January 26, 2022

Dear Lumberjacks,

As our 17th presidency began this past summer, I acknowledged the desire of our community to highlight and celebrate our distinctive excellence. I am committed to celebrating every aspect of who we are and all we do—the collective contributions from throughout our NAU community that make our university great and advance our mission. This includes celebrating teachers, learners, scholars, advocates, activists, organizations, and programs.

This time each year, we recognize our distinctive excellence by nominating dedicated members of our NAU community for the President’s Achievement Awards and the President’s Diversity Awards. I ask that our community be generous in shining a light on the people and groups that work every day to ensure NAU continues to be the best. Here’s how:

President’s Achievement Award

This annual award recognizes individual staff members who exceed NAU’s performance expectations; demonstrate dedication to NAU’s mission, values, and goals; and collaborate with others to create community in the workplace. Any university employee may nominate exceptional staff members. Visit nau.edu/PAA for nomination forms. The deadline is February 24.

President’s Diversity Awards

NAU is fortunate to have five diversity commissions, dedicated to promoting and supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) and the intersectionality that exists throughout our university community and beyond. The commissions are dedicated to meeting their individual missions and supporting each other, and collectively they play a central role in many important DEIJ-related efforts. We are recognizing those efforts through the President’s Diversity Awards.

The President’s Diversity Awards recognize and honor outstanding service to the NAU community that furthers the mission of the respective commissions. In most cases, awardees can be faculty, staff, students, departments, organizations, or community members.

Commission for Native Americans

The Cal Seciwa Award recognizes demonstrated distinguished service to the Native American community. Nomination deadline is February 14.
Commission on Disability Access and Design

The **CDAD Leadership Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to the disability community at NAU. Nomination deadline is February 14.

Commission on Ethnic Diversity

The **President’s Award for Ethnic Diversity** recognizes outstanding contributions to the enhancement of ethnic diversity at NAU. Nomination deadline is March 3.

Commission on the Status of Women

The **CSW Outstanding Achievement and Contribution Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to women’s leadership development and the advancement of the status of women at NAU. Nomination deadline is February 18.

LGBTQIA Commission

The **Distinguished Service to the LGBTQIA Community Award** is given to those who have demonstrated distinguished service to the LGBTQIA community. The **Ally of the Year Award** is given to a Flagstaff community member who has served as an outstanding ally to the NAU LGBTQIA community. Nomination deadline is February 9.

I encourage you to consider nominating those people and organizations with whom you work who may be good candidates for these recognitions and submit your nominations by the deadlines noted above. In my time thus far at NAU, I have interacted with so many of you who are committed to our mission and are excellent candidates for these awards.

I look forward to seeing the nominations of your colleagues and celebrating the accomplishments, diversity, and transformative efforts of our community at our Professional Achievement Awards ceremony later this spring.

Sincerely,

José Luis Cruz Rivera
President