

Subject: Dean's Update
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From: CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean
To: CFAES-all@lists.osu.edu
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CFAES Community –

There have been some shifts in how we can manage events and in-person activities. As of February 1st, the University has announced that we are able to transition back to in-person events and activities. Everyone should incorporate measures that will promote adherence to: local/university mask mandates, appropriate physical distancing, availability of PPE and hand sanitizer, limited distribution of literature and other items.

Ohio State is also relaxing restrictions on food and drink at events and gatherings. Everyone is encouraged to use pre-packaged items and properly spaced seating/standing areas for eating/drinking. Learn more at: <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/events>. Extension employees should follow Extension and local guidance.

The CFAES Operations team still has a limited supply of N95 respirators available for employee use. These respirators are more fitted than the traditional surgical or cloth masks that have been worn up to this point in the pandemic. This enhanced respiratory protection is voluntary for individuals as an additional safety choice based on their work. A supply of N95s will be available in:

- Columbus (Academic Programs Office, Room 100 in Agricultural Administration)
- Wooster (Facilities Operations Storeroom)

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 and adapt our strategy as needed throughout the semester. We continue to encourage employees and supervisors to work together to determine work arrangements, including when remote work is appropriate. Please keep your health and safety, and that of those around you, a top priority. Visit the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes](#) website for updates on Ohio State's COVID-19 response and take advantage of the [mental health resources](#) on the site.

Be well.
Dean Cathann Kress

Update Includes:

- Black History Month
- Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month
- Covid Reporting Process Change
- Report = Support Mandatory Training
- 2022 CFAES Student and Spirit Awards
- Racial Healing Through Agricultural History Recording Now Available

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. This year's theme is "Black Health and Wellness". Click [here](#) to learn more about health

disparities in the African American community.

At Ohio State during the month of February, we celebrate United Black World Month (also known as Black History Month) a month-long celebration of the diasporic experience. This year's United Black World Month theme is centered around Love: Building Our Community Through Intention and Action. The theme is from bell hooks' masterpiece, *All About Love*, in which she states that love is "an act of will, both an intention and an action". For more information, contact Todd Suddeth at suddeth.1@osu.edu. Click [here](#) for a list of programs and events.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month is a month-long celebration and uplifting of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American identities, experiences, histories, and cultures. The Student Life Multicultural Center creates and highlights programming that centers on the APIDA experience and aims to inspire confidence, pride, and deepened interest in what it means to move through the world as an APIDA individual. "Discovering Your Fire" is the APIDA Heritage Month Theme for 2022. Explore issues that you are passionate about, ideas that evoke high emotion, and our shared investment in celebrating and uplifting APIDA identities, experiences, histories, and cultures. The dates the month will be recognized are January 14 – February 12, 2022. Find more information about events [here](#).

Covid Reporting Process Change

Effective February 1, 2022, employees are no longer required to report their status to the HR Business Partners. All faculty and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are now required to self-report their status to the university's Contact Investigation and Contact Tracing Team (CICTT) via this website (<https://covid19-test-result-upload.it.ohio-state.edu/>).

Communications from the Contact Investigation and Contact Tracing Team (CICTT) are expected via email, and it is critical that employees are thorough in their responses to ensure timely releases to return to campus/office.

As a reminder, the updated guidance on <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/> is intended to inform employees of general expectations. Please note, employees are to remain off campus/out of office until officially released by CICTT. If telework options are available, they are permitted to telework, otherwise they are to use their available leave.

Report = Support Mandatory Training

As of February 1, the college is at 44.95% overall completion for faculty, staff, and student employees. This year, **merit-eligible employees who do not complete Report=Support! by April 29, 2022, will not be eligible for annual merit increases that take effect September 2022.** Student employees, graduate associates and other employees who are not classified as merit-eligible may be subject to unit-specific consequences for non-completion. Bargaining unit employees should follow their applicable collective bargaining agreements. Don't wait, log on and complete your training today!

To access the course:

- Log in to the BuckeyeLearn system at buckeyelearn.osu.edu with your Ohio State credentials.
- Then select the "My Transcript" button on the homepage and click the "Launch" button.

When you have completed a course, it will move to your completed transcript in BuckeyeLearn, which you can view by changing the “Active” button on the top of your transcript to “Completed.”

2022 CFAES Student and Spirit Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2022 CFAES Student and Spirit Awards. The four categories of awards include CFAES Student Awards, CFAES Service to Students Awards, CFAES Student Organization Awards, and CFAES Spirit of the Land Grant Award. **CFAES faculty or staff members, graduate or undergraduate students, or organized groups within CFAES may initiate nominations.** Nominations are **due February 15, 2022.** All awards will be given at the 2022 Celebration of Students event on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Learn more and submit a nomination at: go.osu.edu/studentspiritawards.

Racial Healing Through Agricultural History Recording Now Available

As a continuation of celebrating the legacy of Dr. King CFAES along with the Moritz College of Law co-sponsored a series of events for the National Day of Racial Healing which took place on January 18, 2022. The theme of the day was “Reconciling the Past to Move Forward”. The day began with a panel addressing Racial Healing Through Agriculture. The session was moderated by Yolanda Owens, President of CFAES Alumni Society and featured State Representative Juanita Brent (D-12), a ranking member of the Ohio House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, Julialynne Walker, JD, international food justice advocate and founder of Bronzeville Growers Market and Bronzeville Agracademy, and August Taylor, Garden Manager for the Maroon Arts Group Box Park Garden and Communications and Outreach Specialist at the Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (OEFFA). Watch the recording of the panel discussion on the [CFAES YouTube Channel](#).

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