



March 22, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

I want to thank all of you who have taken the time to respond to our [presidential transition survey](#). I very much value your input and it does much to shape how we will launch our 17th presidency.

Today, our Presidential Transition Core Administrative Team and I are pleased to share the names and affiliations of those who have graciously agreed to invest their time, talent, and energy in advancing the work of the [previously announced](#) Presidential Transition Commission.

The members of the Presidential Transition Commission are listed below:

- **Luis Aguilar** (Graduate Student, M.Ed., Human Relations; Kicker, NAU Football)
- **Chris Bavasi** (Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, NAU Alumni)
- **Savannah Berry** (Graduate Student, Ph.D., Biological Sciences; President, Graduate Student Government)
- **Monica Brown** (Faculty Ombudsperson; Professor, Department of English)
- **Anthony Caniglia** (President, Classified Staff Advisory Council; Events Manager, Admissions)
- **Joe Carter** (Undergraduate Student, B.S., Computer Science; President, Associated Students of Northern Arizona University)
- **Galen Collins** (Interim Associate Dean, W. A. Franke College of Business; Professor, Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- **K. Laurie Dickson** (Vice Provost, Curriculum, Assessment, and Accreditation; Professor, Psychological Sciences)—Commission Chair
- **Christy Farley** (Vice President for External Affairs and Partnerships)
- **Dave Franke** (Principal, Franke & Company; Vice Chair, NAU Foundation Board)
- **Gretchen Gee** (Principal Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Affairs)
- **Marian Griffin** (Assistant Director, LGBTQIA+ Student Services in the Office of Inclusion: Multicultural and LGBTQIA+ Student Services (IMQ))

- **Maya Guthrie** (Undergraduate Student, B.A., English; Community Service Chair, NAU Black Student Union)
- **Deborah Harris** (Executive Director, Southside Community Association)
- **Andrew Iacona** (Project Manager, Facility Services; Interim Sustainability Manager)
- **Jani C. Ingram** (Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry; Principal Investigator of the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention)
- **Clement Lambert** (Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning)
- **Oscar Lujan** (Graduate Student, M.S., Biology; Graduate Advisor, NAU Latinx Student Union)
- **Josh Mackey** (Interim Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer)
- **Ora Marek-Martinez** (Executive Director, Native American Cultural Center; Assistant Professor, Anthropology)
- **Makaius Marks** (Undergraduate Student, B.A., Applied Indigenous Studies)
- **Gabriel Montaña** (Professor and Chair, Department of Applied Physics and Materials Science; Chief Scientist, Center for Materials Interfaces in Research and Applications (¡MIRA!))
- **Tommy Newsom II** (Senior Coordinator, Residential Colleges)
- **Kimberly Ott** (Associate Vice President, Communications)
- **Russell Prust** (Education Coordinator and Associate Clinical Professor, NAU-Yuma)
- **Brian Register** (Operations Director, Office of the President)
- **Oaklee Rogers** (Chair and Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy)
- **Stephanie Smith** (Associate Vice President, Alumni Engagement)
- **Rose Toehe** (Coordinator for Indigenous Initiatives, City of Flagstaff)
- **Gina Vance** (Associate Vice Provost, NAU Online)
- **Gioia Woods** (Faculty Senate President; Professor, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies)

I am proud that our commissioners reflect the fabric of NAU—with stakeholders from a broad cross-section of our university, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, as well as members of our community. The diversity of thought, perspectives, lived experiences, and aspirations they collectively bring to the work will position us well for what lies ahead.

The Presidential Transition Commission will convene for its first meeting at the end of March and continue to meet until my start date in June to set the groundwork for the first six-months of the presidency and prioritize how best to engage constituencies and stakeholders in a collaborative and inclusive process.

The plan will be designed to build mutual trust with internal and external communities, and to ensure transparency and open communication during the transition and beyond, including providing frequent updates to our Lumberjack community and to key stakeholders.

My sincere thanks to our commissioners for their enthusiasm and commitment. I look

forward to working with them in the weeks ahead, helping to facilitate a successful launch to our 17th Presidency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "José Luis Cruz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "L".

José Luis Cruz
President-designate