

**Subject:** Dean's Update  
**Date:** Friday, February 12, 2021 at 9:37:55 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean  
**To:** CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png

CFAES Community,

The CFAES DEI Action Council has been hard at work with their first meeting being held on January 11, 2021. Senior Associate Dean Kitchel and I led the meeting off with a charge to the committee which includes providing recommendations, identifying issues, developing goals, and engaging in difficult conversations related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in addition to advising VP Cabinet and myself. We are fortunate to have a wide array of members including undergraduate and graduate students along with faculty and staff from all three of our campuses. If you are interested in seeing who is on the council and to read the full minutes of the first meeting please visit the [CFAES DEI web page](#).

The team broke into seven work groups that met during January and February to identify areas of concern and to brainstorm ways to address the concerns. They include:

- Professional Development
- Recruitment and Retention of Students (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- Departmental Audits
- Diversifying the Curriculum
- Climate Surveys
- Recruitment and Retention of URM Faculty and Staff
- APT and POA Review

The teams started to identify best practices and to draft recommendations that will be shared at the next full council meeting taking place in April.

**If you haven't already, remember to register for the State of the University Address.** President Johnson will share her first State of the University Address on **Thursday, Feb. 18**, during the University Senate meeting that starts at 4 p.m. [Register and learn how to view this Zoom event](#).

By focusing on COVID-19 protections, we have kept our community's [positivity rate below 1%](#) so far this semester. The trend is reassuring, but we cannot lose focus on the basic steps needed to maintain the safety of our community, particularly as the virus evolves. The [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#) remains the central resource with the latest information about university COVID-19 guidance. More than 850 people joined last week's town hall to learn more about vaccines and vaccination, and the [video of the town hall](#) and FAQs from the event are posted on the [vaccine page](#). The next COVID town hall will be **Monday, March. 1**.

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress

Updates include:

- Search for Professor and Chair of the Department of Animal Sciences
- CFAES Names its Top 25 Seniors
- In-Person Events
- Racial Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Unemployment Fraud
- Extended Education information session

- CFAES Spirit of the Land-Grant Award
- Ohio State Celebrates United Black World Month
- Mastering Office 365: Online Training with In-Person Instructors
- Analog Phone System Update
- Workshop: Engaging Students in Online Collaboration
- Ohio State University Alumni Association Seeks Nominees for 2021 Alumni Honors

### Search for Professor and Chair of the Department of Animal Sciences

The position description for Professor and Chair of the Department of Animal Sciences has been finalized and is now available at: <https://cfaes.osu.edu/people/leadership-searches>. We invite all of our CFAES community to share the position description within your networks. For questions about administrative searches, please reach out to Senior Associate Dean Tracy Kitchel (.2).

### CFAES Names its Top 25 Seniors

Twenty-five seniors have received the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES. The Distinguished Senior Award honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus who exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership. [Read more.](#)

### In-Person Events

Student organizations may resume in-person events of 10 or fewer people on and off campus beginning **Friday, February 12**. Following all [safe and healthy protocols](#) is required, and student organization leaders must submit [space reservation requests](#) that include details of planned safety measures. Holding virtual and hybrid activities is encouraged to ensure broad access to activities. The university will monitor positivity rates to determine if additional changes are necessary. **To be clear, the student organization exception is limited. All other in-person events and gatherings — including those of 10 people or fewer — are prohibited for the safety of our community.** Public events will resume using a phased-in approach as conditions allow.

### Racial Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion

Concept papers for the second round of funding for the [Seed Fund for Racial Justice](#) are due by **5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26**. Successful proposals will utilize research approaches and/or creative ideas help eliminate racism and address its underlying causes and consequences.

### Unemployment Fraud

Following the economic impacts of COVID-19, over the past 10 months there has been an uptick in fraudulent unemployment claims nationally. The university continues to see a steady flow of fraudulent claims which have been flagged and reported to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) Claims Unit who ensures no benefits are paid. Should an employee be victim of a fraudulent claim they will be notified by OSU Benefits and instructed to report this fraudulent activity by utilizing ODJFS' online form by visiting the [Ohio Unemployment Help](#) website and clicking the red "Report Identity Theft" button.

