Welcome from the Assistant Vice Provost, Native American Initiatives
Dear New Faculty,

Assistant Vice Provost, Native American Initiatives Karen Francis-Begay welcomes new University of Arizona faculty to the Wildcat family. In her Native language, she offers a greeting, “Yá’át’ééh!” which is a similar reference to “Welcome!”

Karen is a citizen of the Navajo Nation, of the Edge of Water clan and born to the Towering House people. At the university, she leads and coordinates Native student success initiatives as well as support for Native faculty. She has been with the university for 26 years.

There are 22 federally-recognized tribes in the state of Arizona of the 574 in the entire United States. The tribal land base is about 28% and includes the Tohono O’odham Nation on whose ancestral lands the university resides. There are over 1,400 self-identified Native students on campus representing over 75 different tribes from across the United States and Canada, and more than 30 Native faculty in various disciplines.

Stay safe and Bear Down,

Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

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