

Subject: Dean's Update
Date: Friday, April 9, 2021 at 2:06:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png

CFAES Community,

Hopefully, everyone has been enjoying the warm weather and the instructional break provided an opportunity to recharge as we head into the final weeks of spring 2021 classes.

As you continue to see in-person programming and event guidance from the University, please note that some of the information may differ for our college. We have been given permission to continue to expand the implementation of our review and approval process to consider educational programs across the state. For additional guidelines and safety precautions, review the [OSU Extension Planning Guide for In-Person Meetings and Events](#). To submit exemptions for in-person programming and events, visit: https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_enD4NHkYVmslZpj. All events and gatherings must follow state, local and university protocols, and must obtain pre-approval to protect the health and safety of all involved. Please note that health and safety guidance may evolve over time, and we will adjust expectations accordingly.

The increase and pace of vaccinations offers hope as we think about summer and fall, but we all need to stay strong. President Johnson's message last week spelled out [steps we can all take to double down on safe and healthy behaviors](#). Anyone 16 or older can now be vaccinated in Ohio, and the university is beginning to offer [dedicated vaccination appointments for the university community](#). We all want to go back to a more normal life, but to do so we need to remain diligent by wearing masks, physically distancing, avoiding large gatherings and getting vaccinated.

The [guidance for classes with 100 or more students](#) has been adjusted for AU21 classes to allow certain gateway courses to take place in person if classrooms are held to 50% of their per-COVID capacity.

Congratulations to all who are involved in our biological/agricultural engineering graduate program – one of the graduate and professional programs recognized last week by *U.S. News & World Report*. [Sixteen programs ranked in the top 10 nationally](#), representing seven colleges across the University.

Finally, several key celebrations were held this week including our Celebration of Research Week which featured a broad spectrum of research from our faculty, staff and students. Throughout the week researchers participated in a variety of events to demonstrate their expertise, including the CFAES Research Poster competition and live virtual Q&A sessions. If you have not yet, we encourage you to check out the amazing work of our researchers at cfaesposters.osu.edu through the end of April. The 2021 CFAES Research Award winners were announced at the [awards ceremony](#) on Thursday and we also celebrated our [Distinguished Senior Awards](#) this week. Congratulations to all who were recognized and thank you to everyone who worked hard to ensure their efforts were celebrated.

Be well.
Dean Cathann Kress

Updates include:

- Schedule Your Vaccine Appointment As Soon As Possible
- New COVID-19 Vaccine Shuttle
- Ohio State COVID-19 Town Hall – April 12

- Search for Professor and Chair of the Department Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS)
- Mandatory Report = Support Training Reminder
- Addressing Inequities in STEM Education
- President Johnson Discusses Leadership in Challenging Times
- Register for the Research and Innovation Showcase
- 2021 Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory Spring Program
- Faculty Volunteers Needed for Speaker's Panel to Address Mental Health
- Fulbright Week at Ohio State
- Register for LIVEWELL, A Series for Faculty
- EPN Signature Earth Day Event - April 21, 2021: Take Flight!

Schedule Your Vaccine Appointment As Soon As Possible

Everyone is encouraged to watch Dr. Andrew Thomas, chief clinical officer (CCO) for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, answer frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccines in this [new video](#). Students, faculty and staff can [sign up now](#) on the Wexner Medical Center website or one of the [thousands of locations, big and small, across the state](#). Check back often for open slots – they are frequently updated. The quickest path back to normality relies on all of us getting vaccinated as soon as possible. [Read more.](#)

New COVID-19 Vaccine Shuttle




The university is now providing a [shuttle to the Schottenstein Center](#) for students, faculty and staff who have vaccine appointments. Operating hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Stops will be made [every 10 minutes at the Schottenstein Center, Ohio Union and Blackburn House](#).

Ohio State COVID-19 Town Hall – April 12

The next university town hall will be held on April 12 at 5:30pm. The discussion will include information on fall campus reactivation plans, updates about the state of the pandemic and vaccination progress as well as time for questions. Participants should register using their university email address and are encouraged to submit questions in advance. Register [online](#). Additional information, as well as recordings of the previous town halls, is posted on the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#).

Search for Professor and Chair of the Department Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS)

The search for Professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS) is moving forward with a virtual interview process for the finalist candidates. We invite our CFAES community to attend the candidates' seminars at the below times. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions during the seminars, and after the interviews, there will be opportunities to share feedback. For questions about administrative searches, please reach out to Senior Associate Dean Tracy Kitchel (.2).

- Doug Karcher ( [CV](#)), **April 6, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** [View the recording of Dr. Karcher's seminar.](#) Please use this [Qualtrics link](#) to provide your feedback by April 15.
- Ernesto Méndez ( [CV](#)), **April 9, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** [View the recording of Dr. Mendez's seminar.](#) Please use this [Qualtrics link](#) to provide your feedback by April 15.
- Chad Lee ( [CV](#)), **April 13, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** [Join the Zoom webinar.](#)

Mandatory Report = Support Training Reminder

To advance this priority, the university requires all employees to complete sexual misconduct prevention education annually. "Report = Support!" is an interactive, easy-to-follow course that takes less than 30 minutes to complete and has been assigned to your [BuckeyeLearn transcript](#). This year, any merit-eligible employee who does not complete the course by **May 30, 2021**, will not be eligible for an annual merit increase. Student employees, graduate associates and employees who are not eligible for merit increases may be subject to unit-specific consequences for non-completion. Bargaining unit employees should follow their applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Student employees, and employees who are enrolled in classes, are required to complete separate courses for both their student and employee roles: Report = Support! **and** U Got This!, the mandatory student module. (New undergraduate first-year and transfer students who began at the university in the fall should have already completed U Got This!, as they were required to take the training to register for spring classes.)

