NAU’s footprint is growing rapidly, but nowhere more than in Texas. In the Dallas area, NAU has sites in Allen, Richardson, Mesquite, and Lewisville. In the capital city of Austin, NAU now exists in North Austin, South Austin and nearby Georgetown. In Houston, an online service center, supports students in the enrollment process for online programs. In order not to overlook the middle of the country, additional site development is planned in Rochester, MN with relocation plans for the Rapid City, SD and Rio Rancho, NM campuses. Online service centers also now exist in the Indianapolis, IN metro area and in Secaucus, NJ, just outside of New York City. Other institutional developments are pending approvals in both Washington and Oregon.

Dr. Shape has announced some leadership appointments to assist in the growing footprint of the university and maintenance of efficient and effective operations. Michaelle Holland has been named as the president of campus operations with responsibility for all of the domestic regional campus operations, with the exception of the Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base campuses which are under the direction of NAU Provost, Dr. Sam Kerr. In order for the NAU focus of serving students, both new and continuing, to be maintained along with the development of new university locations, Dr. Shape named Lisa Knigge as the system executive vice president of new campus development. She will coordinate efforts with several departments to ensure the timely execution of approvals and development of new physical locations of NAU. All of these individuals have a long history of success in the overall development of the university in program and site development and in the procurement and training of administrative staff.
**Central Administration**

Dr. Rick Upchurch has joined NAU as the system director of institutional effectiveness. He has worked in higher education for the last 14 years and has extensive experience in analysis and improvement of performance systems. He will be working throughout the entire system to enhance institutional effectiveness. • John Buxton, the chief information officer has announced promotions in the IT department with Laurie Keith, director of information technology services. Jim Leonard, director of online education and Carrie Town, systems administrator manager. • Dr. Sam Kerr is continuing to serve as the provost for NAU, and general counsel and secretary for the university’s parent company, NAU Holdings, Inc. • Paul Sedlacek has been named as the general counsel for the university. He also continues as the system’s legal studies program chair. • Dr. Debra Wenzel has joined NAU as the system’s associate director of curriculum. She came from the South Dakota Department of Education. She has graduate degrees from the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University. • Marcus Smith has accepted the position of regional vice president of the west region which consists of the campuses in Colorado and New Mexico.

**Southwest Region**

**Austin Campus**

Matthew J. Painter and other academic leaders conducted their 1st Annual Faculty Forum. A total of 20 participants and 150 years of combined teaching experience worked on topics including adult learning, IT, classroom management, syllabi, team building, attendance and other policy matters. • During the Light the Night Walk for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for Central Texas, over 20 of the faculty, staff and students joined about 4000 area people in a fund raising effort. The NAU Austin-Team was able to raise just over $1,000 for the Society. Participants carried colored balloons; red in support, white for survivors, and gold in memory of those who lost their lives.

**Lewisville Campus**

This location is one of NAU’s newest sites in the Dallas, Texas area. Tanisha Garcia, the campus director has announced employment of five admissions advisors and an admissions director, as well as a financial services representative. NAU Lewisville is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and will be actively involved in community outreach efforts.

**Midwest Region**

**Sioux Falls Campus**

A former student and criminal justice major, Dennis Jensen, was killed while serving in Afghanistan. The campus flag was lowered to half-mast and South Dakota’s Governor, Dennis Daugaard, issued a public statement of sorrow and gratitude.
The Watertown Education Center celebrated the summer term with an Honors Recognition occasion during September. NAU hosted the event for students and their families and about 70 students and their families participated. The photo is of the students who received perfect attendance certificates.

West Region Colorado Springs Campus

Six of the recent medical assisting graduates have passed the American Medical Technology Registered Medical Assisting exam. They are Stefanie Gray, Mary Holmes, Kathleen Kotke, Jennifer McKinley, Marion Peters and Sarah Vastine.

Rapid City Campus

The Rapid City campus will be relocating to a section of the facility that currently houses the distance learning campus and central administration offices. It is expected that the move will take place in Spring 2012. A comprehensive floor plan illustrates modern and state-of-the-art classrooms, labs and other facilities. The land surrounding the current building is being reconstructed to offer additional parking for staff and students (pictured below). The Rapid City campus began operations on Kansas City Street during 1960-61. The campus and the enrollment grew dramatically and became part of the means for the development of other regional locations. Todd Lowery, former NAU women’s volleyball coach, who led the Lady Mavericks to NAIA national championships in 2002 and 2006, is now the coach of the University of Texas-Brownsville Scorpions. They have maintained a NAIA number one ranking in volleyball for several consecutive weeks.

Below: Beginning construction at Central Administration to accommodate for the addition of the Rapid City Campus.

Great News!

Three new program emphasis areas to choose from...

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   • Topics include legal and regulatory environment for higher education, management topics, student retention and services, and curriculum design

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NAU affords me the opportunity to teach from text books and from life experience. Watching students grow from uncertainty to leaders in class, on campus and in the community has been a very extraordinary and rewarding experience. In a recent Principles of Marketing class, the group project was to do a marketing plan. One group created a marketing plan for a local coffee shop, by spending several hours a week learning the operation and gathering data. The business operators attended the group’s presentation in class, and the operators asked if they could use it as the basis for expanding their business. This was exceptional work. This is what NAU is all about. Learning combined with practical application equals success.

