



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 21, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

This Saturday, our NAU family will celebrate the life of NAU's 12th President, Dr. Eugene Hughes, who passed away earlier this year.

While I did not have the good fortune to know him personally, I have learned much about Dr. Hughes since I began my journey to NAU last year. His impact and legacy have had a lasting effect on our university, and his accomplishments are evident in everything from the physical appearance of our Flagstaff Mountain campus to the excellence of our academic programs and student-centered institutional culture. Dr. Hughes is truly a pillar of our university community, and as president of NAU, it is my honor and privilege to build on the strong foundation he laid for our future.

Any listing of Dr. Hughes' achievements cannot possibly capture the depth and breadth of his commitment to NAU and the transformative impact he had on our university. A few that stand out to me are the founding of our nationally recognized School of Hotel and Restaurant Management, the development of the first courses in Arizona that were offered via television to off-campus sites—a precursor to the excellent and diverse online programs of today—and the design and construction of more than 20 new buildings on the Flagstaff Mountain campus. Perhaps most important, his strategic focus and commitment to our mission of expanding opportunities for educational access and attainment in our community and throughout the state and nation endure and inform the student-centered values of our university today.

Dr. Hughes was inducted into the NAU Hall of Fame in 2014 and received an honorary doctorate from NAU in 1997.

On Saturday, our university community comes together once again to honor and celebrate this amazing man who changed the lives of so many Lumberjacks. My thanks to the family of Dr. Hughes for inviting us all to this virtual memorial service at **3:30 p.m. on July 24**. Please visit [nau.edu/hughesmemorial](https://nau.edu/hughesmemorial) to watch the Celebration of Life live and share your memories of Dr. Hughes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "José Luis Cruz Rivera".

**José Luis Cruz Rivera**  
President