#### Helpful Resources:

- Ohio State's [EAP provider](#) offers **Identify Theft Protection and Recovery Assistance** ([see flyer here](#)). An EAP consultation may recommend filing a police report regarding the fraudulent claim and/or add any "identity theft protection" service available on your credit and bank cards. *We have received positive feedback about this service from fellow employees.*
- The [Consumer Protection Section](#) of the Ohio Attorney General's Office contains helpful information on a wide range of topics.

### Extended Education information session

One of the most valuable benefits of working at Ohio State is the Faculty and Staff Tuition Assistance Plan.

The plan pays for eligible employees to take courses either as part of a degree-granting program or through Extended Education. Register for our online information session, scheduled from **noon-1 p.m. Feb. 16**. Extended Education staff will cover what extended education is, how to apply and answer your questions. We'll also cover upcoming changes to the tuition assistance plan for summer and autumn 2021. [Read more.](#)

### **CFAES Spirit of the Land-Grant Award**

Nominations are now open for the 2021 CFAES Spirit of the Land-Grant Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual who supports, exemplifies or creates opportunities that embody the land grant mission. The award celebrates the connection between our CFAES values and our land-grant DNA. Therefore, nominees should have a clear record of supporting, exemplifying or creating opportunities around one or more of the following land-grant DNA areas: Translational Research, Collaboration and Engagement, Students as Co-creators, Lifespan Learning and Future Perspective. The award is open to CFAES faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students, alumni and external partners (including partners across campus and outside of the university). Nominations are due **February 19, 2021**. For more information on the award and the nomination form, please visit: <https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/spirit-of-the-land-grant>

### **Ohio State Celebrates United Black World Month**

Also known as Black History Month, this year's theme is Black Lives: Narratives of Activism Around the World. Learn more [via the Multicultural Center](#) in the Office of Student Life at Ohio State, including a list of upcoming events. Additional resources for reflection on Black History Month can be found [here](#).

### **Mastering Office 365: Online Training with In-Person Instructors**

New training courses are available for specific Office 365 applications. The classes will have an in-person instructor who will walk you through the applications and answer your questions. In addition to OneDrive and Teams, Microsoft will also offer OneNote training. Online webinars will be hosted regularly, on a rotating basis. [Learn more.](#)

### **Analog Phone System Update**

The OCIO will be completing the Columbus campus analog phone system retirement within the next 60 days. You may recall the [announcement from this past autumn](#) where any remaining analog phone numbers were moved to Skype for Business. By Tuesday, March 30, all remaining Columbus campus phones will be using digital voice over internet protocol technology (VOIP). The analog phone line retirement is for the Columbus campus only. Any analog lines remaining that are not resolved from the above work by March 19 will be removed in preparation to unplug the old equipment at the end of March. If you believe you have an existing analog phone line that has been missed, please contact IT project manager, [Dietrich Eubank](#) for assistance as any analog lines that we do not have final decisions on will be turned off.

### **Workshop: Engaging Students in Online Collaboration**

Don't get stuck in a discussion board rut! This workshop from the Office of Distance Education and eLearning (ODEE), on **Feb. 18 2-3:30 p.m.**, will spark your creativity for other ways to engage students in collaborative learning in online spaces. By understanding the elements of collaboration that drive learning, you'll identify opportunities in your own course, create an activity, and begin using the CarmenCanvas tools that support student collaboration. [Read more.](#)

### **Ohio State University Alumni Association Seeks Nominees for 2021 Alumni Honors**

Ohio State University alumni are working in all corners of the world to change lives for the better. To recognize outstanding graduates, the alumni association requests nominations for the 2021 Ohio State Alumni Awards. Buckeye alumni can be nominated in eight award categories that acknowledge numerous achievement areas, from volunteer commitments to success in their industries. To submit a nomination or find more information, please visit [go.osu.edu/AlumniAwards2021](https://go.osu.edu/AlumniAwards2021). The nomination period closes **March 31**.

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

Vice President for Agricultural Administration & Dean

**College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

140 Ag Administration | [2120 Fyffe Road](#) | [Columbus, OH 43210](#)

614-292-6164 Office

[kress.98@osu.edu](mailto:kress.98@osu.edu)

Twitter: @cathannkress

