CFAES Spirit of the Land-Grant Award
In commemoration of our sesquicentennial, in 2020 we will be awarding the 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). For more information on the award and the nomination form, please visit: https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/spirit-of-the-land-grant

Breaking Boundaries
Last Wednesday evening, students, staff, faculty, and administrators came together to listen to a diverse group of faculty tackle a few weighted questions brought forth by students from student council under the leadership of President Kiersten Cavender. Questions ranged from personal and professional opinions on climate change to open ended seriously thought out questions such as the future projections of agriculture – all of which resulted in great dialogue. The take home message was that the panel identified how each one of their colleagues, from various disciplines, impacted the other. It was evident that each faculty member was passionate about their line of work and encouraged students to find their passion and capitalize on it. We thank everyone who contributed and attended the event.

Cornerstone Conversations
I am excited to announce Cornerstone Conversations, a new podcast series that will share the varying facets of our college through the voice of the people that make CFAES a success. I am delighted to be the first guest on the series, which will run throughout the spring semester and will include interviews with faculty, staff, and students who will share the many ways in which their teaching, research, and experiences fulfill the vision of our great college. I hope you will join me in subscribing to Cornerstone Conversations, available now on Apple Podcasts and SoundCloud.

CARET/AHS Meeting
Gary Pierzynski, Jackie Wilkins, Adam Ward and I are in Washington, DC for the joint Administrative Head (AHS) meeting of the Board on Agricultural Affairs and Council on Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) spring meeting. We will be joined by our CARET Delegates Nate Andre (Williams County), Bart Johnson (Delaware County), and Melanie Wilt (Clark County).

CARET is an organization designed to deliver a highly effective, integrated advocacy approach to increase support for the land-grant system, its national priorities, and to secure necessary funding for research, extension and teaching. Each CARET delegate volunteers their time to support the University.

On Wednesday we will meet with members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation where we will be advocating for an 8% increase for research (Hatch Act and McIntire-Stennis) and extension (Hatch) capacity funds. We will also be advocating for an 8% increase in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).
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