



June 18, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

Yesterday, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed into law overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation that establishes June 19 as **Juneteenth National Independence Day**.

I have spent the last six months getting to know the people and values of Northern Arizona University. I am proud of our community's commitment to implementing equitable policies and practices, anchored in the belief that inclusive excellence provides a path through which the celebration of diversity helps accelerate our progress toward a more perfect union.

Together, let's celebrate this important milestone in our nation's history, which reminds us of the centrality of justice and equity for all.

As I close my first week as president of NAU, I am more optimistic than ever of the potential of our university and the values and support of our community.

Happy Juneteenth!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Luis Cruz Rivera". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

**José Luis Cruz Rivera**  
President