CFAES Community,

The university will be lifting the indoor mask requirements in its academic and general-purpose buildings starting at 6 p.m. Friday, March 11. Masks will be optional in most indoor spaces but the university will continue to require masks in clinical health care settings (including at the Wexner Medical Center), COVID-19 testing locations, child care centers and on public transportation. Specifics of the university’s mask policy are posted on the Personal Safety Practices page of the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website.

The university will continue to adjust COVID-19 measures as appropriate and will maintain its COVID-19 surveillance testing program for now. Weekly testing will continue for students in university housing, social fraternities and sororities, and those with approved exemptions to the university’s vaccination requirement. Employees with approved exemptions are also still required to test weekly.

Congratulations to Kirsten R. Nickles who recently received the 2022 American Society of Animal Science Midwest: Animal Science Young Scholars Award. Learn more.

AEDE Ph.D. student Khyati Malik has been selected as a 2022 Sadie Collective research scholar in partnership with the Brookings Institution for her work on understanding the spread of Covid-19 within major U.S. cities. Learn more. Please join me in congratulating Khati.

Congratulations to Adrian Pekarcik, Ph.D. candidate in Entomology for receiving Graduate Associate Leadership Award (GALA), Ohio State’s recognition of the exceptional leadership provided by graduate students as leaders (on and off campus) while being an OSU graduate (master’s or doctoral) student. Learn more.

Sincerely,
Dean Cathann Kress

Update Includes:
- Free NACTA Annual Conference Registration for CFAES Faculty
- Congrats CFAES 2022 Distinguished Seniors!
- ASM Club Lawn Mower Clinic
- Sign Up Now for the “Spring Into Wellness” Email Wellness Challenge
- Grow Kindness
- Call for University Senate Committee volunteers

**Free NACTA Annual Conference Registration for CFAES Faculty**

Academic Programs is offering to pay the registration fee for the first 100 individuals who hold faculty appointments in CFAES that sign up to attend the 68th annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference. This year’s conference is being hosted at CFAES Wooster from June 20th-23rd and can be attended either virtually or in-person.

If you are interested in attending the conference or if you have already registered to attend and would like for
Academic Programs to reimburse the registration fee, please complete the form found at [https://go.osu.edu/nactaconference](https://go.osu.edu/nactaconference) by **May 15th**. Once the form is complete, a fiscal representative will reach out to you with more information on how to register and pay the registration fee in the coming weeks. Please contact Morgan Dailey ([dailey.180@osu.edu](mailto:dailey.180@osu.edu)) in the CFAES Academic Programs Office with any questions.

**Congrats CFAES 2022 Distinguished Seniors! Watch Their Recognition via a YouTube Premiere**
Congratulations to the [twenty-six seniors](#) who received the most prestigious undergraduate award at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES): the Distinguished Senior Award! This year’s recognition of the CFAES Distinguished Seniors will occur on **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**, via a YouTube Premiere video beginning at 7 p.m. on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel.

**ASM Club Lawn Mower Clinic**
The Agricultural Systems Management Club will be hosting their Annual Lawn Mower Clinic where they will service your walk behind lawn mower over the course of one weekend for $50. The service includes an oil change, spark plug replacement, cleaning of mower deck/pressure washing the mower, blade sharpening and cleaning of the air filters. Dates, times, and drop-off location can be found at: [https://fabe.osu.edu/events/asm-club-lawn-mower-clinic](https://fabe.osu.edu/events/asm-club-lawn-mower-clinic)

**Sign Up Now for the “Spring Into Wellness” Email Wellness Challenge**
Wellness is more than just our physical health – it also includes emotional, financial, social, spiritual, environmental, intellectual, creative, and career wellness. Join Ohio State University Extension for the “Spring into Wellness” 6-week email wellness challenge to learn more about wellness.

The email challenge connects participants with tips, research, and resources to help you blend the dimensions of wellness to be a healthier you. Sign up by going to [https://go.osu.edu/lhlwopen](https://go.osu.edu/lhlwopen) and answer a few short questions to get registered. Participants will then receive twice-weekly emails from April 4 to May 15. “Spring into Wellness” will challenge you to explore all the dimensions of wellness to be a better you.

**Grow Kindness**
The Office of Student Life, in collaboration with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State Extension, the Chief Wellness Officer and the University District Organization will be growing kindness across campus on March 23. With generous donations from Scotts Miracle-Gro and Altman Plants, students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to plant two succulents; one to keep for themselves and one to give away in kindness to someone else. The project will help promote kindness and mental health support. [Learn more.](#)

**Call for University Senate Committee volunteers**
The [University Senate](#) is calling for faculty to volunteer for committee service. Committee service offers faculty a chance to have a voice in the strategic direction of the university. Senate committees are engaged in all aspects of the university and are in need of dedicated faculty voices. This is your opportunity to get involved. [Read more.](#)