

Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 08:40:47 Eastern Standard Time

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**Subject:** [cfaes-all] Dean's Update  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 8:40:37 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Cfaes-all on behalf of CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all  
**To:** cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png, ATT00001.txt

CFAES Community –

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season, and you were able to take some time to rest and recharge. As we begin 2025, I want to thank you for your dedication to our college and I hope you will take a moment to reflect on our achievements in 2024. Together, we made a significant impact in the lives of our students, and Ohioans while also advancing our country and the world.

In December, we proudly celebrated almost 240 graduates across CFAES. This milestone is a testament to our shared mission of preparing the next generation of scientists, leaders, and changemakers. We also honored Virgil Strickler, who retired in February 2024 as the longest-serving general manager in the history of the Ohio Expo Center and Ohio State Fair, with The Ohio State University's 2024 Distinguished Service Award. His extraordinary leadership in support of 4-H, FFA, and Ohio's youth has had a lasting impact, not just on the fair industry, but on generations of young people who have benefited from the opportunities he helped create. [Learn more.](#)

We look forward to welcoming our new provost, Ravi Bellamkonda, who will start on January 14, 2025. He will be making visits to our campuses, and we are looking forward to having opportunities for you to meet him.

Sincerely,  
Dean Cathann Kress

**Cathann A. Kress, Ph.D.**

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