

**Subject:** Dean's Update  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 at 1:12:25 PM Eastern Daylight 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, image003.png

CFAES Community,

As restrictions ease a bit more and vaccinations become increasingly available, we are beginning to see people relax safety measures. It is important to remember that regardless of vaccination status, everyone on campus is still required to continue following safe and healthy behaviors, including wearing masks properly, staying at least six feet apart from others, avoiding crowds, washing hands often, testing when required and quarantining when directed.

CFAES departments and units may submit requests for commencement events under the [guidance announced last Friday](#). All commencement events must obtain approval in advance for their health and safety protocols. Commencement-related events receiving university approval should be submitted to Jeanne [Osborne.2@osu.edu](mailto:Osborne.2@osu.edu) with event details (date/time/location/etc.).

**April 2** (a week from Friday) is a conversion day, so classes that are normally held on Wednesdays will be held that day. This follows the second [instructional break \(March 31-April 1\)](#), when no classes will be held. Academic assignments should reflect that students are not expected to be working those days.

Congratulations to the following faculty for receiving the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Educator Award this year: G. Matt Davies, assistant professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources; Alvaro Garcia-Guerra, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Sciences; Ken Lee, professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology; Monica Lewandowski, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology; and Lauren Pintor, assistant professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Congratulations also goes out to Food Science and Technology Ph.D. student Brittany Miles for being awarded a NACTA Graduate Teaching Award.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Luis Rodriguez-Saona on receiving the 2021 Lumley Interdisciplinary Research Award. Dr. Rodriguez-Saona is a professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology. His collaborative research team also included Christopher Ball from the ElectroScience Laboratory and Vimal Buck from the Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence. This award recognizes their dedication to advancing collaborative research at the Ohio State University.

We are also excited to announce Ohio State ATI received the 2021 Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Post-Secondary program award. Congratulations to our Ohio State ATI team on this well-deserved honor.

Be well.  
Dean Cathann Kress




Updates include:

- Search for Professor and Chair of the Department Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS)
- 2021 Distinguished Senior Award Celebration
- Reminder: Enrollment Window for Summer Tuition Assistance Includes New Requirements

- 2021 Virtual Celebration of Students Program
- CFAES Wooster Campus Analog Phone System Retirement
- President's Research Excellence Program Now Accepting Proposals
- Upcoming University Events
- Setting Students Up for Academic Success
- EPN Signature Earth Day Event - April 21, 2021: Take Flight!
- InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grants
- Shared Values for a 21st Century Land-Grant University
- Call for Denman Research Forum Reviewers
- Share your Story: How are you Teaching?
- Join an Exploratory Research Group

### **Search for Professor and Chair of the Department Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS)**

The search for Professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS) is moving forward with a virtual interview process for the finalist candidates. We invite our CFAES community to attend the candidates' seminars at the below times. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions during the seminars, and after the interviews, there will be opportunities to share feedback. For questions about administrative searches, please reach out to Senior Associate Dean Tracy Kitchel (.2).

- Doug Karcher ( [CV](#)), **April 6, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** [Join the Zoom webinar.](#)
- Ernesto Méndez ( [CV](#)), **April 9, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** [Join the Zoom webinar.](#)
- Chad Lee ( [CV](#)), **April 13, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.** [Join the Zoom webinar.](#)

### **2021 Distinguished Senior Award Celebration**

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m.** EDT as we recognize the 25 recipients of the 2021 CFAES Distinguished Senior Award. Watch the celebration at: [go.osu.edu/CFAES2021DSA](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2021DSA). The CFAES Distinguished Senior Award honors academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. It is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES, recognizing our top graduating seniors each year from each of the academic units on the Columbus campus. For questions about this event, please contact R. Warren Flood, [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu).

### **Reminder: Enrollment Window for Summer Tuition Assistance Includes New Requirements**

New for summer 2021, applications will be required for faculty and staff tuition assistance. The enrollment window for summer semester 2021 is **March 22 to May 14**. Eligible faculty and staff can apply in Workday or with paper forms. Applications for dependent tuition assistance must be submitted each term. Starting summer 2021, both parents will be required to enroll in dependent tuition assistance to qualify for the 75% benefit. To receive dependent tuition benefits, students must have a Social Security number on file with university student records. See the HR website for more details. [Read more.](#)

### **2021 Virtual Celebration of Students Program**

Make plans to "attend" the 2021 virtual Celebration of Students Program on **April 15 at 7:00 p.m.** via the CFAES YouTube Channel. A "Banquet in a Box" will be available to the first 500 people who register for the event at [https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9sEdOtVHihYbFl4](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9sEdOtVHihYbFl4). It is full of CFAES/Celebration of Students souvenirs and theater style treats to enjoy while you watch the program.

