



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

February 12, 2021

Dear colleagues,

The most important measure of our success as a university is that of our students—validating our mission and realizing our promise. There are many measures of success, most notably academic success. But true success comes when our students leave NAU as fully formed, responsible citizens, prepared to take on the responsibilities that come with adulthood and ready to play constructive roles in their families, communities, and the larger world around them.

During the pandemic, Northern Arizona University has graduated 8,500 students, and more than 76 percent of freshmen continued on to their sophomore year. We know that persistence is one key indicator of student success. We have marked success in the continued pursuit of excellence—winning national awards, accomplishing athletic feats, volunteering, innovating, and becoming part of the fabric of their community. At a time when our students are managing the unforeseen challenges of a global pandemic, their dedication, commitment, and drive has been an inspiration to us all. They truly embody the Lumberjack spirit.

In addition to the work that occurs in the classroom, a large factor in student success is the social, emotional, and professional support that is part of the foundation of NAU, particularly at this challenging time. It is why we are here. The commitment of our faculty and staff keeps our students moving forward on the path to success.

As we approach midterms, I would like to share some of the resources that are available to students, faculty, or staff.

- **Academic Success Centers:** ASCs are offering free one-on-one tutoring, peer academic coaching, and supplemental instruction sessions. Students who attend a one-on-one tutoring appointment before March 19 can enter a drawing to win one of two \$100 gift cards to the NAU Bookstore.
- **Leadership, Engagement, Activities and Peer Mentoring Department:** Visit [LEAP](#) for the latest happenings, including leadership workshops, social events, and engagement opportunities.
- **Career Development:** All students, employers, and graduate colleges are invited to the Virtual Recruiting Experience ([VRX week](#)). This semester, one industry-specific fair will take place each day during the week of February 15–19.
- **Student Wellness Summit** (Feb. 26): This event focuses on students in health professions but is open to all. It provides interaction with peers and an opportunity to learn from health experts on relevant topics.
- **Counseling Services:** Telehealth appointments are available via Zoom during business hours, and our on-call counselor is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please call (928) 523-2261 to schedule a telehealth appointment or to speak with the on-call counselor.
- **Health and wellness:**
  - **NAU Resilience Project:** An online toolkit to promote healthy coping skills and learn about wellness resources that will help students "bounce back" after adversity.
  - **Live Well NAU:** A framework to help NAU community members manage their health based on the 8 Dimensions of Wellness: financial, spiritual, physical, emotional, environmental, social,

intellectual, and occupational.

– **Campus Recreation:** Join in on a variety of activities, including [weekly trivia](#), [bingo events](#), [outdoor workout facilities](#), and [Zoom fitness classes](#).

– **Louie's Cupboard:** The campus food pantry, which started as a class project, now serves hundreds of students, staff, and faculty through biweekly food distributions.

Success also means continuing to be vigilant about health and safety. As of this afternoon, NAU is managing 111 COVID-19 cases among students on and off campus, up from last week. Updates can be found on [NAU's coronavirus page](#).

My sincere thanks to Coconino County as we receive allocations of the COVID-19 vaccine for our NAU community. I also would like to thank all health care workers and volunteers for helping to keep everyone safe.

Moreover, my thanks to all of you for continuing your commitment to mitigation testing, which will still be vitally important even as we advance vaccine implementation.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita", with a small blue mark to the right.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President