

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: Submitted on February 22, 2021 for the March 1, 2021 Meeting

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

#### **The University of Arizona's ongoing response to COVID-19 continues to excel:**

- The University quickly and efficiently responded to the county's request to serve as one of six vaccine points of delivery (POD), with a focus on vaccinating K-20 educators. The University POD demonstrated operational excellence and has now been selected as the first 24/7 state POD outside of Maricopa County.
  - We are currently operating 6 hours per day, 6 days per week, and administering more than 1,000 vaccines each day.
  - We will gradually scale our POD to 24/7 with the capacity to administer 6,000 daily vaccines, dependent upon vaccine supply.
- Robust COVID-19 testing efforts continue with more than 15,000 tests performed in the last 10 days and a positivity rate of 0.2%.
- In response to feedback, we have rolled out a number of testing incentives in addition to our compliance program:
  - **Star Rewards:** Students are eligible to receive a \$5 reward redeemable at the Student Union or BookStore after testing once per week for four weeks, with the ability to earn a total reward of \$20 in rewards. To date, more than **2,500** students have claimed a Star Reward, with many sharing positive feedback about the program.
  - **Scholarship Raffles:** The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) has made available ten \$500 scholarships to be randomly awarded to students who adhere to mandatory testing. Thus far, two scholarships have been awarded, with a very positive response from student recipients.
  - **WiFi:** Because student testing rates had begun to decline, and in order to increase testing before transitioning to stage 2, access to the UA WiFi network on the Tucson Main Campus was used as a method to enforce the mandatory testing policy starting February 16<sup>th</sup>. In one day, this consequence reduced non-compliance in the dorm student population by 43%. Should a student need to complete an urgent class assignment or exam, they have the flexibility to hit the "WiFi snooze button", extending their WiFi access for an additional 3 hours.

#### **The University of Arizona continues to thrive as an academic institution, despite pandemic:**

- Arizona Online has rapidly risen in the US News and World Report rankings, from unranked in 2016 to #7 in the nation in 2021. Additionally, Arizona Online has seen a 38% increase in enrollment in a single year and a 27% increase in online graduates.
- Our research enterprise has increased to \$734 million. Since March 1, 2020, the University of Arizona has been awarded a total of 92 research awards totaling an obligated award amount of \$52,014,497 that we have classified as COVID related. Despite the impact of COVID, awards are up 12%.

- The NSF ranks UArizona #1 in Astronomy & Astrophysics; #2 in High Hispanic Enrollment; #4 in Physical Sciences; #6 in NASA-funded activity; #19 among all US Public Universities; and #34 among all US Universities.
- Forbes Magazine ranked The University of Arizona #16 in the nation on its list of best large employers. Further, UArizona was ranked #1 for employers with headquarters in Arizona, and #4 in the nation amongst educational institutions.
- The Office of Assessment and Research shared recommendations with leadership on strategies to further support Pell Grant Student experiences and success. Some of the key practices that will continue to move forward are:
  - Early financial literacy educational opportunities
  - The Pell Pledge Grant
  - Meeting students' basic needs
  - Seeking donor funding to scale existing programs that we know support Pell student completion

**Commented [RA1]:** It was not 100% clear in Jon's email if these rankings are from the NSF – please confirm?