

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: President Robert Robbins <http://president.arizona.edu/>

DATE: September 14, 2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

- Levi Esquerra, an expert in economic development and Native American tribal relations and a former tribal Chairman, has been appointed as UA's first Senior Vice President for Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement. In this new position, SVP Esquerra will oversee university-wide efforts to improve the success of Native American students, identify and promote tribal interests, and build programs and research capacity in ways that honor and respect tribal sovereignty and the needs of Native nations and tribal communities in Arizona and beyond. Levi's first day in this role was September 8.
- The University of Arizona will receive an initial, five-year, \$26 million grant from the National Science Foundation, with an additional five-year \$24.6 million option, to establish and lead a new [National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center](#) called the [Center for Quantum Networks](#). UA will lead this effort and core partners will include Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Yale University.
- In the US News and World Report Rankings released today, the University of Arizona has moved up 20 spots to rank 97th. This is the first time UArizona has been in the Top 100 in more than a decade. The University also now ranks among the Top 40 public universities in the nation. The Center for World University Rankings also recently ranked the University of Arizona among the Top 100 in the world (89th), Top 50 in the USA (48th) and 26th among public institutions in the USA.
- The University of Arizona is partnering with the community to prevent, mitigate and resolve COVID-19 issues on-campus and throughout the community. Below are a series of actions to support students and the campus community to mitigate COVID-19 risk and enhance the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. These actions combine the University's world-class research strength, land-grant mission, and leverage as the largest employer in Tucson to be effective on-campus, off-campus, and throughout the Tucson community and all of Arizona.
 - Free testing is available to all students and employees at the Student Union Memorial Center and the North Rec Center (Friday's only). Test results are available within 30-120 minutes.
 - Mobile or site-specific testing has been made available to residence halls, sorority/fraternity housing, and off campus housing complexes within hours of being notified of potential outbreaks. Test results were made available within 30-120 minutes.
 - Wastewater testing is being conducted in many on-campus dorms. This method has already prevented a large outbreak by detecting COVID-19 in the building population days before symptoms would appear.
 - COVID Ambassador Team (CATs): This is a paid workforce of students on campus to positively encourage students and visitors to Bear Down and Mask up throughout campus and the community. These students are visible passing out waters and masks, providing information, and positively welcoming people and reminding them about our public health protocols.