



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

November 6, 2020

Dear Lumberjacks,

Homecoming is one of our most important NAU traditions. It is an opportunity for alumni and students to stay connected to a place they hold near and dear to their hearts and a time for members of the Lumberjack family to share their pride with other friends, classmates, professors, and staff.

For more than 80 years, we have named a faculty or staff member as Homecoming dedicatee—someone who has had great impact on our students. This year's Homecoming celebration is dedicated to the Class of 2020. Their perseverance and fortitude throughout this pandemic have been an inspiration to all of us.

This week, NAU is celebrating Homecoming virtually with a number of activities and traditions—from virtual concerts to a Lumberjack Family Game Night. And, what would Homecoming be without a parade? The 2020 Homecoming Parade is virtual and will be livestreamed on the [NAU Social YouTube Channel](#) at 11 a.m. Saturday, featuring photos, videos, and shoebox floats, designed and built by NAU students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the Flagstaff community.

We will also celebrate Lumberjack alumni with an Honored Alumni & Hall of Fame Virtual Ceremony at 4 p.m. Saturday. [Learn more about the honorees and how to stream the event online.](#)

## **President's Alumni Award Winners**

- R. Carlos Nakai—College of Arts and Letters
- Dr. William Kapfer—College of Education
- Albert Hugo-Martinez—College of Engineering, Informatics, and Applied Sciences
- Bill Schroeter—College of Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences
- Dr. Carl DeRosa—College of Health and Humans Services
- Teresa Bartels—College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- James Upchurch—The W. A. Franke College of Business

## **Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award Winners**

- Karolyn Kent—Dr. Cliff Harkins Distinguished Citizen of the Year
- Dr. Damon Clarke—Dwight Patterson Alumnus/Alumna of the Year

- Dr. Craig Smith—Excellence in Achievement by a Recent Graduate
- Michael Swinarski—Jeff Ferris Volunteer of the Year
- Greg and Nancy Wilson—Joe and Marie Rolle Spirit of NAU

**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Hall of Fame**

- Suzanne Goodspeed
- James L. McCarthy

**The W.A. Franke College of Business Hall of Fame**

- David Damron
- Anne Niemiec
- Robert Stuckey
- Dr. David A. Williams

The success of our alumni is representative of NAU's strength, quality, and reputation. Our distinguished Lumberjacks exemplify the high caliber of NAU graduates and the global impact of our university. I invite you to join me in congratulating them.

Details of this year's Homecoming celebration can be found at NAU's [Homecoming page](#).

As we prepare to observe Homecoming virtually and safely this year, I would like to share the latest update on our COVID-19 mitigation efforts. I ask that we all continue doing our part to stay healthy by following protocols to control the spread of COVID-19. As of this afternoon, NAU is managing 57 cases among students on- and off-campus, down slightly from 62 cases last week. Updates can be found on [NAU's COVID-19 page](#).

Happy Homecoming, and be sure and bundle up with colder temperatures on the way and a forecast of snow.

Sincerely,



**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President