

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: September 9th, 2024

Welcome Back Wildcats

Welcome to the 2024 – 2025 academic year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer.

The University of Arizona welcomed its largest and most diverse class in university history earlier this month when more than 9,300 first-year students – including a record 4,900 Arizona residents.

This year's first-year student enrollment tops **last year's recording-setting class** and is nearly 5% higher than it was in 2022 and 10% higher than it was in 2021. These numbers do not include students attending the University of Arizona Global Campus, which offers students rolling start dates, but they do include **Arizona Online** students.

This year's first-year students are also part of the most diverse class in university history: 50% self-identify as ethnicities other than white, up from 49% last year. There was a 6% increase in Hispanic/Latinx students and a 29% increase in Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, compared to 2023. Latinx is a gender-neutral term for someone from a Spanish-speaking country or from Latin America.

Roughly 28% of the incoming class self-identify as first-generation college students.

These accomplished students exemplify the academic rigor, determination and spirit of exploration that makes this university so great. I wish them all the best as they embark on their Wildcat journey.

To our students, new and old, everyone here is ready to assist you along your Wildcat Journey. This community exists to help you achieve your hopes and dreams, and I encourage you to take advantage of everything the university has to offer. Be sure to check out the **Wildcat Welcome** events this week and all semester long, get your questions answered through **SOS (Support Outreach Success)**, or visit the **THINK TANK** tutoring center.

To our faculty and staff, I remain in awe of your dedication to the U of A mission, to our students, and to the advancement of knowledge and the human spirit. From exploring our solar system and the Universe beyond to the inner workings of the human body and imagination, the University of Arizona is a world leader in so many areas of inquiry, learning, and impact because

of you. I know that success will continue well into the bright future we have worked for together.

Thank you

As most of you know, the **U of A will soon welcome a new president, Dr. Suresh Garimella**, an accomplished scholar, distinguished professor, and university leader. As my seven years leading this university come to a close, I feel immense gratitude to all of you, and to the many Wildcat friends and supporters here in Arizona and around the world who have advanced our mission and impact. We have accomplished a great deal together, including **increased research activity**, vital **investments in student success**, significant **improvements in retention**, and continuing enrollment growth, with **the most diverse and largest class in U of A history** entering this fall. I know that this university will remain on an upward trajectory, and I look forward to seeing your and Dr. Garimella's successes in the years to come.

Thank you for an extraordinary Wildcat Journey over the past seven years.

Bear Down,

Robert C. Robbins, M.D.

President

The University of Arizona