

## FY22 STATE BUDGET REQUEST ENHANCING ARIZONA'S COMPETITIVENESS

New Economy Initiative Request (details below)	\$22,000,000
FY 21 Supplemental Funding Request	
• Permanent Restoration of Dollars Reduced in FY 21 "Skinny Budget"	\$6,650,000
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$28,650,000</b>

### NEW ECONOMY INITIATIVE DETAIL: \$22M

#### HEALTH SCIENCES

- **Expansion of NAU's Nursing Programs** – NAU proposes to expand bachelor's and master's programs and to develop specialty certifications and endorsements for new and existing nursing professionals to support healthcare workforce needs. The university offers a variety of nursing programs throughout Arizona and online capturing individuals new to the workforce and those who are pursuing a new career. Expansion of these programs will reduce long student waitlists, and specialization opportunities will provide employers with the specific workforce they need.
- **Expansion of the Master's in Physician's Assistant Studies Program** – Recognizing Arizona's need for allied health professionals, the university has submitted a proposal to the ARC-PA Accrediting Board to increase the program by an additional 10 students per year. This will grow the cohort to 60 students. NAU gives preference to Arizona residence which translates to 84 percent of our graduates remaining in the state after graduation.
- **Implementation of the Doctor of Clinical Psychology Degree** – NAU prepares students for the professional practice of psychology. Many parts of Arizona have been designated as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. The Arizona state average for the ratio of mental health providers to population is 839:1. In 2016, the national average was 640:1.
  - With the 2019 closure of Argosy University in Arizona, numerous students were displaced and the behavioral health/psychology workforce in Arizona was impacted.
  - NAU expedited development of this degree to serve critical needs, building on the university's expertise in behavioral health and psychology and provided a transfer pathway for students from Argosy in the Spring of 2020 and began accepting new students in Fall 2020.
    - Cohort size was initially set at 40 students but increased to 70 due to demand
    - Monetary support for this program and the expanded size is critical
- **Expanded Access to NAU's Nationally Recognized Physical Therapy Program** - NAU proposes increasing the Physical Therapy program by 25% annually to graduate an additional 25 physical therapists each year. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – there are approximately 17,700 annual openings for physical therapists in the U.S. and the rate of growth for the occupation is anticipated to be above average at 28%.
  - NAU currently receives 1,000 applicants per year for the current 98 available slots.
  - Our physical therapy graduates have a 100% employment rate.

## SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PARTNERS

- **Support for Local Communities Where Smaller Cohorts May be Required** – NAU has a partnership with every community college in Arizona with programs embedded on many community college campuses. Under this proposal, NAU will expand program delivery to government organizations and community partners. Examples include:
  - Partnership with several law enforcement agencies to provide a Graduate Certificate in Leadership in Criminal Justice Administration
  - Implementation of a 90/30 Bachelor’s Degree Program in Industrial Leadership for the construction and manufacturing industries to assist with leadership development. A pathway has been developed with West-MEC (CTE) for this program as well
  - Programs on-site at local schools to support educational leadership development for school principals and superintendents

### **FY 21 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST: \$6.65 M**

NAU and the university system have not seen sustained ongoing increases in state funding for operations since FY 15. Since then, permanent budgets have been significantly reduced and followed by fluctuating one-time investments. For NAU those one-time investments received ranged from 1.6M in FY 19 to \$6.65 M in FY 20.

- Stemming from the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic would have on the state’s revenues, the FY21 “skinny budget” failed to continue NAU’s FY 20 state appropriation of \$6.65 M
- This reduction impacted the university at a time of increased financial strain due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Arizona’s economic condition is far better than was projected. Since cuts have been proven unnecessary, NAU requests the permanent restoration of this reduction