school seniors—and we need your help! In April we will be seeking alumni in Maricopa County to attend high school awards events for approximately 40 schools throughout the valley. At these events, you will be the sole NAU representative and given the opportunity to present scholarships to our future Lumberjacks. If you are interested in being included in our email contact list for these events, send an email to Beth Bourget.

Photos, photos, photos! Please email Beth with any photos you have from volunteering at events; we’d love to include them in our next newsletter or on our website. The above photo is from an Alumni Student Mentoring Panel Discussion.

To learn more about VAN, please contact:
Beth Bourget
Beth.Bourget@nau.edu
928-523-2101
nau.edu/alumni/volunteer

Message from Nancy Serenbetz, '75 BS & Founding VAN Member
Working with the Alumni Office more than 13 years ago while I was serving on the NAU Alumni Board, we felt strongly that a volunteer alumni network would provide a wonderful way for alums to "give back" to our alma mater in ways that could make a difference! We did not have such a program in place at the time and we heard from so many alums who wanted to be "engaged" with NAU and who wanted to make a positive change by giving back with their time, talent and energy. Looking back, the program has grown in wonderful new ways that truly make a difference for NAU. And, it sure feels good as a volunteer alumna to see what impact VAN has had in bringing our alums together to positively influence our amazing institution.

Message from David Dollins, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation

I would like to sincerely thank our alumni volunteers. With more than 80 events (information sessions and receptions), along with 300 college fair events attended each year, we rely on our alumni to assist in successfully recruiting the incoming class. Many of the families we work with value the perspective provided by alumni, as well as the friends of NAU, that participate through the Volunteer Alumni Network. We could not extend our reach as well as we have without the support you provide. I speak for the entire Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation office when I say we strongly value this program and look forward to working with each of you in the months and years to come. Thank you for all you do! It does make an impact in the lives of our prospective and current NAU students.

NAU By the Numbers

- **4,724**: Fall 2013 Record Freshmen Class (up from the previous year of 4,198)
- **443**: Number of College Fairs and High School Visits Completed in Fall 2013
- **23,660**: Visitors to NAU for Campus Tours (‘12-‘13)
- **86**: Number of Events Hosted (‘12-‘13)