

## **Comments at Opening Session Wooster Campus Strategic Planning**

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Good morning and it is great that you are here today for the beginning of a new era on the Wooster Campus. Our Vice President and Dean Cathann Kress is with us this morning and we will hear from her in a few minutes.

Today you have the opportunity to participate in a milestone event and help set the course of the Wooster Campus within the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences on a path for the future. What we collectively do for the next several months in this strategic planning activity will provide a roadmap for the future of this campus with CFAES.

We have been at this location for 126 years and as a University and College for nearly 150 years. Throughout the history of the campus, excellence and innovation in the three missions of the college, teaching, research and outreach have excelled. Excellence in our disciplines has defined who and what we have become, a unique asset within the College and are nationally and internationally in the forefront of discovery and learning.

Our strategic plan must be visionary, bold, and mindful of our unique resources and strengths and in alignment with the strategic plan of the University and the forthcoming strategic plan for the College. We must also align ourselves with our colleagues in our sister campuses in Columbus and throughout the state of Ohio. Our stewardship is to the land, water, energy and natural resources within our state and the region. Our plan will arise from the personal commitment of the faculty, staff and students that participate in this process today and over the next few months.

This location was initially known as the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, then the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, the Agricultural Technical Institute started in 1969. Throughout the years we have been defined by the acronyms OAES, OARDC and ATI. As we progress through this strategic planning exercise, let's no longer be defined by these historical names. Our reputation in research, teaching and outreach within CFAES is not based on our name but is the result of the intellect, innovation, dedication and work ethic championed by you – the faculty, staff and students at the Wooster. The Provost visited the campus yesterday and commented on the uniqueness of this campus and stated that it is a gem in Ohio State.

Today, we need all of you to put forward your best ideas related to the three missions of the college. We are a cornerstone college, being one of the first colleges within Ohio

State University, I know that our Dean wants this campus to grow, to continue to be a source of excellence in research, teaching and outreach. We have unique resources and skillsets that complement others within the college and we need to take advantage of these strengths.

Let us also not forget that within our discussions today, we also remember we are striving to be one campus and one college. Embrace these concepts as we are the CFAES Wooster Campus.