

# OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



August 31, 2022

Dear Faculty,

As we begin the new year, I hope you relish the energy, curiosity, and anticipation of the wonderful things to come this academic year. We launched our journey with President Cruz Rivera's opening [Convocation](#). Our students are exploring or getting re-acquainted with their campus or learning environment, meeting their faculty for the term, and getting oriented to your expectations of them. We welcome many new faculty colleagues to our community this year. Our new colleagues are also exploring, connecting, and getting settled in. Soon we will share a portfolio of our new faculty. I know you join me in greeting our students and new faculty with warmth, interest, and readiness to support, so that they realize their ambitions. Thank you for all you do to create a positive experience for everyone at the start of the academic year.

As an academic community, we begin the year with collective ambitions. We will continue to build on efforts over the last year to create an environment in which we may work together with trust and opportunities for collaborative deliberation in our endeavors to sustain excellent academic programs, outstanding teaching and impactful scholarship. [Elevating Excellence 2025](#) shapes our investments of collective energy over the next few years. Among our top priorities is ensuring that our degree programs prepare graduates for success in their careers, in life, and to have positive social impact. I will be coming back to you with more about how we will give focus to this and other initiatives important for advancing the Academic Excellence and other strategic priorities.

I am grateful to the leaders and members of the Faculty Senate for their collaboration over the last year. We intend to continue to work together on projects of high significance for faculty and students. This includes implementation of the General Studies program, revision of the Conditions of Faculty Service, reflection and consideration of faculty activities in the area of "service", and how we evaluate teaching. I encourage you to connect with your Faculty Senate and Senators and participate in Faculty Senate sponsored committees and events.

## Provost Leadership Fellows 2022-2023

This year we welcome our inaugural cohort of Provost Leadership Fellows. These are leaders who are seeking experience beyond their current positions. Our fellows will work closely with vice provost teams as part of the provost's leadership team. We look forward to their contributions through the specific projects they have identified for focus. Fellows will also

bring valuable perspectives to our work in the Provost's Office. Provost Leadership Fellows are introduced on this [website](#) devoted to the program.

### Student Resources

As you interact with your students, please keep in mind resources that may be helpful for them as they navigate college and other life challenges. The Lumberjack CARE Center and NAU Counseling Services are available to serve students with a wide range of needs. Here are two key resources that you may reference as you work with students who need assistance for essential needs, crisis, or ongoing mental health concerns:

- The Lumberjack **C**ase Management, **A**dvocacy, **R**esources, & **E**ssential Needs (CARE) Center addresses concerns such as food insecurity, financial needs, and wellness. Students can connect with our team and access our services in the new Lumberjack CARE Center adjacent to Sechrist Hall on the mountain campus or learn more about the Center and its offerings [online](#). The Center is open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, and later this fall we look forward to the campus community joining us for a grand opening of the new space and our expanded Louie's Cupboard food pantry.
- Interested in prioritizing your mental health this fall? Need immediate emotional support? Contact NAU's Counseling Services at 928-523-2261 or visit [nau.edu/counseling](http://nau.edu/counseling) for more information about our confidential, in-person counseling, case management, and peer support services. We are also excited to announce a new support program offered in partnership with MySSP! Jacks Care 24/7 offers free, confidential, remote mental health and wellbeing support to all NAU students, anytime, anywhere. NAU Students all over the world can access chat, text, or telehealth-based crisis and/or general counseling in their language of choice by calling [866-656-9983](tel:866-656-9983), visiting [nau.edu/jacks-care](http://nau.edu/jacks-care), or downloading the [MySSP](#) app.

Thank you in advance for all that you will accomplish this year supporting our students' success on multiple fronts. All signs point to a vigorous and exciting year, and I am confident that we can work together to make progress toward our shared vision of access and excellence.

I wish you all a smooth and energizing start to the academic year.

Best,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Karen".