

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: October 4, 2021

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS and GOALS:

#### **Continuing to Manage COVID-19**

- The University is working in conjunction with ABOR and our sister institutions to evaluate the best path forward in light of recent legal developments at the state and federal level along with evolving public health metrics.
- On September 15, we launched [Cats TakeAway Testing](#), which allows students, employees, and active DCCs to pick up a saline gargle test kit and drop their sample back off at [several locations](#) on the Tucson Main Campus, Phoenix, Oro Valley, Sierra Vista, and Yuma. Depending on location, PCR results are delivered in 1-3 business days. Since launching this new and extremely convenient testing option, we have seen a steady increase in campus testing.
- Since September 21, our percent positive has remained very low at 1.2%.
- As of October 1, 54% of Main Campus students and 51% of employees have voluntarily uploaded their vaccination record to our secure, HIPAA-compliant system, for a total of more than 30,500 uploads. This number represents vaccine document uploads, which is lower than actual vaccination rates among students and employees.
- Our campus community continues to do an outstanding job with mask wearing, with very few complaints filed with the Dean of Students Office.

#### **First Year Retention Excels Despite an Unpredictable Year**

- Official census data shows a first-year retention rate for Fall 2021 of 84%, which surpasses our second highest FTFT retention rate during a year that was full of unpredictable challenges for many students.

#### **Record Year for the UA Foundation**

- The UA Foundation had a record year in fundraising and has broken fundraising records in three of the past four years. The endowment has grown by 62%, and is currently at \$1.2 billion not including pledges in excess of another \$100 million.

#### **Building Relationships – Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement**

- On September 17, President Robbins hosted Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community President Harvier on the Tucson Main Campus.

#### **Grand Opening: Washington, D.C. Center for Outreach and Collaboration**

- Last week, the University hosted a series of events that kicked off our use of the D.C. Center as a space to inform and convene leading experts from around the world, a natural extension of our land-grant mission of service and impact.
- An amazing team of faculty, staff, and partners came together to provide an engaging week of panel discussions, presentations, and public events showcasing the Center and the University's capacity to create positive impact globally. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this week successful.
- Visit the D.C. Center's [website](#) to learn more about its mission, or watch the week's events via this [YouTube playlist](#).

### **Research, Innovation & Impact (RII)**

- Discussions are underway with ABOR on a new Regents Fund grant program that complements the base TRIF allocations that are made to each of the State Universities. The program is designed to focus multi-university attention on particular Arizona Challenges and Opportunities.
- The University is working with FDP, COGR, AAU, and APLU representatives to help define an appropriate system to meet the new [White House requirements](#) around foreign influence disclosure requirements.
- Kimberly Sierra-Cajas and Judy Kiyama were awarded \$5M from the US Department of Education to advance HSI STEM and Articulation at the University of Arizona.

### **Renewed Commitment to the Strategic Priorities Faculty Initiative (SPFI)**

- We have renewed our commitment to the SPFI program, which has a track record of success in hiring additional full-time, tenure-track faculty or continuing track academic professionals who will enhance the University's distinctive strengths in advancing Inclusive Excellence.
- The last SPFI cycle yielded 9 new hires, all of whom are starting this Fall 2021.

### **Building a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus – Pronouns in the University Phonebook**

- Beginning October 26, pronouns will appear with contact records in the [University's Phonebook](#). Students and employees can voluntarily add their pronouns in UAccess Student and/or UAccess Employee. This best practice allows us to create a campus culture where members of the University community feel welcomed, valued, and respected. Learn more on the [pronouns guidance page](#).