



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

April 16, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

I am filled with gratitude by the generosity of the Lumberjack community, reflected in the great success of Wednesday's Giving Day. Preliminary results show that, with more than 1,400 gifts, we raised \$491,273, an increase of 68 percent from 2019! Challenges totaling more than \$240,000 were unlocked, including the \$100,000 Jeff Willis Lumberjack Challenge. I would like to acknowledge in particular the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for bringing in the most gifts and most dollars of any college.

This performance is a dramatic improvement from 2020, when our campaign raised \$105,385 in pandemic-related emergency funds. We realize last year was difficult for everyone, but this year's effort shows the hope for a bright future ahead and one in which many are willing to invest. Thank you to all who donated and helped make this year's day of giving such a success!

One of my favorite events of the year closes today—the **Virtual Undergraduate Expo and Symposium**. More than 700 students shared their projects in a virtual format with peers, professors, and the NAU and Flagstaff communities. The event underscores NAU's commitment to research and discovery. Projects covered a wide range of topics, including bacterial contamination in cosmetic products, complexities with eyewitness identification, the relationship between gut bacteria and Alzheimer's disease, and the impact of interior design on social interaction. During this important event, our undergraduates not only demonstrated their educational attainment, but also their mastery and skills in research, problem-solving, and leadership to address social and scientific issues of today and tomorrow.

This week, the Arizona Board of Regents approved tuition and fees for the 2021-2022 school year. Undergraduate tuition will remain unchanged for the second year in a row while also retaining the four-year Pledge tuition guarantee for undergraduates on the Flagstaff campus. Holding the line on costs reflects our sensitivity to the economic disruption students and families have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pledge program is in its 13th year and will result in incoming Flagstaff resident undergraduate students paying \$11,896 total tuition and mandatory fees for each of their four years here at NAU.

Graduate tuition for students enrolled on any NAU campus will see a 5 percent increase. No changes will occur to NAU Online. Housing was restructured this year collapsing 17 different tiers of housing into 5 and including laundry into the cost. Overall, housing rates have an average increase of 4.45 percent and dining costs 2 percent.

In my message yesterday, I announced that the Arizona Board of Regents also approved seven Northern Arizona University faculty members as **Regents' professors**, a recognition and honor only afforded to 3 percent of faculty. The professors are Scott Goetz, School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems; Jani Ingram, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Björn Krondorfer, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies; Yiqi Luo, Department of Biological Sciences; Michelle Mack, Department of Biological Sciences; Ted Schuur, Department of Biological Sciences; and Miguel José Yacamán, Department of Applied Physics and Materials Sciences. Congratulations to all!

And, starting Monday, NAU's University Union Fieldhouse will transform into a state vaccination site, as part of the state's effort to expand vaccine availability. The **Northern Region Vaccination Site**, which is a partnership with the State of Arizona, Coconino County, Northern Arizona Healthcare, and Premier Medical Group, will offer the Pfizer vaccine to those 16 and older. The site

is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Register for an appointment online at podvaccine.azdhs.gov or by calling 1-844-542-8201. Both have resources in English and Spanish. COVID-19 testing will continue at the Fieldhouse at no cost.

As of this afternoon, NAU is managing 103 COVID-19 cases among students on and off campus, up slightly from last week. Additional updates can be found on [NAU's coronavirus page](#).

Wishing all a healthy end of your week and weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark to the right of the name.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President