Report = Support! **and** U Got This! are available in [BuckeyeLearn](#).

- To access a course, log in to the BuckeyeLearn system at buckeyelearn.osu.edu with your Ohio State credentials.
- Then select the "My Transcript" button on the BuckeyeLearn homepage and click the "Launch" button.

As an employee of The Ohio State University, you are a mandatory reporter under title IX. You may also have other reporting obligations due to your specific role within our college. Please ensure you have completed all trainings assigned to you.

CFAES Completion rate as of 4/5/2021:

- Overall: 52%
- Faculty & Staff: 60.8%
- Student Employees: 33.5%

Additional Resources

- [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) - As a benefits-eligible Ohio State faculty or staff member, you have access to the Ohio State Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that offers tools and resources to help address complex issues that can be affecting your mental and emotional well-being. EAP services are also available to immediate family members of benefits-eligible faculty and staff, members of their household, and parents and parents-in-law. You can also use the free, 24-hour phone line (800) 678-6265.
- You can monitor our response to COVID via the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes](#) website
- Workday assistance can be found on the [Administrative Resource Center](#)
- All HR and payroll inquiries should be directed to [HR Connection](#), Ohio State's new shared services operation and primary point of contact for HR and Payroll needs. Active Ohio State employees may also reach HR Connection via (614) 247-6947, hrconnecton@osu.edu.

Addressing Inequities in STEM Education

On **April 14**, Our Inclusive Path Forward: Addressing Inequities in STEM Education presents the last event in a six-part series. Sylvia Hurtado, professor at the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at UCLA, will talk about inclusive science and dimensions for attracting and retaining more diverse students in science training. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in this important conversation. [Read more.](#)

President Johnson Discusses Leadership in Challenging Times

Ohio State President Kristina M. Johnson is no stranger to leading in tumultuous times. President Johnson competed for a spot in the Olympics, advised the Obama administration during one of the largest marine oil spills in history and started leading the university in the middle of a deadly pandemic. [Read more.](#)

Register for the Research and Innovation Showcase

The virtual [2021 Research and Innovation Showcase](#) will take place at noon on **Thursday, April 15**. Senior leaders will highlight research and innovation achievements as well as plans for the university moving forward. Researchers will share inspiring spotlight talks, with the event culminating in the awarding of Ohio State's Innovators of the Year. Finalists from CFAES include Dr. Judit Puskas and Dr. Renukaradhya Gourapura.

2021 Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory Spring Program

The 2021 Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory Spring Program will be held **virtually on Friday April 30th**

from 3-5:00 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required to receive login information. Director Chris Winslow will provide program updates. Attendees will also hear from a student in Stone Lab's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Scholarship Program, as well as from a Friends of Stone Lab (FOSL) donor. [Register here.](#)

Faculty Volunteers Needed for Speaker's Panel to Address Mental Health

May is mental health awareness month, and we are seeking faculty volunteers to serve on a four or five-person virtual speaker's panel to discuss mental health. The target audience will be graduate students. The goal of this program is to reduce stigma associated with mental health challenges such as depression and anxiety and encourage students to seek help, when needed. To accomplish this goal, we are seeking a diverse group of faculty volunteers who are willing to speak openly about their personal experiences with mental health challenges (faculty from any department at Ohio State). If you would like to be considered as a panelist, please submit your information [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Dr. Leo Taylor (.3408).

Fulbright Week at Ohio State

The Office of International Affairs, the Graduate School and the Undergraduate Fellowship Office invite all students, faculty and staff to participate in Fulbright Week 2021, a week dedicated to informing the Ohio State community about the opportunities available through the Fulbright and Fulbright-Hays programs. More than 20 virtual sessions are scheduled from **April 12-16**. [Read more.](#)

Register for LIVEWELL, A Series for Faculty

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused burnout, anxiety and distress among the Ohio State community. Using evidence-based strategies and resources will give you the tools to ease burnout in yourself and especially your students. The new LIVEWELL series from the Office of the Chief Wellness Officer will review faculty's role in supporting the development of resilience in students. This virtual four-week series begins **April 28 at noon**. [Read more.](#)

EPN Signature Earth Day Event - April 21, 2021: Take Flight!

The Environmental Professionals Network (EPN) at The Ohio State University is partnering with TEDxOhioStateUniversitySalon and Monarch Joint Venture, for their annual signature Earth Day celebration on **April 21, 2021**. Take Flight! is an Earth Day celebration of local and global efforts to protect and restore the monarch butterfly. Join this virtual celebration and find out how you can help to restore monarch habitat. To learn more about this virtual celebration and to register, visit go.osu.edu/epnapr21

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