

September 5, 2019

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 West Washington Street, 9th Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

This is a critical time for universities, businesses, nonprofits and all sectors within Arizona to increase collaboration with Mexico and Canada for the advancement of Arizona communities. I am writing to express support for your calls to Arizona's congressional delegates to support the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

The USMCA represents an important evolution of North American free trade and will bring about greater prosperity throughout the region. NAU is committed to partnering with institutions in both Mexico and Canada to deepen and broaden academic exchange and research. As an example, our most recent international grant in partnership with Exxon Mobile, Conicet and the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Project includes a strategic university partner in Mexico. Additionally, NAU recently joined the Arizona-Sonora Interuniversity Alliance, which brings together researches from both sides of the border to participate in cross-border research in an effort to improve lives on both sides of the border.

We have also signed collaborative agreements with institutions in Canada that bring together indigenous communities and increase international study and research opportunities for NAU students and faculty. As educators, we have the capability and the responsibility to provide pathways for student success, for we know and have seen the power of strategic international cooperation, commerce and education to raise and empower communities here within Arizona and throughout our nation.

Sincerely,



Rita Hartung Cheng  
President