

**Subject:** Dean's Update  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2022 at 11:05:49 AM Eastern Standard 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

CFAES Community –

Want a chance to get inside the new Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex (CEARC)? You're first in line for a 360° virtual tour from the Knowledge Exchange. Look around six of its state-of-the-art production and research greenhouses. Check out the high-tech control system used to optimize growing conditions. And discover the possibilities in the new facility, where CFAES researchers will advance sustainable and profitable food production. [Tour now.](#)

As we head into this busy time of year, I'd like to remind everyone of the assistance and emotional support resources available to our faculty, staff, and students. Students in need of assistance or emotional support should reach out to the Office of Student Life's [Counseling and Consultation Service](#), or a CFAES [embedded counselor](#). Students can also access the support and resources provided by the [Student Wellness Center](#), the [Student Advocacy Center](#), the [Center for Belonging and Social Change](#) and the [Office of International Affairs](#). Faculty and staff in need of assistance can contact Ohio State's [Employee Assistance Program](#).

During Open Enrollment, Ohio State is sharing information about a new benefit that will be available in 2023 – [Lifestyle Spending Accounts \(LSA\)](#). An LSA allows you to personalize your benefits and be reimbursed for eligible expenses that support overall health and well-being. You can use these funds for a broad variety of purchases and activities related to emotional, physical, financial and social well-being. A quarterly contribution of \$125 will be allocated to employees on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 to be used during that quarter. Other new benefits include surrogacy assistance and caregiving back-up support. Eligibility is defined as full-time and part-time (50% FTE) in regular or term positions. For more information, visit the 2023 Open Enrollment [website](#). Open Enrollment for the 2023 benefit plan year will be **November 1-15, 2022**.

I'm happy to announce that OTDI's Bob Schoff has stepped into the role of Senior Manager of Customer Experience, supporting CFAES on the Columbus campus. Bob has been with OTDI as IT Service Desk Supervisor for the past few years, serving as the primary trainer and supervisor for OTDI's student agents. Prior to his time at Ohio State, Bob grew in upstate New York where his family ran a dairy farm. He attended college at Oswego State where he majored in Computer Information Science and lettered in Division III basketball and crew. Bob is excited to learn the lay of the land in CFAES and begin building relationships. Cort Sutherland will continue to be assisting with escalations and but will primarily return to focusing on CFAES customers in Wooster while working closely with Bob to help him learn the needs of CFAES.

Save the date for CFAES DEI Advocates and Allies on January 20, 2023 from 10-11:30 a.m. The CFAES Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be hosting a virtual gathering via Zoom for members of the CFAES community who have an interest in or are working on DEI related initiatives. We will come together to share best practices and strategies related to DEI within CFAES. There will be an opportunity to share your work, ask questions and share best practices as well as smaller breakout sessions. The Zoom registration will be shared at a later date. Please contact [Dr. Kathy Lechman](#) if you have any questions.

As Coach Ryan Day and the football team prepare for the big game against That Team Up North, there is a

role for us spectators, too. Roll up your sleeves and consider donating blood at one of the 48 blood drives in the Columbus campus area from now until Nov. 23. Blood donation takes just about one hour to complete and directly helps patients at the Wexner Medical Center. Every unit collected can help save three Buckeye lives. Schedule your donation today. [Read more.](#)

Sincerely,  
Dean Cathann Kress



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

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