



President's Updates

August 31, 2026, Faculty Senate

- This summer I shared [my annual letter](#), listing major achievements throughout the university with our community. Our students, faculty, and staff should be proud of all we accomplished.
- I also shared [How We Lead](#), a list of principles and commitments that leaders at all levels are encouraged to incorporate into their daily practice.
- We announced [a historic partnership with Gila River Health Care](#), launching the nation's first MD-granting medical school branch located within a Tribal Nation. We'll be welcoming the first cohort next summer, with full tuition scholarships for 10 students per class to train in primary care. This follows a similar announcement we made last year of Arizona's first rural medical school branch in Yuma.
- In early August, the new [Arizona.edu](#) launched publicly. The new site is a more modern and flexible web experience. The new design and functionality will be made available to other university websites, creating a more consistent U of A experience across our broader web presence.
- [Dr. Bettyjo Bouchey](#) will join the University on September 14 as Senior Vice Provost for Online Education, providing leadership for the university's enterprise online strategy across Arizona Online and UAGC.
- First-year retention for UAGC improved significantly, rising from 45% in AY24 to 53% for the AY25 cohort. Arizona Online saw a 55% increase in students enrolled through direct corporate partnerships.
- The University of Arizona continues to engage with our partners in the federal government, and we submitted comments on the proposed Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance. You can [review the submission \(PDF\)](#) here.
- The original six Big Idea Challenge teams were renewed for year 2 with an emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship in the year. And the Big Idea Challenge for Health Innovation with Banner Health closed with 52 applications received. They are currently under review; a pitch session will take place on September 16.
- In June 2026, we surpassed the \$3 billion goal for the Fuel Wonder Campaign. We raised more than \$431 million in new gifts and commitments in FY 2026—an all-time record for the University of Arizona.
- Another all-time record: we completed FY 2026 with total endowment giving of nearly \$95 million.
- Arizona captured the [2025-26 Allstate Big 12 Commissioner's Cup](#) for the first time in school history.



- Men's Golf matched its best team performance since 2004 by [advancing to the NCAA semifinals](#). And Men's Tennis [advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight](#) for the first time in school history and won the Big 12 regular season crown.
- The university has begun transitioning college finance operations to a more unified finance organization through the creation of a new Academic Financial Office. Under this model, college finance professionals will continue to serve as strategic partners to their deans, while reporting to the new office.
- To further align oversight and operational review functions, central Compliance, Privacy, and Internal Audit teams have come together into a single, cohesive reporting structure. This move is part of ongoing efforts to foster a coordinated, transparent, and collaborative compliance environment and enhance centralized compliance structures across the University of Arizona.
- UAEMS has begun discussions with the Off-Campus Safety Group to explore expanding its CPR courses to high-rise apartments and other student housing communities surrounding campus, with the goal of certifying as many individuals as possible in lifesaving CPR skills.
- On July 30th, OPS/TAMT hosted the 2nd annual conflict resolution and de-escalation skills symposium. Over 200 individuals were registered for the event with over 50 people on a stand-by list.