



July 16, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

This week brought with it the first true monsoons since we arrived in Flagstaff. While the rain was sorely needed and comes as a relief for much of our region, many of our neighbors have suffered from the serious flooding that has occurred over the past few days. My heart goes out to the people of our community who have been affected.

### Supporting our community

On Thursday, members of the NAU Men's Basketball team went into a neighborhood impacted by the flooding and helped place sandbags and remove debris. I am so thankful for this display of community. I know that many of you also have joined in these efforts, and you have my sincere appreciation and thanks. Volunteers are still needed and I'd like to let you know about one way our NAU family can help our Flagstaff community.

This **Saturday, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the United Way of Northern Arizona, in coordination with Coconino County, is seeking volunteers for a sandbagging event to help protect flood-affected areas in Flagstaff. **[Sign up here to volunteer](#)**. I'll be there tomorrow morning.

Even helping for just an hour can make a tremendous difference in the lives of individuals who need a helping hand. We are strong and resilient because of each other and the connections we have to our community—let's stand together now when our friends, colleagues, and neighbors are in need.

### Reflecting on the week

As the week comes to a close, I want to share a brief update on our activities and progress. Thank you once again for your partnership and input as we advance plans at NAU for a successful Fall 2021. Our **Fall 2021 Planning Steering Committee**, Public Health Advisory Committee, and Academic Learning, Success, and Engagement Committee all met this week to move forward planning efforts and offer crucial advice and guidance on how best to operate in the weeks and months ahead. I shared **new guidance on Fall protocols** earlier this week, and we refreshed our **Jacks are Back** website to serve as the central hub for information for Fall 2021. I encourage you to review the available information and stay engaged as we move forward.

I had the opportunity to connect with several partners from throughout our Flagstaff and NAU communities this week. I met with leadership from the Arizona Daily Sun, the Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona, our NAU Police Department, experts in semiconductor and nanotechnology research at NAU who are helping address critical research and workforce needs of the future, and our dedicated University Marketing team, among others. I end these meetings feeling so confident in the opportunities that lay before us.

It has been a month since our 17th Presidency began. As I reflect on where we are today, I can see how much we have already accomplished by working together through transparent consultation with the passionate people and teams that support our mission. Together, we can, and will, advance access, attainment, inquiry, justice, changemaking, and equity—in our home communities, throughout the state of Arizona, across the country, and around the globe.

Our university is poised to take on the great challenges of the future and to lead the way forward, and I am excited to welcome all of our students back to a vibrant fall semester filled with hope and opportunity.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "José Luis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J' and 'L'.

**José Luis Cruz Rivera**  
President