



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

April 9, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

We are three weeks away from commencement, and preparations continue for our celebration of the accomplishments of 6,000 new graduates.

Speaking of accomplishments, this week 47 students received [Gold Axe and Distinguished Senior awards](#), and six students were named winners of the President's Prize, the highest honor an NAU undergraduate can achieve.

We also recently received great news about some additional student honors. This year, two NAU students received Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards, and we are waiting for confirmation on another four candidates. In addition, three Flinn Scholars have confirmed they will be attending NAU this fall—our largest number of Flinn scholars ever. The Flinn Scholarship is one of the nation's most prestigious merit-based scholarships, covering 100 percent of tuition over four years.

The accolades and recognitions we are celebrating speak to the talent and dedication of our entire NAU community.

After much planning and coordination, I'm also pleased to share that the State of Arizona is launching a COVID-19 vaccination site at the NAU Fieldhouse starting April 19. Continuing the expansion of vaccine availability statewide, this indoor site will operate 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. It will offer about 1,000 appointments per day to start but will be able to administer more than 4,000 doses daily.

Vaccines will be offered in partnership with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs. Premier Medical Group will be the primary site operator and will be responsible for the pharmacy and staffing. The site will offer the Pfizer vaccine, which is available to those age 16 and older. The county currently offers Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, which are approved for those 18 and older.

We are enthusiastic about the expanded partnership with the State of Arizona, Coconino County, Northern Arizona Healthcare, and Premier Medical Group to broaden vaccine access in Flagstaff. To date, 3,962,537 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to 2,493,123 individuals in Arizona, including 1,615,029 who are fully vaccinated.

My heartfelt thanks to the staff and volunteers at Campus Health Services, who have provided 6,482 first and second doses to faculty and staff since the beginning of the year.

As a reminder, NAU continues to follow COVID-19 safety protocols to help keep our students, faculty, staff, and everyone in our extended communities healthy.

As of this afternoon, we are managing 101 COVID-19 cases among students on and off campus, up from last week. Additional updates can be found on [NAU's coronavirus page](#)

Finally, I invite you to participate in NAU's third annual [Giving Day](#) on Wednesday, April 14. Visit the Giving Day website to learn more about how you can make a difference.

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