

**Subject:** Dean's Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 4:26:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean  
**To:** cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu  
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CFAES Community –

As we are preparing to celebrate the start of a new academic year, I want to also draw your attention to the opportunity to celebrate our colleagues. In this update, we are sharing the call for applications for our CFAES awards. In past years, many of our awards have been presented at various times and events, not allowing us to collectively honor the best of who we are. In unifying our awards process, we realigned the awards cycle to provide better clarity and efficiency to our processes. We are also hoping it's an opportunity to share the excellence of our faculty and staff more widely and more publicly. See below for additional information in "CFAES Awards: Call for Nominations". I encourage you to take the time to nominate your colleagues for recognition of their accomplishments.

With classes starting next week, daily stressors will increase and can significantly impact your well-being. To better manage stress, University Chief Wellness Officer Bernadette Melnyk, suggests using positive coping and resilience-based strategies such as partaking in daily physical activity, getting 7-9 hours of sleep and practicing deep breathing and intentional gratitude. Additional Mental Health and Wellness strategies and resources can be found [here](#). Instructors are also encouraged to review "[6 ways to support student academic success this autumn](#)."

We also recognize COVID-19 continues to raise questions and additional uncertainties, in a message to the university community yesterday, Ohio State provided a summary of what students, faculty and staff need to know to continue the Safe and Healthy approach the community successfully managed together last academic year and throughout the pandemic. The university shared information about: [COVID-19 protocols](#), including testing, masking, quarantine and isolation space; [mental health resources](#); and [safety resources](#), including community events and safety devices. As you plan your activities and events, please plan accordingly. [Read more](#).

Be well.  
Dean Cathann Kress

Update Includes:

- CFAES Awards: Call for Nominations
- Faculty encouraged to propose additional GE themes
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation Football Game
- Submit Flexible Work Agreement Online by Sept. 30
- Climate Change and Health Webinar

#### **CFAES Awards: Call for Nominations**

**Our landing page for CFAES awards is found at:** <https://go.osu.edu/cfaesawardnominations>. It includes an awards grid outlining each award and criteria, a link to the Qualtrics nomination portal (see on website: Click Here to Nominate) and a link for additional nomination information for the Office of Research and Graduate Education awards. Note that some awards restrict to one nomination per TIU (department/school) or college unit.

The following timeline applies to this awards season:

- Award Applications Due: November 1
- Award Committees' Selections Due: December 15 (with award recipients to be notified shortly after)
- Award Recognition: Mid- to Late January at the CFAES Awards Ceremony in conjunction with the State of the College

Streamlining this process also highlighted gaps and inequities across our mission areas and beyond. We have modified some existing awards slightly, but of particular note is that we have also added new award areas to address those gaps and inequities.

Questions about the process of submitting nominations can be directed to Michelle Anderson (.3484), Administrative Associate for Faculty and Staff Affairs. Questions about award areas and criteria can be addressed to the CFAES office that is sponsoring and coordinating the award (see <https://go.osu.edu/cfaesawardnominations> for that list of awards and coordinating offices).

### **Faculty encouraged to propose additional GE themes**

As part of the new General Education program being developed, faculty members can propose new themes to supplement the four that have already been established for the autumn 2022 roll-out. To facilitate the process, the committee overseeing the GE implementation has launched Themes Commons in Microsoft Teams. This digital workspace will allow teams to share theme ideas, develop their proposals, and receive feedback. First-phase proposals are due Nov. 30, 2021. More information on the submission process, timeline and digital Themes Commons is available on the [Themes page](#) of the GE website.

### **Faculty and Staff Appreciation Football Game**

Faculty and staff have an opportunity to enter for a chance to be randomly selected to receive four complimentary tickets to the Ohio State vs. University of Tulsa football game on Saturday, Sept. 18, at 3:30 p.m. Eligible faculty and staff are required to "[opt-in](#)" by Friday, Aug. 20, at 11:59 p.m. for the opportunity to receive tickets based on a randomized selection process

### **Submit Flexible Work Agreement Online by Sept. 30**

As Ohio State continues to support flexible work arrangements, it is important for employees and managers to align on the expectations for any flexible work arrangement. Once a workplan is established, faculty and staff working remotely in any capacity need to complete an [online Flexible Work Agreement](#) by Sept. 30 to appropriately document their work locations for tax reporting purposes. Even if a PDF form has already been completed, the information should be transitioned to the online form and resubmitted. [Read more.](#)

### **Climate Change and Health Webinar**

Did you know climate change impacts not only the world we live in but also our health? The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health reports most Americans are unaware of the effect global warming may have on their health. In fact, almost one-third cannot identify even one specific way their health is being harmed. [Read more.](#)

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