



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

December 30, 2020

Dear Lumberjacks,

Northern Arizona University is receiving approximately \$23 million in Federal CARES Act funding as announced today by Governor Ducey. In recognition of the significant investments and support of the state, Governor Ducey is dispersing \$115 million to the public university system.

I deeply appreciate Governor Ducey's support and allocation of federal funds to offset the critical expenditures the universities have made since March in order to continue to fulfill our academic missions, support students in the pursuit of their degrees, and expand our research and public service efforts to serve our campuses and our communities during the pandemic. This critical investment recognizes the challenges universities have faced while supporting the ongoing education needs of our state and the resources provided to our communities since the pandemic began changing our world.

NAU's response to this health crisis was immediate and far reaching—from virtual and in-person access to medical services, acquiring and distributing medical and protective supplies, moving classes online, creating new and flexible learning modalities, extensive technology enhancement, and comprehensive testing, tracing, isolating, and quarantining.

We have expanded our commitment to serving communities and have been coordinating our COVID-19 response by engaging with partners at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as internal experts and researchers. Our relationships with the State of Arizona and Coconino County resulted in free COVID-19 testing at NAU for thousands of Lumberjacks and residents of local communities. In addition, NAU worked with Navajo and Hopi leaders to expand Wi-Fi access to students in rural native communities and deliver PPE and sanitation supplies that have addressed critical needs.

The CARES funding announced today will be directed toward the reimbursement of the substantial investments we made over the last ten months to support critical services, programs, and infrastructure, and with careful planning, it balances the institutional resources throughout the spring semester.

Our NAU community stepped up during these challenging times, ensuring we delivered on our commitment to students and responding to the needs of many partners. We saw this through your tireless efforts and your support of shared sacrifice in the form of salary reductions. Your personal commitment to these important initiatives is inspiring and I would like to recognize your dedication to support NAU's mission. The investment prioritized by the Governor will allow NAU to recover millions spent on unbudgeted expenditures since the beginning of this unprecedented health and economic crisis. As such, we have made the decision to stop salary reductions immediately; effective this Thursday's pay date. Additional benefit options will be under review in the coming weeks.

Moving forward, we continue to remain focused on the health and safety of our Lumberjack community, dedicated to our mission, the success of our students, the integrity of our institution, and to supporting the communities in our region.

I hope you will join me in thanking Governor Ducey for his leadership and for demonstrating his support for the important work happening at NAU.

Sincerely,

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

Rita Hartung Cheng
President