



March 29, 2021

Dear Lumberjacks,

It's been only seven days since I last wrote you to announce the composition of our Presidential Transition Commission, but so much has transpired since then—a clear sign that Northern Arizona University is advancing its mission and amassing distinction without missing a beat. From officially meeting the United States Department of Education Hispanic-Serving Institution criteria, to seeing six Lumberjacks earn prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, the university continues to expand its impact and extend its reach.

I write today to share two important updates with the campus community.

First, I want to thank the newest members of our Presidential Transition Commission for agreeing to invest their time in this important work:

- **Andrew Iacona** (Project Manager, Facility Services; Interim Sustainability Manager)
- **Clement Lambert** (Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning)
- **Tommy Newsom II** (Senior Coordinator, Residential Colleges)

The full membership list can be found on the [presidential transition portal](#).

I have my first meeting with the distinguished members of the Presidential Transition Commission later today and look forward to their insights as trustees and key representatives of NAU and the broader Flagstaff and statewide communities. I am counting on this key group of stakeholders to optimize the first six months of our presidency as a responsive, collaborative, and inclusive effort.

Second, my first of three official visits to NAU as President-designate will begin at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus on Wednesday, March 31. On Thursday and Friday, I will spend time on the Flagstaff Mountain campus in meetings, roundtable discussions, media interviews, and town halls. The week's schedule is posted on the [presidential transition portal](#), and I invite you to make

an appointment during my open office hours.

As you will note, I am intentionally focusing this first visit on engaging with students before they start preparing for finals and have more serious conflicts with their academic commitments and schedules. We are working on details of two more visits along with virtual engagements in April and May. Those visits will focus on faculty, staff, and members of the Flagstaff and surrounding communities.

Finally, I'd just like to stress how excited I am about this upcoming visit. If the weather forecast bears out, I look forward to seeing a larger number of students enjoying the pedways as I make my way around campus.

I close wishing you and yours the best today and always.

In partnership,

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

**José Luis Cruz**  
President-designate