



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

February 19, 2021

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the middle of the spring semester, I have a number of updates to share with our campus community.

First, we continue to make progress on the vaccination front. About 3,000 vaccines have been administered to faculty, staff, and qualified students this semester. Continued access to the vaccine remains a priority, and we appreciate our partnership with Coconino County and others in the community who are working diligently on this effort. Inclement weather across the nation brought logistical and operational challenges this week, adversely affecting vaccine delivery, including NAU's ability to keep scheduled appointments. We have rescheduled appointments as possible for next week and are hoping for smooth delivery of our vaccine allocations to accommodate these appointments. As a result, NAU is not scheduling new appointments this week, but have opened a **wait list** for those awaiting their first dose of the vaccination. The NAU community is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity at Campus Health Services. If you sign up for vaccinations at a community location, please only register at one vaccination site, and if you need to cancel an appointment, cancel as early as possible to allow others to get vaccinated. Campus Health Services is also looking for volunteers to help at the vaccine administration site. If you are interested, please call (928) 523-6116.

U.S. Census representatives joined NAU's cabinet virtually this week and thanked us for our monumental effort in helping to fulfill the goals of the 2020 Census, in which our Lumberjacks residing locally participated. The Census representatives reported that the national response rate was 67 percent, up from 66.5 percent in 2010. Information gleaned from the Census is used to determine the availability of federal student loans and Pell grants and also affects university funding. My thanks to everyone who made this year's Census effort a success.

I ask that you support our annual Giving Day, which will take place on April 14. The engagement of our faculty, staff, donors, volunteers, leaders, mentors, and alumni contributes to NAU's strength and longevity, creating opportunities for current and future generations of Lumberjacks. Your contributions—no matter how big or how small—make a difference. During last year's Giving Day, the NAU Foundation raised \$105,745 for student emergency and rapid response funds. We are hoping for an even bigger show of support this year.

I am pleased to join with the NAU community in congratulating NAU's next president, Dr. José Luis Cruz. Last night the Arizona Board of Regents named Dr. Cruz as the finalist for the 17th NAU President. We welcome Dr. Cruz and his wife, Rima, as they prepare to join the Lumberjack family.

As of this afternoon, NAU is managing 85 COVID-19 cases among students on and off campus, down from last week. Updates can be found on [NAU's coronavirus page](#).

Thank you for all you continue to do to remain vigilant about maintaining appropriate health and safety practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President