

Subject: Dean's Update
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 11:20:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu
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CFAES Community –

It's exciting to have students back on campus, ready to begin the 2021-22 academic year. Along with the excitement comes some worry regarding the return to more in person engagement, especially given the Delta variant and the changes once again to individual and family patterns that have developed over the last 18 months. As we all experienced stressors going into the pandemic, we will likely experience new stressors as we transition again. Please take care of yourselves and those around you. University mental health and wellness resources can be found at: <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/mental-health-wellness>

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My deepest thanks and appreciation for your perseverance as we continue to navigate the ongoing pandemic. [As President Johnson announced yesterday](#), Ohio State is requiring every student, faculty and staff member to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The deadline to have at least a first dose is Oct. 15. For people receiving a two-dose vaccine, the second dose must be received by Nov. 15. Details about the reporting process will be announced in the coming weeks. We recognize this new requirement raises questions and additional uncertainties, we will continue to clarify guidance and appreciate your continued flexibility as we receive additional information. Please continue to visit safeandhealthy.osu.edu for the most up-to-date university guidance.

We're pleased to welcome several new faculty to CFAES. We hope you'll take a few minutes to get to know them and welcome them to our CFAES community: <https://cfaesfacultyandstaff.osu.edu/news/get-know-our-new-cfaes-faculty>

Congratulations to our CFAES faculty, staff, and students who have won awards this summer. [Check out our Awards and Recognition page for details.](#)

As a reminder faculty and instructors, a change in the mode of offering for autumn classes is not permitted unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. Any change in mode of offering must be approved by the Dean as well as the university Office of Academic Affairs. Students have enrolled in classes based on the listed mode of instruction.

[Student Life Disability Services](#) can provide guidance and assistance to students with disabilities who require accommodations. It is not the responsibility of faculty to assess and determine accommodations. More information can be found on Safe and Healthy Buckeyes: <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/teaching>

Be well.
Dean Cathann Kress

Update Includes:

- Faculty Resources
- Back to campus. Back to Tradition.
- The Ohio State Wellness App
- Paid Leave Policy 6.27 Update
- Autumn Tuition Assistance Enrollment Window Closing

- Back to Campus. Back to CarmenCanvas.
- Tree University: Why Urban Foresters Do the Things They Do - and How You Can Help
- Affordable Learning Exchange Grant RFP Opening Soon
- Upcoming University Events

Faculty Resources

As a reminder, there are many resources available to all faculty, including through the New Faculty [Orientation webpage](#), the [Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning](#), the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes [teaching page](#) and the [Office of Academic Affairs](#). Whether instructors are teaching in person, virtually or in hybrid modes, they may want to review what's new with tools such as Carmen, Zoom and Mediasite in a [roundup of the eLearning toolset at Ohio State](#). OCIO and ODEE also host the [Teaching and Learning Resource Center](#), which includes the resources that were previously on the Keep Teaching website.

Back to campus. Back to Tradition.

This coming semester, we're thrilled to welcome back our students, faculty, staff, and friends to our campus. We are looking forward to strengthening our relationships, renewing connections and continuing to build a spirit of community — all in person. Even if you worked or studied on campus throughout the pandemic, this fall promises to be something special.

Our goal is to build excitement around welcoming Buckeyes "Back to campus. Back to tradition" and we want to hear from you. What are you looking forward to or excited about for this upcoming semester, that wasn't possible last year? [Submit your response here](#). Selected responses will be shared on college/department social media platforms throughout the fall semester.

The Ohio State Wellness App

The Ohio State Wellness app is a resource created to help students build well-being skills, understand their options, and connect to care more easily. Sharing the app with the students you instruct, advise, or work with at the start of the semester can be helpful encouragement for them to explore resources early and get support if they need it. Encourage students to [take advantage of our newest feature, the Wellness Plan](#). They can use this proactive tool to consider how they will care for their well-being throughout the semester and build a game plan for resilience.

Paid Leave Policy 6.27 Update

The [Paid Leave Policy 6.27](#) states that vacation leave accrued in excess of the maximum carryover will be eliminated **on** the employee's time of service date (employee's anniversary/benefits service date) that occurs each year. Previously, vacation leave accrued in excess of the maximum carryover was eliminated at the end of the pay period in which the employee's anniversary date/benefits service date occurred. It is important to plan around this change when seeking approval for vacation.

Autumn Tuition Assistance Enrollment Window Closing

Applications are required each applicable semester for faculty and staff tuition assistance. The enrollment window for autumn semester 2021 ends Aug. 27. Eligible faculty and staff can apply in Workday or with paper forms. Both parents are required to enroll in dependent tuition assistance to qualify for the 75% benefit. To receive dependent tuition benefits, the student must have a Social Security number on file with their university student record. See the HR website for more details. [Read more.](#)

Back to Campus. Back to CarmenCanvas.

A new semester is approaching, and whether you are teaching in-person, online or hybrid, it's time to review what's new in the eLearning toolset at Ohio State.

Read more: <https://it.osu.edu/news/2021/08/18/back-campus-back-carmencanvas>

Tree University: Why Urban Foresters Do the Things They Do - and How You Can Help

Why do cities do the things they do to enhance our urban trees? Central Ohio municipal tree care programs

manage public trees, but what can volunteers, students, and Master Gardens can do to help? Join us on **Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m.** for a webinar that discusses how Ohio's urban forestry evolved, tree selection, planting, care, and much more. Register for Free at go.osu.edu/publictrees.

Affordable Learning Exchange Grant RFP Opening Soon

The Affordable Learning Exchange (ALX) will be requesting proposals for their latest grant opportunity beginning **September 10**. ALX awards grants to instructors who want to transform their courses using open and affordable course materials. Any course at The Ohio State University is eligible for consideration, from small seminars to large, multi-section general education courses. A variety of grants will be available to meet the financial and support needs of a wide range of projects—from adopting existing open materials to re-imagining an entire course. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming University Events

- At noon **Thursday (Aug. 26)**, [Trauma-informed Teaching](#) is designed to share approaches to teaching anchored in compassion, preparedness, and accessibility.
- At 11 a.m. **Friday (Aug. 27)**, [Fostering Inclusive Learning Online](#) will discuss ways to improve online discussions, set expectations for respectful dialogue, and support student success.
- At 10 a.m. **next Tuesday (Aug. 31)**, the Drake Institute will hold a [GTA Open House](#) to share teaching resources and toolkits and provide an opportunity for graduate teaching associates to connect with one another.
- At 10:30 a.m. **next Tuesday (Aug. 31)**, the interactive workshop [Making Your Course Accessible for All Learners](#) will share university resources based on principles of Universal Design for Learning and accessibility.

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