

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: January 23, 2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Campus Safety Update

- I recently shared several updates regarding the security and safety of our campus and want to be sure you are aware of how we are implementing several important steps to enhance safety.
- We are engaging Building Managers to partner with UAPD to conduct up-to-date security assessments of University buildings and create a Building Emergency Plan for each building, which will be consistent with the [University's Campus Emergency Response Plan](#).
- We are beginning the process to install fire and safety compliant locks to classroom doors and expand keyless access to more buildings for building security.
- We will expand our current employee criminal background check process to include all Graduate Assistants/Associates (GAs). The new process will take effect for GAs hired or experiencing a qualified job change beginning July 1, 2023. Currently, criminal background checks are only conducted for GAs in security-sensitive positions or who disclose prior felony convictions.
- All students, employees, and DCCs will soon be automatically registered to receive UAlert messages through both their University email addresses and mobile phone numbers, if provided to the University. These registrations will never expire while people are active members of the University community.
- We strongly encourage every student, employee, and Designated Campus Colleague to view our 12-minute online [Active Shooter Preparedness training](#) within the next 30 days. For any individuals who feel uncomfortable watching the video version, there is an alternative option to read important safety information.
- We are asking all departments and units that have not had an in-person Active Shooter Response Training provided by UAPD since the start of fall semester to [schedule training](#) during the spring semester. UAPD will provide guidance on each unit's unique office space and building and answer questions about active shooter preparedness.

University Leaders for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- I shared in early December an update on our leadership in DEI. First, we have launched a national search for a new Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer who will report directly to me. This position will be part of our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and will collaborate and coordinate with colleagues across the colleges and administrative units.
- In the meantime, Dr. Francisco Moreno, UA Professor of Psychiatry, has agreed to serve in this role on an interim basis. Dr. Moreno is an accomplished leader who has furthered our equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging efforts and outcomes in Health Sciences.
- Dr. Lehman Benson, Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, will now serve as the Vice President of Black Advancement and Engagement, working as a campus leader and advisor on matters of interest to Black students, faculty, and our broader community.
- Additionally, Dr. Marla Franco will now serve as our Vice President for Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, leading strategic institutional matters related to HSI.

[New African American Museum of Southern Arizona](#)

- I am excited to share that the [African American Museum of Southern Arizona](#), housed at the Student Union Memorial Center, has opened to the public. This museum represents nearly two years of work by Beverly and Bob Elliott, UA alums with deep ties to Tucson.
- The museum contains artifacts, oral histories, and more from Southern Arizona's African American community to illustrate the stories of local African Americans. Exhibits include the story behind coded quilts used in the Underground Railroad, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the CROWN Act, a national movement to end race-based hair discrimination.
- This museum is the result of collaboration across our entire university and the Tucson community. The Center for Digital Humanities and the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry assisted with the digitization of materials and artifact. I am proud that the university can provide space for these important exhibits that illustrate the diversity of our local community.

Tackling our Drying Climate

- Building upon our the world renowned multidisciplinary research reputation of the University of Arizona, I have formed a Presidential Advisory Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate. Our ability to be agile and resilient in the face of a drying climate affects our agricultural production, food security, and economic vitality.
- This Commission will provide recommendations on concrete steps the University can take to make Arizona a global leader in creating and applying transformational technologies and climate-resilient sustainable agriculture and food production practices.

[Mission Integration Lab Grand Opening](#)

- The Mission Integration Lab, a new research facility at the Tech Park at The Bridges, opened in December. This lab will allow researchers and engineer to build and test hardware for balloon-borne astronomy experiments and missions.
- The lab will provide additional space to grow balloon-based astronomy research programs and partnerships for students, faculty, federal agencies, and corporations. Balloon-borne astronomy fills an important gap between ground-based observatories and space telescopes, allowing for the deployment of telescopes and other instruments to altitudes where they experience less interference from Earth's atmosphere.