



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

July 24, 2020

Dear colleagues,

In three weeks, we will start the Fall 2020 semester. After extensive planning and consultation with our partners, we are confident that our plans for the fall will allow NAU to deliver on its national reputation for a quality education through multiple delivery options while mitigating the COVID-19 risk to our community. We have solicited and listened to input from a range of stakeholders, considered guidance from scientific and medical experts, and reflected on the essential need to provide educational access to students in Arizona.

We have decided to extend our student move-in process and reduce in-person instruction at the start of the semester, utilizing **NAUFlex's** remote delivery to hold the majority of classes virtually for the first few weeks. The details of this phased-in approach are below:

- Fall 2020 classes begin: Wednesday, August 12 (unchanged).
- **NAUFlex** remote delivery as the primary method of instruction: August 12-28.
- The student move-in schedule has been modified to phase in arrivals over an extended period, taking into account the student expectations noted below.
- In-person instruction, coupled with ongoing NAUFlex delivery, will begin on August 31.

## Expectations for our students

- We expect all students to arrive on campus healthy and ready to learn.
- All students should be tested for COVID-19 prior to arrival. **Testing is required for students with on-campus housing.**
- Any student exhibiting symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19 **must not come to campus** and must follow **CDC guidelines** for self-isolation.
- Students should limit contact with individuals outside of their family unit for 10 days prior to arriving on campus, in order to limit potential exposure to the virus.
- Masks/cloth face coverings are required in all buildings, and physical distancing measures must be followed on campus.
- Daily self-health screenings will be required, using the NAU HealthCheck app.

## Information for faculty and staff

- If you have not already done so, please complete the **Safe Return to Work training**.

- Faculty and staff should complete the daily self-health screening via the NAU Health Check app, which will be released in early August.
- Health care kits that include two reusable NAU masks and hand sanitizer will be distributed in early August to all faculty and staff at NAU locations throughout the state.
- Symptomatic and close-contact testing is available at no cost at **statewide testing sites**, as well as at Campus Health Services for faculty and staff. More information about CHS testing is available on the **CHS website**. Testing will continue throughout the academic year at CHS.
- All faculty and staff are eligible for antibody testing through a partnership with the University of Arizona at sites throughout the state. More information about this new program can be found **online**.
- NAU will continue to work with our many partners throughout the state to expanded testing and contact tracing capacity, with enhanced integration of technology to support screening and tracing.
- Continue to refer to the **Jacks are Back website** for up-to-date information about health and safety precautions, return to campus, and more.

We recognize that there may be some disappointment among our students and their families due to this adjustment, and we appreciate your support and dedication at this time. The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community is our primary concern, and careful assessment has led us to the decision to modify the initial format of the fall semester. In these complex and challenging times, we are committed to our educational mission and we are prioritizing a healthy living and learning environment that will allow our students to realize their aspirations at NAU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita", written in a cursive style.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President