

**Subject:** Dean's Update  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 at 9:59:58 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 first of our spring 2021 [instructional breaks](#) will take place tomorrow and Wednesday (Feb. 23-24). The second will be March 31-April 1. These breaks are designed with student wellness in mind, and academic assignments should reflect this approach. Classes are not scheduled during the break, and instructors should not assign academic work with the expectation that students complete it during the break. Please maintain COVID-19 safety practices during the break, including limiting travel and avoiding gatherings.

If you have not already, I encourage you to watch the State of the University Address. President Johnson announced plans last week to add 350 new tenure-track faculty members, invest more than \$750 million in cutting-edge research and provide undergraduate students with a debt-free undergraduate education within a decade. Learn more about her inaugural State of the University Address through the [video and transcript](#) and through the [Ohio State News story](#).

The pandemic has posed challenges for everyone, and it's important that we continue to take care of ourselves and one another. Programming, tips and resources are listed on the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#) as well as the [Chief Wellness Officer](#) and [Human Resources](#) sites. One practice that individuals can take to decrease stress is to follow the Mask On/Mood Up protocol, which promotes three brief, evidence-based tactics when you put on your mask. Learn more about [Mask On/Mood Up](#).

Be well.  
Dean Cathann Kress

Updates include:

- Addressing Inequities in STEM Education
- Next University COVID-19 town hall
- Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) Academy
- New F&A Rates to go into Effect July 1
- New Institutional Data Website Launched
- Accelerator Award Pre-Proposals for spring 2021 cycle
- Inclusive Excellence in Hiring
- Register for Focusing on the First Year Virtual Series
- Other Upcoming University Events

### **Addressing Inequities in STEM Education**

A new seminar series, Our Inclusive Path Forward: Addressing Inequities in STEM Education, will focus on best practices for recruiting, retaining and graduating a diverse population of STEM students. The first event, on **March 3**, will feature Norman Fortenberry, executive director of the American Society for Engineering Education. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in these important conversations, which will continue through mid-April. [Read more.](#)

### **Next University COVID-19 town hall**

Please [register for the next COVID-19 virtual town hall](#), which will take place a week from today — at 5:30

p.m. on **Monday, March 1**. More details about the session will be announced soon.

### **Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) Academy**

The Office of Research is accepting self-nominations now through **March 12** for a new leadership development program -- the Growing Research Opportunities (GRO) Academy. This program will equip faculty with the skills needed to lead complex, interdisciplinary collaborations in pursuit of external funding. Please visit our [GRO Academy nomination](#) page for more information and apply.

### **New F&A Rates to go into Effect July 1**

Ohio State has completed negotiations with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on a new 4-year Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate agreement. These new rates should be used in proposals for awards that begin on or after July 1, 2021 and will apply through the end of Fiscal Year 2024 or until a new agreement is established. The Office of Sponsored Programs will work with sponsors to obtain the new F&A rate on current awards whenever possible. However, if additional funds cannot be obtained, direct costs will be protected and will not be reduced to cover the increase in the F&A rate, unless it is required by a sponsor. To learn more about the new rates and how they may impact your research please visit: <https://osp.osu.edu/2021/01/13/new-fa-rate-agreement-received/>

### **New Institutional Data Website Launched**

The Office of Research recently formed the Office of Strategic and Competitive Intelligence (OSCI) focused on supporting the university's research and academic enterprise by providing data analytics services on the research landscape, funding trends, and industry intelligence. The office also includes the institutional research team that supports the university's accreditation process and external data reporting. OSCI recently launched a collaborative campus data resource, [facts.osu.edu](https://facts.osu.edu), which provides access to validated and publicly reported institutional data. This site will continue to evolve as new data is released and new dashboards are developed. Please [email](#) us if you have suggestions for future dashboards and other data analytics projects

### **Accelerator Award Pre-Proposals for spring 2021 cycle**

The Accelerator Awards program is now open for spring 2021 cycle pre-proposals, due **March 1**. The Accelerator Award program aims to generate the proof needed to advance Ohio State technologies to the point that they are either ready to be licensed by an Ohio-based startup company or are determined to be unfeasible for commercialization. This is the second round of RFPs for this academic year. Learn more about the program and key dates and deadlines this award cycle. [Read more.](#)

### **Inclusive Excellence in Hiring**

This 75-minute training provides an overview of best practices for recruiting a diverse candidate pool. Although this program primarily focuses on faculty searches, much of the content applies also to staff searches. Participants will examine the role that various forms of implicit bias can play in screening applicants and identify ways that intersecting social identities create an unlevel competitive job market. [Read more.](#)

### **Register for Focusing on the First Year Virtual Series**

The *Focusing on the First Year Conference* will look a little different this year. Instead of a one-day event, the conversation on helping students in their first year will be spread across a series of virtual sessions through **March 3**. Separate registration is required for each session. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Other Upcoming University Events**

- On **Tuesday (Feb. 23)** and **Thursday (Feb. 25)**, the next sessions in the [Mastering Office 365](#) series will focus on Teams meetings, OneNote and OneDrive. See the website for times and details.
- At 2:30 p.m. **Tuesday (Feb. 23)**, [Guiding Students to Wellness](#) will introduce faculty, staff and graduate and professional students to tangible skills that help students access wellness-related resources on

campus, specifically highlighting nutrition/food insecurity, mental health, sexual violence and financial wellness.

- At 11:30 a.m. **Friday (Feb. 26)**, an [eLearning Development: Faculty Showcase](#) will highlight College of Medicine faculty who have successfully adapted their teaching in response to the pandemic.
- At noon on **Monday (March 1)**, a workshop on [Assessing Instructional Redesign](#) will discuss important considerations for developing an assessment plan that measures the impact and effectiveness of instructional redesign.

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

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