



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

June 19, 2020

Dear colleagues,

I'm pleased to share with you today NAU's [Return to On-Campus Work plan](#). These protocols are the product of extensive consultation, research, and deliberation, and they will help guide our university community through the process of returning faculty and staff to work on campus in a manner that protects them to the greatest extent possible and allows us to fulfill our student-centered mission.

The fundamental goal of our Return to On-Campus Work plan is to help protect the health and safety of our faculty, staff, students, and our surrounding communities, while continuing NAU's vital mission of helping our students realize their aspirations. I would especially like to thank our Human Resources team, the researchers and public health experts at NAU's Center for Health Equity Research, and NAU Environmental and Health Safety for their critical work in reviewing and providing important input for components of this plan. Also, my thanks to the many Lumberjacks across other units and departments who have played a constructive role throughout the planning process.

The plan covers guidelines on physical distancing, the use of personal protective equipment—most notably masks and other face coverings—sanitation procedures, and personal care, including self-screening. We also address frequently asked questions that have arisen during the development of the plan.

**[The full Return to On-Campus Work plan is available in a PDF.](#)** I ask that you carefully review and familiarize yourself with the materials on the website. Our goal is to achieve our return to campus in a carefully managed and highly organized way—not only to help mitigate risks to you personally, but also to reassure you that we have addressed each health and safety issue as thoroughly as possible. Please feel free to communicate with your supervisors and others so they can address any questions or concerns you may have.

Our phased-in return to on-campus work will include online health and safety training starting the week of June 22 for all faculty and staff. Our faculty and staff will begin returning during the week of July 6, with our ultimate goal of having most of our faculty and staff here on campus by the week of August 3. Each department will develop their own plans that adhere to this timetable. We recognize, however, that there may be some cases where continued work from home, staggered schedules, or other strategies that ensure physical distancing are continued. We will also continue to make options available for faculty and staff members who are in high-risk categories.

We have carefully adhered to recommendations from federal and state health experts and government officials, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and Coconino County Health and Human Services, as well as campus and local health and research experts. We will continue to monitor recommendations and update our guidelines as necessary.

We look forward to seeing our faculty and staff back on campus. As always, please reach out with questions or concerns.

Stay well and stay safe.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita", written in a cursive style.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President