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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

May 10, 2024, 2:20 p.m.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Agriculture,  
Life & Environmental  
Sciences

## Dear Colleagues,

As we celebrate another year of academic achievements and milestones, I want to take a moment to acknowledge **Dr. Michael Staten** for his outstanding contributions to our college as he concludes his tenure as the Bart Cardon Associate Dean for Career and Academic Services by leading his final CALES convocation.

Mike joined the UA in 2007 as an institute director, became an assistant dean in CAS five years later, and succeeded **Dr. Joy Winzerling** as associate dean in 2015. Since 2007 he has been a force in our success. His CAS leadership began when RCM started, and he led the entire university in how we used that model for our success. Mike led the college's 50% increase in academic majors from 14 to 21, explosive growth in online education, and our degrees being taught in-person in Yuma and Chandler, Arizona, as well as in China and Kazakhstan.

Mike also established our first CALES assistant dean for graduate education, a role that has transformed our graduate student community. His work, most of it unseen by most people, during the extreme challenges of the COVID pandemic was exemplary, especially in providing crucial instructional design support to our faculty, which continues today. Mike led the team that set a national benchmark, our college's *unique* collaboration with the [Strategic Alternative Learning Techniques Center](#).

As associate dean, Mike has had a strong voice in education in the college and university. He provided well-considered and constructively provocative advice, service and guidance. Though this is his final Graduation Convocation as associate dean, after which he will take vacation and sabbatical before returning to greater faculty responsibilities in the [Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics](#), I know he won't be far away from the "big issues." I expect (and hope) he won't stop leading in such ways.

Thank you, Mike, you made an indelible mark on our college, and you leave big shoes

to fill. You are a vital member of our CALES family.

**Shane C. Burgess**

Vice President, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension

Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Arizona

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*This email was sent to: CALES faculty, staff, and postdoctoral research associates.*

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**Land Acknowledgment**

*We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.*