CFAES Community,

What an exciting couple of weeks we have had within the college and with our new Homecoming plans being held next week, the momentum will keep growing. Our college continues to be seen as a pacesetter within OSU, we’ve also presented at several university-wide meetings ranging from enrollment issues, community engagement, scholarship, and student life.

Monday, Voyager Space announced they selected a proposal from “Team Ohio” to host the terrestrial analog of the George Washington Carver Science Park (GWCSP) at Ohio State. The analog laboratory will be a replica of the Starlab space station science park, allowing researchers to test missions and conduct parallel experiments on the ground. The research conducted at the GWCSP terrestrial lab will generate positive social, economic, educational, and quality-of-life outcomes for a broad range of constituents, in particular, the Ohio agriculture community. Some of these benefits include research to preserve Ohio’s water quality, improve crop genetics and production efficiency, and enhance animal health for Ohio’s agricultural community. The effort will begin this year with a facility at Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Learn more.

On Tuesday, we opened our 60th Farm Science Review (FSR). Thank you to our FSR staff, Extension professionals, faculty, and students for their work in making this year’s show a success! The programs ranged across an incredible range of topics- and attendance has been great. This year, we saw a marked increase in the number of high school students attending, with 7,000 registered for the event.

At the Grand Opening event for FSR, we welcomed many elected officials, including the Governor as well as several other special guests including President Johnson, Provost Gilliam, and other members of the President’s cabinet. Nationwide board members and executives also joined us as we announced a new AgTech Innovation Hub in partnership with Nationwide. This partnership will build on the collaborative that Nationwide and the Nationwide Foundation already have with CFAES. It will challenge our students and faculty to bring innovative solutions to the table to tackle the grand challenges we face regarding the nexus of ecosystem sustainability, food security, and viable production agriculture.

Last week, I attended the Wayne, Wyandot, and Delaware county fairs. Thank you to our Extension professionals across the state who work so hard to support county fairs across Ohio and provide important educational experiences for our 4-H youth and learners across the lifespan. I also visited with many of our stakeholders, producers, and alums.

Secrest Arboretum on our CFAES Wooster campus was recently highlighted in the September/October issue of Ohio Magazine. The article “Ohio Arboretums and Botanical Gardens to Visit this Fall” also mentioned our Chadwick Arboretum on the Columbus campus in its list of additional arboretums to visit.

The search process for Professor and Chair of the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics is moving forward. The position description and direct link to the Workday posting are now available at: https://cfaes.osu.edu/people/leadership-searches. We invite all of our CFAES community to share the position description within your networks. For questions about administrative
searches, please reach out to Senior Associate Dean Tracy Kitchel (.2).

Sincerely,
Dean Cathann Kress