



June 21, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

I start my second week at NAU by acknowledging the strength, courage, and contributions of all of our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members who identify as LGBTQIA+.

It's been a little more than two decades since the month of June was nationally declared as Pride Month in honor of the significance of and societal change brought about by the 1969 Stonewall Uprising—a consequential event led by queer people of color in the Gay Rights Movement of the United States.

The evolution of Pride Month over the years has not only served to remind us of our determination to ensure every one of us has the opportunity to pursue happiness, but also of the importance of acknowledging when we are falling short and the imperative of working to align our actions with our ideals.

So, let's honor the trailblazing individuals who raised their voices so we could all have a better chance to live with the dignity and love we yearn for and have the opportunity we all deserve to meet our full potential.

I look forward to working with NAU's dedicated community of teachers, learners, scholars, and advocates to ensure we continue to do our part to build a more equitable society—for our individual benefit, the wellness of our families, and the uplifting of our communities.

Happy Pride Month! 🏳️‍🌈

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