



July 23, 2021

Highlights:

- Opportunities to volunteer in our Flagstaff community
- Return to in-person work information
- Jacks are Vaxed promotion
- The week in review
- Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Eugene Hughes, NAU's 12th president

Dear Lumberjacks,

As the week draws to a close, I have a number of updates for our NAU community, including one personal one. On the personal front, thanks for the thousands who helped welcome our new family pet, [Louie the Puppy](#), whose social media debut has been a lot of fun. On the official front, I am happy to provide the following summary of activities.

Opportunities to volunteer

As I shared last week, our Flagstaff community is experiencing a period of intense monsoonal activity and flooding. I encourage you to help our neighbors as you are able by volunteering your time and energy. There are still opportunities available this weekend through [United Way of Northern Arizona](#).

I want to thank the many members of our Lumberjack community who spent last Saturday sandbagging at King Street and the Coconino County Public Works Yard, and clearing mud and debris from homes in Sunnyside. I had the opportunity to [work side-by-side with some of our student-athletes](#) who were passionate about helping our Flagstaff neighbors and contributing to the safety and well-being of our community.

Return to in-person work information

Our planning to bring our Jacks back for a vibrant Fall 2021 took another important step forward this week. I trust you have had a chance to [read yesterday's message](#) from Dr. Josh Mackey (vice president and chief human resources officer/interim executive vice president and chief of staff) outlining important next steps for the return to in-person work at NAU. I encourage all of our faculty and staff to review this important information and to reach out if you have any questions.

Your engagement and commitment moving forward helps ensure the success of our students and our university. I echo Josh in thanking you for all you do for NAU—I hope to see you on my daily walks across campus soon.

Jacks are Vaxed promotion

A critical component of our success this fall is broad vaccination of our NAU community. As we have heard from many sources in the last few weeks, as COVID-19 case numbers rise in certain areas, the true challenge ahead is that we face a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

I know many in our NAU community have already been vaccinated. I encourage those of you who have not yet done so to consider being vaccinated. NAU has excellent resources and information about the vaccines, and the clinic at the NAU Fieldhouse will begin operating next Thursday, July 29, at 10 a.m. To schedule an appointment and view hours of operation, please visit the [NAU Vaccine webpage](#).

To promote a safe and healthy campus environment, we are launching a new campaign to encourage all of our students, no matter where they study, to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The [Jacks are Vaxed](#)

[promotion](#) puts students who upload their vaccination card to the Campus Health Services Portal into a drawing to win exciting prizes, like a season pass to Arizona Snowbowl, an Apple Watch, housing and dining scholarships, and more.

The first prize, to be awarded next Friday, is a Phoenix Suns jersey autographed by Devin Booker, so [upload your vaccination card](#) now to make sure you are eligible to be entered. More information can be found on the [Jacks are Vaxed: Rules and Regulations page](#).

Together, we can help protect ourselves and our community to realize the full vibrancy of academic and student life at NAU this fall.

The week in review

This week has been engaging and invigorating. In conjunction with our intensive preparations for Fall 2021, my calendar has been filled with many productive engagements.

Some of the week's highlights include meeting with the [president of Coconino Community College](#), an important partner in our regional efforts to increase educational attainment. NAU has strong ties to CCC, and I look forward to reaffirming and bolstering this partnership in the future. I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Dave Engelthaler and his team at [TGen North](#) for a tour of their facilities. I spoke with the *Arizona Daily Sun* to share some of the work we have been engaged in and the vision we have for the future of NAU. Throughout the week, I had several important conversations with education and economic development leaders based in Phoenix, as well as other partners across the country, as part of ongoing efforts to collaborate, share best practices, and help make education more accessible for all. I am committed to ensuring that NAU continues to be a leader on the national level for student access and success.

Earlier today I spoke to *Arizona Business Magazine* about the future of higher education in a post-pandemic era, and later today and throughout the day tomorrow, I will join our NAU Foundation and NAU Alumni Association boards for my first meeting with these groups as president. I am excited to partner with these important stakeholders, whose work helps advance our mission through fundraising, partnerships, collaboration, and a myriad of other opportunities that benefit our students and support our institutional goals. I am excited to draw on their support to help blaze the path to a boundless future for NAU.

Remembering Dr. Eugene Hughes, NAU's 12th president

I would like to take a moment to once again remember the life and legacy of NAU's 12th president, Dr. Eugene Hughes. As [I shared on Wednesday](#), much of the foundation we stand on today is the result of his 14-year tenure as president of NAU. We are fortunate to have had his passion and leadership as a member of the Lumberjack community.

I encourage you to [join the virtual celebration of life](#) tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.

Thank you, Lumberjacks, for all you do.

I wish you all a safe and restful weekend.



José Luis Cruz Rivera
President