



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

October 20, 2020

Dear Lumberjacks,

It is hard to believe that in a little more than five weeks we will complete the fall semester. While there is still work to be done, I want to thank the Lumberjack community for helping us move toward the finish line as safely as possible. Your commitment to prevention strategies has allowed NAU to continue to provide a full range of academic options this semester. Our mitigation testing has been successful in identifying asymptomatic individuals, keeping our positive testing numbers low, and limiting the spread of COVID-19 on our campus and in our community.

Let's make sure we finish strong. We will continue mitigation testing and we need everyone—students, faculty, and staff—to do their part and participate in testing when selected. Our priority is for you to end the semester healthy so your family and friends are protected when you go home over the winter break. Before you travel home, I encourage you to take advantage of free testing at the NAU Fieldhouse. Your loved ones will be glad you did.

Many of you have been asking about NAU's plans for the spring semester. Given the successful start to our fall semester, and in consultation with many groups across campus, we have decided to follow this proven process for the start of our spring semester. By following this same strategy, we will continue to deliver on our national reputation for a quality education through multiple delivery options while helping mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to our community.

As we did in the fall, we will modify the process in which students return to campus by limiting in-person instruction at the start of the semester, and utilizing NAUFlex's remote delivery to hold the majority of classes virtually for the first two weeks. The details of this phased-in approach are below:

- **January 11:** Spring 2021 classes begin.
- **January 11-22:** [NAUFlex](#) remote delivery will be the primary method of instruction for the first two weeks. Faculty will reach out to a very small number of students whose classes require they start in-person on January 11.
- **January 10-24:** The return schedule for students living in residential halls on campus will be modified to accommodate a phased-in approach during a two-week period. Priority will be given to students with in-person classes. Students will be required to schedule a time to return and must provide a negative result for a COVID-19 test completed within seven days prior to their return.
- **January 25:** In-person instruction, coupled with ongoing NAUFlex delivery, begins.
- **April 29:** Classes end, allowing for an early start to summer. We are moving spring break to the end of the semester to finish early while prioritizing our community's health.

University Housing will send detailed information and instructions for returning to campus and the required testing. In addition, for those of you looking to stay connected and busy before the spring semester starts, we will soon be sharing details about the many outstanding classes and student activities that will be offered over winter break—providing a great opportunity for students to catch up on credits or get ahead of the game.

Once again, I urge everyone to continue to adhere to the many initiatives we have in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19: [mitigation testing](#), [Healthcheck](#), [Covid Watch](#), and taking precautions such as [wearing a mask, physically distancing, and using good hygiene](#). The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community is our primary concern, and everyone must do their part in order to remain successful and finish the semester Lumberjack strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a trailing flourish.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President