

[To view this email as a web page, go here.](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

February 6, 2022, 8:00 a.m.



Dear Students and Colleagues,

It has been a busy two weeks since my last highlights email, with lots of good news for the University.

As many of you have seen, Lisa Rulney and I were very pleased Thursday to **announce the appointment of Paula Balafas** as the next Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police for the University of Arizona. Paula will be an important part of the University's leadership, and I look forward to her positive impact for our students and the entire University community.

Here are additional highlights for this week:

UAGC Coordination Process

I shared an update last week on the **status of our affiliation with the University of Arizona Global Campus** and the initiation of needed formal planning toward acquiring UAGC and coordinating the operations of our two universities. Provost Liesl Folks and I have asked Senior Vice Provost Gail Burd to lead this effort, and I am grateful she has accepted this role. Dr. Burd has extensive experience guiding the University's accreditation processes and she is deeply committed to our educational mission. Faculty and staff, please look for additional information soon from the Office of the Provost. Documents related to this process have been posted in this **Box folder**.

Giving Day on February 14

Beginning at noon on Monday, Feb. 14, and lasting through noon on Tuesday, Feb. 15, the University is holding its second annual Giving Day, an opportunity for alumni, supporters, and other members of the University community to support their favorite programs. Matching challenges are available in many colleges and units, helping ensure that every gift and every dollar counts. If you are interested in making a gift or would like to participate in on-campus programming, visit the **Giving Day webpage** for more information.

Museums, Concerts, and Lecture Series

One of the best things about working or studying at the University is access to the amazing cultural, artistic, and other intellectual resources we have. For example, the **Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum** is now open to the

public in downtown Tucson. This beautiful space presents the University's amazing collections and is a centerpiece of the world-famous Gem & Mineral Show that Tucson hosts every spring.

Other recent and upcoming events and opportunities include:

- The **48th Annual President's Concert** was put on by the Fred Fox School of Music last night, with a second performance this afternoon, featuring several of our student musicians as soloists.
- An open-to-the-public webinar, **Civic Engagement in the Digital Age**, on Feb. 23 with SVP for Research and Innovation Betsy Cantwell and Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse Keith Allred.
- The **College of Science lecture series**, which will begin in March and focus on minerals.

COVID Mitigation and Response

The University's **face covering requirement** remains in place. Note that individual supervisors and unit heads or directors do not determine the requirement for a given indoor space. Rather, we expect students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear masks in accordance with posted signage.

Surgical masks are available at building front entrances and classrooms. They are also available upon request, as are KN95 masks. Call the Facilities Management Work Control Desk (520-621-3000) for more information. Employees can also **contact their building manager** to request masks.

I also encourage you to prioritize your wellbeing, as well as the health of those around you. This includes mental health, as we have highlighted in the past. Resources for students and employees can be found at **Campus Health**, **Counseling and Psych Services**, and **Life & Work Connections**.

James Webb Space Telescope's NIRCam is Powered On!

NASA and the entire JWST team received the good news this week that the NIRCam instrument has powered on, along with all of the telescope's instruments. Preparations are now underway for the JWST to begin aligning its mirror segments and then, as Regents Professor Marcia Rieke put it, "finally get starlight moving through the system and detected by NIRCam," which is the instrument being used to align the mirrors. University News has a **great article** with more details.

Briefing on Monday

Dr. Carmona and I will hold a University Status Update briefing this coming Monday, Feb. 7, beginning at 8:45 a.m. You can watch at arizona.edu/live.

Bear Down, Mask Up, and Vax Up.

Robert C. Robbins, M.D.

President
The University of Arizona

This email was sent to: all faculty, staff, students, and DCCs.

University of Arizona, 1200 E. University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85721, US
© Copyright 2022 The University of Arizona. All rights reserved.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.