



Dear Colleagues,

The University of Arizona is committed to broadening access in as many ways as possible to provide students with the opportunity to complete a degree from our world class university. From the work we have done in Tucson on our main campus to our distance sites across the state and globe and through our fully online offerings, we now provide a myriad number of options for students. In all these cases, be it in Arizona Online or in Qingdao, China, we also focus attention on student success and retention. We do this by providing a suite of services coordinating centrally and delivered across the institution. This has allowed us to not only expand our enrollments –Arizona Online will enroll nearly 4,500 students this fall – but also maintain the excellence of our students – the University of Arizona witnessed a 3% jump in first-time, full-time retention on our Tucson campus this year.

None of this is possible without a strong team of faculty and staff who are committed to our students. Our Arizona Online team, for example, can help faculty build online courses for our distance students, while our central support services in student success and retention – the Think Tank (our tutoring center), the Thrive Center (a programmatic space catering to first generation students and students needing additional support), to our SALT and CATS Academic centers (serving students with alternative learning needs and our student athletes respectively) – can provide a wide range of partnerships with our academic partners in the colleges. Indeed, it is our collaborative work that marks our campus' culture.

The areas that I have the pleasure to work with also focus attention on the post-undergraduate outcomes of our students. In our Office of Student Engagement and Career Development, we have established a culture of teaching and learning that helps students figure out their next step. We do this through partnerships with companies and educational programs that help students develop leadership skills and prepare themselves for graduate school.

There is so much more about the university that I hope you will come to appreciate as you begin to explore our campus. Please let me know how I or the people I work with can help you. In the meantime, take a few minutes and wonder by the Bear Down Gym, where Think Tank is located, or walk the halls of the fourth floor of the Student Union to connect with our Student Engagement and Career Development professionals. Or, find your way to our Office of Digital Learning team if your department is offering a fully-online major with Arizona Online. Each area is here to help you.

If you have not done so, send a [RSVP online](#) to attend the **New Faculty Orientation on August 14 and 15** or contact Asya Roberts at [asya@email.arizona.edu](mailto:asya@email.arizona.edu).

Best of luck with your transition.

Vincent J. Del Casino Jr, PhD  
Vice President, Academic Initiatives and Student Success  
Professor, School of Geography and Development  
Affiliated Faculty, Social, Cultural and Critical Theory GIDP