

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: December 6, 2021

GOALS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Progress

- We continue to see an increase in vaccination uploads following the announcement in October we would be following the federal requirement to [require COVID-19 vaccination for our workforce](#). About 83% of all University of Arizona employees are compliant with the federal vaccine requirement including faculty, staff, graduate assistants and student workers.
- Employees are able to request a [disability/medical accommodation](#) or a [religious accommodation](#). This far, about 2% of employees have sought and received an accommodation.
- The federal government requirement means all employees must show they are fully vaccinated by January 18, unless they have been granted a religious or disability/medical accommodation.
- Employees who work outside the United States do not need to follow the vaccine requirement. However, they do need to fill out an [International Employee Attestation form](#) and submit it to their supervisor so that they can fill out a [Supervisor Form for International Work](#).
- Uploading your vaccine documentation or requesting an accommodation as soon as possible is important to help us plan for the future. There are several ways to verify your vaccination including digital upload, in-person verification, and verification through the Arizona State Immunization Information System. Please [email HR](#) as soon as you are able if you are having difficulty verifying your vaccination status or requesting an accommodation.

COVID-19 Data Updates- [COVID Dashboard](#)

- Since August 2, 2021, we have administered over 60,000 tests with a positivity rate of 1.6%. With new TakeAway Testing locations across Main Campus campus and the state, testing is more accessible and convenient than ever. We are averaging over 3500 tests per week.
- We saw an increase in positive tests at the university from October to November much as Pima County and the country has seen. Fortunately, positive tests appear to have plateaued and are currently decreasing at the university. I encourage all members of our community to take advantage of our free and convenient testing especially with the holiday season upon us.
 - The test sites and TakeAway testing will be closed from Dec. 23 – Jan 2.

College of Pharmacy Renamed to Recognize Alumni Gift by R. Ken Coit

- As I announced earlier this month, [alumnus R. Ken Coit gave a \\$50 million gift to the College of Pharmacy](#) which will continue our mission of being a leader in pharmaceutical education, research, and innovation. The college has been renamed the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy in recognition of this gift.
- Part of this new gift includes the endowment of six new chairs which are part of a strategic growth plan for the college.

Research Excellence Through Competitive Funding and TRIF

- Our faculty are among the most productive researchers in the nation, both in terms of the impact of their work and measurements of research activity.

- The University currently out-earns our peers in R&D awards with an average win rate of 25% as compared to 20% among all American institutions.
- Additionally, the Colleges of Medicine have doubled the research awards received in the last six years now totaling over \$220 million. The Colleges of Medicine have also doubled the total of NIH Awards in the last three years, now totaling over \$120 million annually.
- At the recent board meeting on our campus in November, ABOR approved a \$32 million FY22 TRIF allocation for the University of Arizona.

New High School Medical Career Pathway

- The University's Admission team has partnered with the Sunnyside Unified School District to launch Tucson's first health and medical careers high school in collaboration with the Pima Joint Technical Education District and other community partners. This new school will create pathways to fulfilling academic and professional careers for students in Tucson's underserved communities.

Continued Educational Opportunities

- Arizona Online enrollment has surpassed 7,400 students, the highest enrollment to date with an increase of more than 1,000 students from last year. AZ Online now offers over 170 online programs in a variety of disciplines to students in all walks of life.
- The University of Arizona is the [top doctorate-granting institution American Indian or Alaska Native students](#). In the last five years, we have awarded 28 doctoral degrees to American Indian or Alaska Native students. One of our greatest strengths is the diversity of our community, and I am thrilled that our university is leading the field in this area. There is more to do, and I look forward to watching these numbers grow as we continue to support our Native students.