### **CFAES Wooster Campus Analog Phone System Retirement**

Along with the Columbus campus university analog phone system retirement, OCIO will also be completing the CFAES Wooster campus analog phone system retirement within the next 90 days. Standard telephone users have all moved to the new telecommunication platform Skype for Business. If you are only responsible for your own phone and have already moved to Skype for Business, no further action is required. However, remaining analog lines will be handled in one of following ways:

- Removed from service – no longer needed / out-of-date

- Moved to Skype for Business – phones using extension(s) numbers will get new numbers
- Moved to new Digital Fax Service
- Keep analog – for specialized equipment only - SensaPhones, Argus Systems, Viking Devices, minus 80 Freezers that dial out, etc.

Any analog lines remaining & not resolved from the above work by April 30th will be removed in preparation to retire the legacy in May. If you believe you have an existing analog phone line that has been missed, please contact OCIO Voice Switch Engineer Ted [Revard.1@osu.edu](mailto:Revard.1@osu.edu) for assistance, as any analog lines that we do not have final decisions on will be turned off.

### **President's Research Excellence Program Now Accepting Proposals**

The President's Research Excellence (PRE) program is officially accepting proposals designed to seed support for cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary research that will attract external funding. PRE is specifically looking to fund two distinct proposal types:

- **Accelerator proposals** for small teams formed to pursue curiosity-driven, novel, high-risk and high-reward research. The grants may be up to \$50,000.
- **Catalyst proposals** for interdisciplinary teams to pursue large-scale, high-impact research that addresses emerging or existing challenges of national and international societal importance while generating long-term, sustained, impact, which positions Ohio State as THE leader in this area. These grants may be up to \$200,000.

To learn more about each proposal type, view deadlines and submit a proposal please visit the [President's Research Excellence program webpage](#).

### **Upcoming University Events**

At 2 p.m. **next Monday (March 29)**, [Teaching About Violence](#) will discuss challenges and concerns that surround topics related to violence (such as war, genocide, hate crimes and sexual violence) and provide instructors with strategies for facilitating generative classroom experiences.

### **Setting Students Up for Academic Success**

From soliciting feedback to encouraging your students to take advantage of wellness resources, there are lots of little things you can do to set your students up for academic success. Partners from across the university put together a few tips for instructors. [Read more.](#)

### **EPN Signature Earth Day Event - April 21, 2021: Take Flight!**

The Environmental Professionals Network (EPN) at The Ohio State University is partnering with TEDxOhioStateUniversitySalon and Monarch Joint Venture, for their annual signature Earth Day celebration on **April 21, 2021**. Take Flight! is an Earth Day celebration of local and global efforts to protect and restore the monarch butterfly. Join this virtual celebration and find out how you can help to restore monarch habitat. To learn more about this virtual celebration and to register, visit [go.osu.edu/epnapr21](http://go.osu.edu/epnapr21)

### **InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grants**

The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) invites you to submit proposals for our Linkage and Leverage seed grant program. Teams of faculty, staff, students and external partners may apply. There are three cycles for proposal submission during the 2020-21 academic year. Spring cycle proposals are due **April 9**. [Read more.](#)

### **Shared Values for a 21st Century Land-Grant University**

On **March 31**, Ohio State's Shared Values Initiative inaugurates its "community conversations" series, encouraging reflection on the values that shape life and work at the university. The conversation will focus on the question of "Excellence and Impact: Shared Values for a 21st Century Land-Grant University." [Read more.](#)

### **Call for Denman Research Forum Reviewers**

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry is seeking faculty, staff and alumni to be reviewers for the 26th Annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, **April 5-8**. As a reviewer, you will attend Zoom sessions, view up to nine student presentations, ask questions of the presenters and score them using a provided rubric. [Read more.](#)

### **Share your Story: How are you Teaching?**

As part of the Innovate conference, instructors and students are invited to share stories, reflections and concrete advice about how they adapted their teaching, learning and ways of connecting over the past year. Submissions are due Sunday, April 4 through the [How Are You Teaching?](#) form (for instructors) or the [How Are You Learning?](#) form (for students). Submissions may be shared as part of the [Innovate](#) conference (May 5) and on the [Drake Institute](#) website.

### **Join an Exploratory Research Group**

Collaborating with other campus units and programs, the Sustainability Institute aims to support researchers from across the university in growing collaborative, interdisciplinary teams focused on sustainability or resilience topics. A new initiative, Exploratory Research Groups (ERGs), will support early-stage, exploratory research and creative expression on a range of faculty-determined topics. [Read more.](#)

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

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