



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

January 15, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

Thank you for your great effort to get us off to a successful start to our spring semester. Our Lumberjack family has started out strong, taking the necessary precautions to care for ourselves and each other.

Over the next few weeks, students will begin their return to our Flagstaff community, modeled on our successful fall semester strategy, which focused on a phased move-in process, testing, quarantining when necessary, contact tracing, physical distancing, rigorous compliance with mask wearing, and diligence about hygiene. We fully expect that with everyone's adherence to this approach, we will have a safe and successful semester.

As a reminder, students living on campus are required to show a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than seven days before their move-in appointment.

We strongly encourage students living off campus to get tested prior to their return as well. All students should continue to practice the protocols about personal hygiene, mask wearing, and physical distancing that has served us so well.

We have tested approximately 3,300 individuals in the NAU Fieldhouse since re-opening this community testing site on January 6, 2021. We encourage individuals on both the NAU campus and in the Flagstaff community to take advantage of this free service to help keep our community healthy by detecting COVID-19 infections. NAU continued to provide residential campus housing over the winter break for approximately 800 students and so far, 1,781 students have returned to our campus for the spring semester. As of this afternoon, NAU is managing 80 COVID cases among students on and off campus. Updates can be found on [NAU's COVID-19 page](#).

As a reminder, NAU is working closely with Coconino County to serve as a COVID-19 vaccine distribution site for NAU employees and students who live or work in this county. Faculty, staff, and students living throughout the state should consult with their home county to learn more about vaccine accessibility and scheduling in their area.

We are currently working to vaccinate the NAU 1a population, which includes health care workers. We have notified those eligible to receive the vaccine. We are also preparing to alert those in the NAU 1b group, which includes education and child care workers, law enforcement, and those 65 years of age and older. NAU has placed an order for the vaccine, which is allocated to Coconino County through the State of Arizona. When these doses are received, NAU is planning to open registration at the end of next week; appointments at Campus Health Services will begin the week of January 25. I can assure you that NAU is committed to providing the vaccine to our NAU community and to keeping everyone informed as information becomes available. For the latest

information on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, please visit [NAU's Vaccine Information page](#).

We are excited to start the semester and ready to take on the important work of learning and teaching. We kick off the start of the semester honoring the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. with the presentation "The Importance of Black Lives," hosted by the Office of Inclusion at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 18. Registration is required and can be found on the [MLK Day Celebration webpage](#).

As always, I value your ongoing trust and commitment. At NAU, we believe if we all work together, we can help keep our Lumberjack community safe.

Stay healthy. Stay safe.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark to the right of the name.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President