



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

February 5, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

I am proud to share that for the second consecutive year, NAU ranks as one of the country's top 200 research universities, moving up five spots, to No. 191, in the most recent National Science Foundation (NSF) national research rankings.

In the same NSF rankings, NAU rose to No. 88 for universities without a medical school and No. 70 in the nation for public institutions without a medical school.

The NSF's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) annual survey ranks more than 900 colleges and universities and is the primary source of information on research and development expenditures. NAU's ranking is based on a fiscal year performance of \$58.91 million in 2019.

This chart shows NAU's continuous advancement in research expenditures and in a number of other significant NSF criteria from fiscal year 2012 through 2019.

NAU's HERD Ranking		FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12
A	Rank for all institutions	191	196	201	213	219	223	230	244
B	Rank among <i>public institutions</i>	139	144	149	156	160	164	170	181
C	Rank among <u>all institutions</u> without medical school expenditures	88	93	96	101	108	110	116	125
D	Rank among <u>public institutions</u> without medical school expenditures	70	75	78	81	86	89	95	103

Congratulations are to be shared throughout our institution as these rankings reflect the diverse achievements of NAU's world-class faculty, researchers and support staff, and our hard-working students. It also demonstrates our dedication to teaching students and allows our faculty to serve as mentors and role models, a critical component of the graduate and undergraduate learning experience at NAU.

NAU's national recognition in research helps attract and retain exceptional faculty. It also grows and strengthens programs leading to degrees in high-demand fields, further developing Arizona's

workforce, supporting jobs for students, faculty and staff, expanding the state's economy, and benefitting communities locally and throughout the world.

Meanwhile, we continue our effort to maintain healthy and safe practices, and key to this is our continued commitment to mitigation testing. Along with masks and handwashing, mitigation testing must continue even after we have received vaccinations. As of this afternoon, NAU is managing 73 COVID-19 cases among students on and off campus, up slightly from last week. Updates can be found on [NAU's coronavirus page](#).

I close with a message of thanks for our partnership with Coconino County and that we continue to receive allocations of the COVID-19 vaccine for our NAU community. Look for my email later this afternoon opening registration for our next allotment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark at the end.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President