



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

August 28, 2020

Dear Lumberjacks,

All of us at NAU are delighted to see more students, faculty, and staff on campus, and we are particularly eager to start in-person classes on Monday.

As you know from our many communications since spring break, we have put a large number of safeguards in place to mitigate risks associated with COVID-19.

It is for that reason that I once again make a heartfelt appeal to each of you to be mindful of your personal responsibility to adhere to the protocols and guidelines we have in place. Compliance is crucial to maintaining the health and safety of our community.

Wear your mask when you go to class, to the library, or elsewhere on campus. Wear it when you go to the store. Keep a mask with you at all times, even while outside, so if you cannot be physically distanced you are sure to be masked up.

Guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local experts is helpful **only if each and every one of us follows the guidance**. We encourage you to use common sense in your own self-care and to be respectful of those around you and their desire to reduce their own risk.

It is very tempting when meeting new friends or reconnecting with old ones to drop your guard and go back to the way things were before the pandemic. I wish we could; truly, I do. I urge you to stay vigilant and follow public health guidelines so we can keep our campus open and continue to fulfill the aspirations that I know each of you have for a quality on-campus experience.

I mentioned in last week's message that once surge testing ends on Sunday, NAU will begin a new process of mitigation testing. Mitigation testing will begin Wednesday, September 2, in the University Union Fieldhouse, with plans to test approximately 2,500 students, faculty, and staff each week throughout the fall semester. Individual notifications will be sent to those who will be tested. In addition, anyone within the Flagstaff or NAU community can take advantage of ongoing testing at the Fieldhouse throughout the fall. Following Labor Day, regular hours will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Mitigation testing is essential to NAU's ability to continue to offer in-person education, as it will help us identify asymptomatic cases and limit the spread of the virus to others. For this phase, we will use saliva tests through our partnership with Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Health Services. Campus Health Services will continue to provide symptomatic testing.

Thank you for doing your part as we prepare for the start of in-person classes on Monday. I truly

believe that if we all adhere to our carefully crafted guidelines for personal conduct and are aggressive in our approach to testing, we will have a highly successful and rewarding semester.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita", written in a cursive style.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President