



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

February 1, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

Almost a century ago, in 1925, Dr. Carter G. Woodson envisioned a week where all Americans take the time to learn about the history and culture of Black Americans. This vision evolved into Black History Month, which we begin celebrating today.

The son of former slaves and a native of Virginia, Dr. Woodson earned degrees from the University of Chicago and Harvard University, becoming a historian, author, journalist, and founder of the Association of African American Life and History. He spent most of his academic career at Howard University, a historically black institution, where he last served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Woodson died in 1950.

Northern Arizona University honors Dr. Woodson's legacy and that of all Black Americans through a number of virtual and physically distanced cultural, academic, and **social events and programs** organized by the Black Student Union and the NAU Office of Inclusion: Multicultural & LGBTQIA Student Service (IMQ), Leadership, Engagement, Activities and Peer Mentoring (LEAP), and Campus Recreation.

[I invite you to participate in these events, which include movie nights featuring *Red Tails* and *Hidden Figures*, a social media spirit week, Cultural Bites at the Hot Spot and The Dub, a tribute to the late actor Chadwick Boseman, and a number of thought-provoking discussions.](#)

For a complete listing, and information on how to register and participate, please visit the **Office of Inclusion's website**.

A personal thank you to students and staff who organized this month's events. NAU is proud to support students of all races, creeds, cultures, and gender identities. We consider our commitment to diversity and inclusion a core value. We see, honor, and celebrate the diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff. It is one of our strengths as an academic institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and a trailing flourish.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President