Tom Haynes, Instructor, Wichita Campus

Alex Montano is a member of the instructional staff in New Mexico. His students in the Strategic Management class have been participating in the GLO-BUS simulation game. His students have been receiving Top 100 rankings through most of October. In the categories, Company A was 61st overall, 19th in earnings per share, and 3rd best in return on equity. Alex points out that NAU’s team placed higher than University of Wisconsin, Texas Tech, Florida A&M, University of Maryland and the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Kacey Ingram-Jechura is teaching the social sciences in the Colorado campuses. She points out, “General education courses are special, they are pliable for students from each major to relate to their future careers. I believe that we have a tremendous job to influence student perspectives and widen the scope of our students’ future career paths. The fields of Psychology and Sociology provide verbiage for our experience of the human condition. When an educator approaches a subject with admiration, students know that it is taught with heart. Teaching is the process of guiding active engagement in the classroom, sprinkled with some performance and improvisation. Storytelling is one of the best forms of classroom communication; classes then turn into conversations and in every conversation, terms and theories from our chapters increase understanding of the material.”

Dr. Kacey Ingram-Jechura

Where the rubber meets the road at NAU!
Alumni News and Career Success

In March of 2012, NAU will be conducting the 4th Alumni Survey of those who have graduated since March 2010. Approximately 1300 graduates will be contacted via e-mail. The survey is short, only 16 questions. Please take the time to respond as your responses influence NAU’s planning and budgeting.

Anyath Aluong is an AAS graduate and was recently employed as a pharmacy technician at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls. Her father was murdered in civil unrest in the Sudan during 1995. In addition to learning the language and customs in the USA, she worked full time, studied as a full time student, and won the Miss South Sudan pageant in 2010. She has been recognized as a good role model for young Sudanese children and for many others as well.

Michael Leising, a recent graduate at NAU-Austin, Texas is working as a research engineer at the University of Texas in Austin.

Michael Howard, a 2011 MBA graduate and former staff member in the graduate school has recently accepted a position as Rapid City Mayor Sam Kookier’s executive assistant and program coordinator. Howard indicated that he is convinced that his graduate degree was a significant factor in being chosen for the job. Although he had started his graduate degree work in 2007, life got in the way but he returned to classes in 2009, after being laid off as part of an overall shutdown.

Eboni M. Carter, an AAS graduate in nursing from Overland Park, Kansas is a charge nurse at the Overland Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Jerri Williams holds both an MBA and a Master of Management degree from NAU. She has served as a financial aid representative at the Overland Park campus. She participated in NAU’s leadership program and is now the director of admissions at NAU’s new location in Weldon Spring, Missouri.

Justin Carlin, a Rapid City Business Administration graduate has opened a video gaming center in Rapid City. It offers over a dozen game stations hooked up to high-end flat panel screens with high speed internet access so that gamers can challenge those they know as well as other games anywhere the internet reaches. Carlin hopes to spend this year building the business and then expand to Spearfish next year, and possibly even franchise it one day.

Ashleigh R. Nichols has a BS in accounting from Independence. She is a senior client service representative with eScreen, Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas.

M. Louise Walters is completing her MM degree at the Rapid City campus. She also completed an AAS, a BS in legal studies, and is planning a doctorate. She is also the CEO of the Leadership Center and she recently received two scholarship awards from the Zonta Club of the Black Hills.

Debbie Moore-Hargrove has a BS in business administration from Independence, and a Master’s in education from Rockhurst. She is a program specialist at MCC Penn Valley.

Kendal Murphy is a BS graduate in applied management from Rio Rancho. He is the Chief of Police for the Wyandotte Nation in Oklahoma.

Debbie Aguilar has a BS from the campus in Albuquerque, and she is the owner and president of A+ Proofreading and Report Writing.

ATTN: ALL GRADUATES

Please continue to submit updates relating to career success and personal matters by using the alumni link on NAU’s website www.national.edu/alumni.

This will allow the university to share information about you with other graduates.
2011 Academic Excellence Alumni Awards

Lori D. Bruce - AAS Pharmaceutical Technician - Zona Rosa
Candida Jeronimo - BS Business Administration - Wichita
Beth O. Kelleher - BS Accounting - Roseville
Cheryl L. Richter - BS Information Technology - Overland Park
William L. Latare - AAS Criminal Justice - Minnetonka
Francesca A. Mills - Health Information Technology - Distance Learning
Mitzi M. Austin - MM, Human Resources - Distance Learning

Those listed above are approximately half of the group of NAU students receiving the 2011 Academic Excellence-Alumni Awards. The most senior and successful applicant is designated as the Alumni Academic Excellence Award Recipient. Please consider donating to the Alumni Scholarship fund, in order that additional scholarship awards may be given in the future. Donations can be sent to Alumni Office, 5301 S. Hwy 16, Ste. 200, Rapid City, SD 57701.