



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 09, 2020

President Cheng
Northern Arizona University
P.O. Box 4092
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Dear President Cheng,

Thank you for all you have done to advance Northern Arizona University throughout your tenure as the sixteenth president. Because of your leadership, more Arizona students can access a world-class university education, regardless of location or circumstance. The university's student body reflects the diverse population of our State and has led to a substantial increase in the number of bachelor's degrees NAU awards each year.

NAU is one of the State's major economic powerhouses, and I am thankful for your partnership these past years, in which you led an 86% increase in research productivity, expanded NAU's economic impact to \$2.6 billion annually, and for all that you did to support the workforce of Flagstaff, Coconino County, and our state as a whole.

Over the past year, NAU has experienced a remarkable commitment and response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, ensuring a strong future for NAU and its students. I am appreciative of all you did to ensure that NAU successfully retained a safe, in-person residential experience for students.

I am also incredibly grateful for all you did to work collaboratively to launch and propel the Arizona Teachers Academy. Through this work, NAU has played a major role in increasing the number of qualified K-12 teachers in our state, an initiative that is already working to shore up the State's pipeline of highly qualified teachers for every classroom.

Your many efforts at NAU are commendable and you will be greatly missed. I wish you all the best in your retirement and thank you for your partnership and service to our great State.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona