In the 1940’s and 1950’s, National was a school; from the 60’s to the 80’s, National became a college. In the 1990’s, National became a university. Now in 2014, National American University continues to change and expand with significant strategic and academic initiatives underway to ensure students excel academically and professionally, to provide additional graduate programming and ongoing professional development, and to ensure excellence in professional and technical education across three regions, eleven states, and 37 campuses. Educational opportunities exist at the associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and most recently at the doctoral level with the new Ed.D. in Community College Leadership.

Several major academic initiatives will roll out in 2014-2016 all designed to better serve the nearly 12,000 working adults who attend NAU and to support their academic and career success. Several initiatives are already underway, including the establishment of the colleges, the expansion of master’s programs, and the implementation of a new student entry appraisal, advising, and placement process with a full college transitions program. In April, the university launched new English and math appraisals at entry to ensure incoming students are appropriately advised and placed into courses. Further, two new courses, Math Demystified and College Writing, ensure working adults full-credit courses to bring their composition and algebra skills in line with degree requirements. In addition, the new process includes academic refresher boot camps and the option for up to six months of individualized mentoring and tutoring to build math, English, college readiness, and technology skills. Within the next year, a strong career emphasis and career programming will be integrated into the entry process and the first courses a student pursues at NAU.

In June, NAU will reorganize its undergraduate programs into three colleges: the College of Health and Science (nursing, allied health, health management and services programs), the College of Legal Studies (paralegal and criminal justice programs), and the College of Business, Accounting, and Technology. In addition, the university is developing several new master’s specializations within nursing, business, and education with plans to launch them Spring 2015. Finally, a new faculty member ranking structure will recognize teachers as professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors. As a result, NAU will celebrate its faculty, most of whom are also working professionals who dedicate time to teach courses, bringing their professional expertise into the classroom and into the lives of adults in pursuit of their career aspirations.
In May, the alumni office received a phone call and an email from John Hauer and Garry R. Rives. Mr. Hauer was the president of NCB/NC for about 30 years, and he is currently distributing the second edition of his book, The Natural Superiority of Mules. Mr. Rives is in the horse boarding and horse training business in Colorado, and during the late 1960s, he was National’s top rodeo team competitor. He set the scene for many future years of National’s college rodeo success.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
At the April meeting of the Board of Governors, Mr. Robert Buckingham announced his retirement. The ownership and involvement of the Buckingham family in support of the university has been instrumental in support of the culture and ideals of quality programming and a caring and supportive environment, as exemplified by Harold D. Buckingham. Dr. Jerry Gallentine will serve as an interim Chairman of the Board.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Michael Lager has been named as VP of Enrollment Operations. He was previously a regional coordinator for enrollment operations. Matt Mottl is the Executive Campus Director at the Roseville Campus. Rachel Menkens has a new position as executive assistant for Dr. Gallentine, Dr. Shape and Dr. Kerr, and she will participate in strategic and operational planning and board-related activities. Arthur Gillis has been named as the registrar for the NAU system. He comes to NAU from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His educational background includes Hagerstown Junior College, Northwood University and University of Phoenix. Consistent with his previous responsibilities, he will have responsibility for monitoring and maintaining all administration of student records, grade reporting, records processing, and the storage, maintenance and security of the university’s academic records. Dr. Jason Warr has accepted additional responsibilities as Senior Vice President for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs. With the increased scrutiny of higher education at the federal and state levels, Dr. Warr’s duties and responsibilities will be essential for the university.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE RELATIONS
Linda Garcia, VP for Community College Relations, has announced that NAU has partnerships with 14 community colleges in Texas, Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Iowa, and Indiana.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ACCREDITATION
The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) completed on-site surveys of the pharmacy technician programs at the Zona Rosa and Independence campuses of NAU during September 2013. The ASHP Commission reviewed and accepted the Commission on Credentialing’s actions during April, and accreditation was granted for 6 years. NAU’s programs in Missouri are the only ASHP pharmacy technology programs accredited in the State of Missouri.

ALBUQUERQUE WEST, NM
Campus Director, Jessica Carr, announced that the Albuquerque West campus sponsored PAWS and STRIPES, and was able to raise $725. This is a nonprofit organization providing service dogs for wounded military veterans with post traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries. Professional service dog trainers teach the dogs and the veterans as a team. Veterans never pay anything for the costs of the program, and the dogs are not pets, but service dogs with protection and rights granted by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

AUSTIN SOUTH, TX
On March 20, 2014, NAU signed an articulation agreement with Hallmark College (San Antonio, Texas) and their Martha Fessler School of Nursing. Officials from both institutions were present for the event, as well some nursing students.

BLOOMINGTON AND BURNSVILLE, MN
Steve Dus, Campus Director at Burnsville, announced that the Bloomington and Burnsville locations have created an NAU presence at the Mall of America, the 21st largest shopping mall in the world. This information booth is on the third floor overlooking the rotunda. The intention is to bring a greater awareness of NAU in Minnesota, and to those traveling visitors from other states and the world.
CAMPUS NEWS

DENVER, CO
NAU’s Medical Assistant Club members attended a recent Health Fair sponsored by Quest Diagnostics. The group was under the supervision of Jacqueline McRae-Mitchell, Program Director.

MISSOURI PHI BETA LAMBDA COMPETITION

Dr. Asefaw Indrias, regional program coordinator announced that NAU PBL members have won or placed in the Missouri competition in Columbia, and have qualified for the national event in Nashville, Tennessee. Stacey Forte took first and third place, Nicole HayGood received two second place awards, and Carol Ann Parker won third and fourth place awards. There were 4000 students in attendance representing both PBL and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). Phi Beta Lambda and Future Business Leaders of America are the largest business career student organizations in the world. The Missouri group includes members from Independence, Lee’s Summit, Overland Park and Zona Rosa campuses.

RAPID CITY, SD
The School of Nursing hosted their second annual Commitment to Professional Nursing and Pinning Ceremony on May 16, 2014.

TIGARD, OR
The campus has partnered with Goodwill Industries to offer GED preparation classes on campus. The classes will be free to community members and they are to be taught by a Goodwill teacher. NAU hopes to show the community that the university wants to help individuals reach their educational goals. The campus is also working with the State of Oregon to become a licensed GED testing center.

ROUCHE GRADUATION CENTER, TX
Community College Leadership Program
NAU’s Roueche Graduate Center in Austin, Texas has accepted a cohort of 29 community college professionals from northern Ohio into the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP). These individuals started their program in January, 2014 in an innovative succession-planning program at Cuyahoga Community College. The outcome will create experienced and additionally educated individuals who may become available and can be considered for available opportunities. The importance of this program is in response to an increasing number of community college presidents, senior administrators and faculty members that are reaching retirement. The next generation of professional individuals needs to become prepared to fill these critical roles. The program leaders at RGC are meeting with community and technical colleges around the country to identify other locations to initiate CCLP cohorts and additional educational programs.

Excellence Awards
The following staff of the Harold D. Buckingham Graduate School received excellence awards at the recent League for Innovation in the Community College Conference. Aaron Paxton, Associate Director of Admissions, has worked in various positions for NAU since 2010. He has done outstanding work with the admissions team. Beverly Hurbace, Administrative Assistant to the Dr. John Roueche and office manager, has performed managerial and supervisory duties of the Roueche Graduate Center since 2012. Bridget Salys, a strong student advocate, works with master’s students in retention efforts and in emphasizing student success, and is also experienced in student services roles.

Dr. Andrea Serna was chosen as the 2014 Master’s Faculty of the Winter Quarter.

ZONA ROSA, MO
BuKeka Blakemore, administrative assistant for the nursing program, will sing two of her own songs in the opening performance of Dr. Maya Angelou at the Kauffman Performing Arts Center in Kansas City on June 10, 2014.
The value and contributions of NAU’s faculty to the advancement of the university’s mission are at the core of National American University’s success. Their beliefs and constant reflection on teaching and learning guides our continuous academic improvement processes. Their roles are essential to the well-being of the university. Faculty recognition awards are one of the ways in which NAU acknowledges their commitment and engagement to teaching and excellence in learning.

Most recently Paul Acuff and Nicola (Nick) Granato have received this recognition. Mr. Acuff began teaching for NAU in 2000. He has taught 157 classes, totaling 691.5 credit hours and 1,981 students. Paul is noted for teaching excellence and going above and beyond his teaching duties. During the Winter term, he taught an independent study section of Accounting 1 to two visually impaired students. In working with these two students, he continued to work with all of his other students, but he put in the time to make sure that all students had the support and resources to be successful. He takes the time to help all of his students succeed. Paul Acuff is truly an example of an instructor who is “caring and supportive,” when it comes to his students.

Mr. Granato just celebrated his third year of online instruction with NAU. He has taught 43 classes, 193.5 credits and 737 students. Nick has taught Management, Marketing, Logistics and Supply Chain Management. He developed the Logistics and Supply Chain Management curriculum for NAU. He is a civilian contract negotiator at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. He has been able to connect with students and provide real life applications and academic content in terms of his educational background and professional experience. He is dedicated to his students and consistently creates supportive and caring learning environments.

The university expects faculty to be scholar-practitioners, who are able to provide practical instruction for students seeking to enter or advance in a profession. For this reason, the focus of NAU’s professional development effort is directly connected to teaching and learning. The university will continue to hire faculty members who are committed to remaining current in their field of expertise. In addition, the university will support faculty members who identify professional development opportunities aligned with their faculty roles. Those roles includes scholarship and ongoing professional development and training in the appropriate teaching discipline or field. Those members of the faculty recognized with awards will qualify for consideration for additional professional development opportunities, supported by the university. NAU will support participation at a conference focused on teaching and learning, or one in the academic field of specialization.

Consistent with efforts to support professional development activity that will strengthen NAU’s ability to provide a quality teaching and learning environment, the university is proud that Raymond McKinney and Jessica Moore were recipients of the second annual John and Susanne Roueche Excellence Awards recognition by the League for Innovation. As a result of this recognition of exceptional faculty, they received Excellence Awards certificates, and Mr. McKinney attended the League’s 2014 Conference.
Rapid City Graduation - 2014
Larissa Janee Hood Marchiori graduated from NAU, Summa Cum Laude with a 3.99 CGPA, in 2000, with a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies. She was also named as the Bill/Barara Tschetter graduate and won a number of awards in Phi Beta Lambda state competitions, and was very active in the university’s activity programs. She continued her education at the South Texas School of Law in Houston and graduated in 2003, passing the Texas Bar exam in the same year. She was voted as the Outstanding Female Graduate and as the Most Versatile/Diverse Graduate by her peers. She joined the law firm of Jon Christian Amberson P.C., as an environmental gas and oil attorney in San Antonio, Texas. Larissa married Sam Marchiori in 2011, and they have daughter, Madison, born in 2013. Larissa was honored as the 14th recipient of this award at the Rapid City graduation event.

Albuquerque Graduation – 2014
James “Scott” Baird graduated with highest honors with a BS in Organizational Leadership from NAU’s Albuquerque campus in the fall of 2013. He points out that his university enrollment and graduation were challenges, along with the duties and responsibilities as a husband, father, grandfather, Chief Deputy Sheriff, CFO of a local business, and treasurer of the board of directors of his church. His experiences at NAU have helped him achieve his career goals. He describes his connections with the instructional staff as being on a professional level, and that there was a provision of practical knowledge in the fields, rather than just theory. Mr. Baird is the first local graduate in New Mexico to run for local office, and he is running for Bernalillo County Sheriff, after retiring from his previous position.
GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Lavonne Joy Mckee, a Sioux Falls Graduate of NAU has been hired as a credentialing specialist at Physicians Laboratory in Sioux Falls.

Lacy Randall, a 2013 BS Business Administration graduate of Lee’s Summit, is the branch manager for Metcalf Bank in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Karen DiMarsico, an online graduate of NAU is living in Amityville, NY. She is a medical secretary at North Shore Health Systems in Manhasset, NY.

Rick Volk, a 1995 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Rapid City, has been named the CFO for Post University in Waterbury, CT.

Nicolas McInerney has joined the University of South Dakota School of Law as its first full time admissions and enrollment coordinator. He earned a BS in Business Administration at NAU, and later earned a MA and JD from USD.

David Fischer, BS in Applied Management 2002-Ellsworth AFB, has been named as Chief of Weather Plans and Requirements for the U.S. Army Central Staff Weather Office at Shaw AFB in South Carolina.

Leeisha Brown is a 2008 graduate of Overland Park, and she lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, and she is working for the University of North Carolina.

NAU IS HIRING – check out Careers at NAU - www.national.edu/careers-nau