

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: September 11, 2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We Welcomed Our Most Diverse Class of First-Year Student Ever

- Though we will have official census data as of September 11, the date of this month's Faculty Senate meeting, the data already shows a historic student body for this school year.
- This year's new student class is one of the largest and most diverse, and includes a record number of Arizona residents. 49% of first-year students identify as ethnicities other than white, which is up from 47% last year and 45% in 2021.
- The class includes about 1,200 W.A. Franke Honors College students, 85 National Merit Scholars, 171 National Hispanic Scholars and 10 Flinn Scholars – the most Flinn Scholars of any university in the state
- Arizona Online also saw significant 12% growth and has 30% of all students sponsored by corporate employers. Arizona Online retention has increased to 70%, a huge accomplishment and significantly above the national average for online programs of 55%.
- Additionally, Continuing and Professional Education has developed several new noncredit programs including Spanish-Medical Translation, Cyber Essentials: Penetration Testing, Mining 360, and a Space Suit Training Program.

Campus Updates: New Sign Installation, Campus Safety Updates

- I was thrilled to be present for the unveiling of the [new sign in front of Arizona Stadium](#) on August 25 which now includes a phrase in the San Carlos Apache language. This is part of a greater project by the Office of Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement of installing signs with native languages from the federally recognized tribes of Arizona across our campus.
- In August, Steve Patterson shared information about campus safety improvements like new [Building Emergency Plans](#) for over 170 buildings and improvements to the UAlert emergency notification system.
- Improvements have also been made to classrooms across campus like installing new door locks and all-hazards emergency procedures posters in all classrooms. Additional resources and information about campus safety improvements can be found on the [Office of Public Safety website](#).
- We also announced that all faculty, staff, undergraduate student employees, and graduate student employees are required to complete the 12-minute online [Active Shooter Preparedness training](#) by December 15. For any individuals who feel uncomfortable watching the video version, there is an alternative option to read important safety information. For additional information about the training requirement, visit the [Active Shooter Preparedness training webpage](#).

Research, Innovation and Impact Progress

- Over the summer, we bid Betsy Cantwell farewell as she left to become the next president of Utah State University and welcomed Dr. Elliott Cheu as the Interim Senior Vice President in

Research, Innovation, and Impact. I'm grateful to Dr. Cantwell for her service to our university and excited for upcoming research advancements, many of which are outlined below.

- The National Science Foundation announced a \$30-million-dollar grant to the University of Arizona to establish the New Frontiers of Sound Science and Technology Center.
- The Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing, led by Liesl Folks, and the Arizona Astrobiology Center (AABC) were both approved as University-Wide Centers, and the Center for Advanced Molecular and Immunological Therapies (CAMI) through The University of Arizona Health Sciences has also been approved.
- With the start of the fall semester, RII's Office of Societal Impact launched [the STEM Learning Communities program](#) through a \$5 million Department of Education Title III HSI STEM Articulation grant. These learning communities are specially designed for students from historically excluded groups in STEM.

New Report: President's Advisory Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Food Production

- In December 2022, I commissioned a report on the future of agriculture and food production in Arizona as we address the threats posed by a drying climate.
- The commission issued that [report](#) two weeks ago and provides a path forward for the University of Arizona and our state. The report's core details several recommendations to create new centers, innovations, and partnerships that will help us address climate challenges.
- I would like to thank the commission members for their dedicated work and commitment to living out our land grant mission. We have a unique capacity and mission to address these challenges, and the report provides us a way forward.

UAGC Incorporated into the University of Arizona

- As of July 1, 2023 the University of Arizona Global Campus (UAGC) officially became part of the University of Arizona. I am proud that we are taking this step together with a shared goal of providing greater access to higher education for a diverse group of working adults.
- About 3000 faculty and staff transitioned to become University of Arizona employees. I'd like to thank everyone at the University of Arizona and UAGC who worked to ensure our UAGC colleagues' transition goes as smoothly as possible.