

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: November 2, 2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/GOALS:

COVID-19 Testing

- Approximately 1,000 antigen tests are being administered to asymptomatic students and employees per day with a positivity rate averaging less than 1% in October
- A pre-break testing blitz is scheduled for 11/9/2020 – 11/16/2020, which provides students with enough time to isolate in case of a positive test.
- Antibody tests are available by appointment for students and employees through 11/6/2020
- Dr. Bhattacharya and Dr. Nikolich-Žugich antibody research study published

November 26-29 Break Campus Exit Strategy

- The COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Advisory Campus Team, in collaboration with several campus partners, developed [Guidance on Student Holiday Travel](#) and required main campus students who reside in the Tucson or surrounding areas to complete a Holiday Travel Survey by 11/1/2020. Preliminary survey results as of 10/28/2020 showed the following distribution of student holiday travel plans:
 - Travel for Thanksgiving break and complete semester remotely (**32%**)
 - Travel for Thanksgiving break and return to Tucson to complete semester (**15%**)
 - Remain in Tucson for Thanksgiving break (**53%**)

Student Flu Shot Efforts

- Campus Health has administered 2,049 flu shots with additional flu shot clinics scheduled this month.
- In addition to administering flu shots at the Campus Health facility, Campus Health has partnered with the Testing team to setup mobile flu shot clinics at testing locations in North Rec and SUMC. Thus far, 550 people coming for a COVID-19 antigen test have also received a flu shot.
- Campus Health also partnered with Fraternity & Sorority Programs to provide a large-scale flu shot clinic held in the Greek Heritage Park on 10/28/2020.

CARES Act Funding – Student Financial Aid Distribution

- \$15.4M was allocated to the University of Arizona for student emergency relief through the CARES Act. Funds may only be provided to eligible student for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.
- To date, a total of **\$9.8M in direct grants** has been disbursed to **12,782 eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students** who experienced disruption and were displaced from campus housing, lost funding for meal plans, had graduation plans delayed, had to unexpectedly travel long distances, and/or live in rural areas of Arizona.
- Through the Student Emergency Fund application process, **\$2.1M** has been distributed to **3,189 students**.
- More information: <https://financialaid.arizona.edu/resources/covid19-info/cares-act>

Tribal Relations

- The Tohono O'odham Nation announced it will contribute \$1 million each to the University of Arizona and Arizona State University to support our world-renowned medical researchers' efforts to combat COVID-19. The funding will come from the Nation's 12% gaming revenue grants that are required under its compact to share with local community programs. Both universities will use the funds to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including new testing methods and tools to enable the effective and equitable deployment of emerging technologies.
- On 11/12/2020, the University of Arizona will permanently install the flags of the 22 sovereign Tribal Nations of Arizona in the University Book Store. This tribal flag installation honors the tribal lands on which the University resides and is a symbolic representation of the important partnerships the University has with each Tribal Nation. Information to view the dedication ceremony virtually will be forthcoming to the campus community.

Research

- On 10/20/2020, NASA's University of Arizona-led OSIRIS-REx mission successfully touched down on the asteroid Bennu in order to collect dust and pebbles from the surface and return them to Earth in 2023. This incredible accomplishment is a testament to the University's excellence in research and space exploration. Congratulations to Dr. Dante Lauretta, OSIRIS-REx Principal Investigator, and the rest of the OSIRIS-REx team on this historic accomplishment.
- Dr. Elisabeth Krause, Assistant Professor of Astronomy, was awarded one of only 20 Packard Fellows in 2020. Dr. Krause runs the [Arizona Cosmology Lab](#) exploring fundamental questions about the physics of our universe. This is RII and Steward Observatory's second Fellowship in two years. Congratulations to Dr. Krause.

Development/Fundraising

- Point-in-time fundraising data from the UA Foundation shows very strong development efforts for FY21:
 - FY21 as of October 25, 2020: \$61,716,449
 - FY20 as of October 25, 2019: \$55,797,016
 - FY 19 as of October 25, 2018: \$62,193,333 (This was the best year ever for fundraising at the University of Arizona and FY21 is trending similarly)