

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: March 14, 2022

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### **COVID Status Update**

- We continue to see dramatically improving numbers through our on-campus testing. I'm very thankful to all the staff, faculty, and students who worked to decrease the spread and improve public health conditions.
- UA announced today that masking would move from required to recommended in most areas of campus. This allows students and faculty to work with the Disability Resource Center through in potential accommodations for vulnerable employees.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> was the final day for in-person COVID-19 testing at the Student Union. TakeAway Testing will continue to be available at locations across campus.
- For current information about COVID at the university, please consult the [COVID Dashboard](#).

### **University of Arizona-UAGC**

- The University of Arizona and UAGC have established a Steering Committee and a Core Working Group with members from the University of Arizona and UAGC to assist with the planning process. Thank you to Senior Vice Provost Gail Burd for her continued leadership in coordinating this work for the University of Arizona.

### **Native American Advancement at UA: New [Indigenous Resilience Center](#) Launched on Campus**

- At the end of January, I announced that the new Indigenous Resilience Center (IRC) has officially launched at the University of Arizona. Led by [Dr. Karletta Chief \(Diné\)](#), Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, the IRC will bring together experts across the university with tribal leaders in Native-centered and Native-driven research.
- The IRC will advance the work of the university's Cooperative Extension, which works to serve rural and other underserved communities, as well as contribute to the impact of the [Arizona Institutes for Resilience \(AIR\)](#).
- Additionally, SVP Levi Esquerra facilitated the unveiling of a native translation for the Communication Building sign. The new sign is in the Tohono O'odham Native Language and translates to "A Place of Communication." This is part of a larger effort by SVP Esquerra to work with Arizona's tribes to add their Native Languages to a building sign on campus.

### **[Paula Balafas Has Been Named new UAPD Chief of Police](#)**

- Last month the University was pleased to announce that Paula Balafas has been appointed the next Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police for the University of Arizona. Paula has over 32 years of experience serving and joins us from the University of Colorado Boulder.
- Paula is known for her dedication to community engagement through open, transparent dialogue and for her commitment to creating a positive culture within police departments

centered around equity, inclusivity, and resiliency. I look forward to her joining our dedicated UAPD team.

### **Several Research Awards Exemplify UA's Premier Research Status**

- I continue to be amazed at the incredible research that our faculty and students perform. This year, UArizona has received nine NSF CAREER awards, an institutional record in one year.
- Dr. Roberto Furfaro received a new award in hypersonics for \$5M from the University Consortium for Applied Hypersonics: Challenge Projects.
- The Confluentcenter received a \$1.5M Mellon Foundation grant for borderlands research in education and storytelling.
- Additionally, the university received two grants from the AZ Commerce Authority to study CO2 impacts from masks.
- Impressive honors such as these showcase the incredible research our university contributes. With several new buildings in progress to advance these research endeavors, I eagerly await the future of UArizona research as we continue to make our mark on the world.