



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

March 25, 2020

Dear Lumberjack community,

The COVID-19 global pandemic represents the most serious public health challenge we have faced. The rapid pace with which it has developed has required us to react to new developments with great speed.

We have had to make enormous operational changes and tough decisions in order to help mitigate this public health crisis, which we all now know as flattening the curve. In all of our decisions, we have been guided by one overarching priority—to maintain the health, welfare, and safety of the entire university community on all our campuses and facilities throughout the state.

In two weeks, we have adapted to these difficult and constantly changing circumstances in a variety of ways, including transitioning nearly 30,000 students to online instruction, developing protocols for teleworking, modifying commencement, and canceling or postponing hundreds of other events.

This would not have been possible without the efforts of so many of our hard-working and creative faculty and staff who labored tirelessly to keep the university operational. These efforts ensure our students will continue to receive the high-quality education they've come to expect from NAU, despite the changes they are experiencing in their lives.

We deeply appreciate your willingness to adapt to and work around these changing circumstances, even as your own world has been turned upside down. I offer my most sincere thanks to all who worked to transform their courses and services and to every student willing to show resiliency—especially the Class of 2020—determined to make the best of today to ensure a better future for all.

I also want to express my gratitude to everyone on the front lines—those responsible for cleaning and sanitizing, NAUPD and other public safety officials, housing, dining, and our campus health care workers. Their dedication to our students and this university is exemplary.

Know that I appreciate each of you and your strong commitment to the Lumberjack community. This university could not function without you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and a trailing flourish.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President