

Subject: Dean's Update
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 4:15:05 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

CFAES Community,

I want to thank everyone for their patience and perseverance as we work through the challenges with WorkDay. It is a new system for all of us including those in Human Resources and Finance. Our HR Consultants and Cost Center Managers are on the frontline support of our daily operations and are trying to help us through it. Often times they do not have access to the same screens but many of them have been going the extra mile to help provide step-by-step instructions to navigate these new processes and see them through to completion. From scheduling individual Zoom meetings, talking through transactions and countless phone calls and emails, they are constantly mitigating these frustrating tasks alongside us.

I know that these changes and frustrations are compounded with challenges presented by COVID-19, but I ask for your continued endurance, persistence, and grace as we work to learn the system and find solutions to the issues presented. I am thankful we have a great staff of HR Consultants and Cost Center Managers to help us navigate these processes. If you are having issues in WorkDay, please review the WorkDay Training and Support below.

The University recently announced a series of virtual COVID-19 town halls the first Monday of each month through April. The February 1 town hall focused on information about the vaccine. You can watch it on the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes [COVID-19 Vaccination Information page](#).

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has released a COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard which displays the most recent data reported to ODH regarding the number of individuals that have started and completed the COVID-19 vaccination series by various demographics and county of residence. View the dashboard [here](#).

While vaccinations have started, we must maintain our attention to the basics of COVID safeguards to protect ourselves and one another. Please remember to wear a face mask, maintain physical distancing, avoid large gatherings and follow other health guidance listed on the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#).

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress

Update includes:

- Travel Exemption Process
- Engage in Education for Citizenship Discussions
- WorkDay Training and Support
- Sustainability Institute to Host Energy Symposium
- Grading Policy for Spring 2021
- Grants for On-Farm Research in Sustainable Agriculture
- Peace Corps Environment Programs: CFAES Faculty Share their Volunteer Experiences

Travel Exemption Process

Non-essential domestic and international travel will not be permitted through June 30, 2021. Business essential travel may occur pending approval procedures. Please review the [CFAES Resource Guide for](#)

[Business Essential Travel Approval](#). Questions should be directed to the department fiscal officer.

Engage in Education for Citizenship Discussions

A discussion about "Navigating the Post-Truth World" will be held on **Thursday (Feb. 4) at 6 p.m.** Instructors are also encouraged to find other ways to incorporate the Education for Citizenship discussion series in their courses. Learn about upcoming events or watch recordings of the previous discussions on the [E4C events page](#). As a reminder, the [initiative website](#) also provides resources including the Respectful Dialogue Toolkit.

WorkDay Training and Support

1. Training: visit <https://enterprise-project.osu.edu/about-training> as well as the [Administrative Resource Center \(ARC\)](#) for job aides and resources.
2. If you are still without answers after visiting the job aides and resources:
 - For Finance support, contact your fiscal officer. If additional support is needed, contact: Desiree Lutsch.11@osu.edu or Lisa Simpson.613@osu.edu
 - For HR support contact: CFAESHR@osu.edu

You can also contact [HR Connection](#) via email or phone call. Peak service times are 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and an average call wait time of at least 10 minutes is to be expected.

Sustainability Institute to Host Energy Symposium

The inaugural Sustainability Institute energy symposium will take place from **1 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 10-11**. Speakers during the [Energy Transition and Decarbonization symposium](#) will explore the monumental challenges in the needed energy transition, interdisciplinary research at Ohio State to advance sustainability energy, and steps the university is taking to address climate change.

Grading Policy for Spring 2021

In light of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding COVID-19, Ohio State undergraduate and graduate students will have a special grading system in place for Spring 2021. This grading system, approved by University Senate on Jan. 28, is pending board approval. (The expanded use of Pass/No Pass grading system in Spring 2020 and Autumn 2020 are no longer in effect; those were effective only for those semesters.) To learn more, see the [Grading Policies for Spring 2021 webpage](#).

Grants for On-Farm Research in Sustainable Agriculture

The Agroecosystems Management Program of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences requests research proposals for on-farm research by teams of Ohio State researchers and Ohio farmers. Grants are available annually through the Paul C. and Edna H. Warner Endowment Fund for Sustainable Agriculture. The proposal deadline is March 1. [Read more.](#)

Peace Corps Environment Programs: CFAES Faculty Share their Volunteer Experiences

Wednesday, February 10, 5:00 pm

Curious about the Peace Corps? Environment Volunteers lead grassroots efforts to protect the environment and strengthen understanding of environmental issues. They teach environmental awareness in schools and to local organizations, empowering communities to make their own decisions about how to conserve the local environment, through such programs as agroforestry, soil and water conservation, sustainable agriculture, recycling, alternative energy, and other programs. Read more about the speakers: four CFAES faculty who will share their Peace Corps experiences and take questions, register and get the Zoom link [here](#). Questions? Contact: Laura Joseph, OSU Campus Recruiter peacecorps@osu.edu

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