

**Subject:** Dean's Update  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 at 8:53:24 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean  
**To:** cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png

CFAES Community,

What a great welcome back for our academic year with the Back to School Bash! I want to thank Mariette Benage and Jill Arnett and the whole team for a great community event. Congratulations to everyone at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute for being named Niche's #1 in Best Community Colleges in America for the second year in a row. This is a great honor for our college and speaks to their commitment to our student success. I am also happy to share that Dr. Elena Irwin, Distinguished Professor of CFAES and Sustainability Institute Faculty Director, has been [appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board](#) with a dual appointment on the Agricultural Sciences Committee, Dr. Aaron Wilson, Ohio State University Extension Climate Specialist, has been [named Midwest Lead for a National Climate Assessment](#) and Maddie Allman a 4-H alum and current ACEL student, has been named a member of the [2021 Ohio State Homecoming Court](#). Congratulations on these well-deserved honors.

As we all know, the university is requiring all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The deadline to have at least a first dose or obtain an approved exemption is Oct. 15. The [Employee Health Record form](#) will collect COVID-19 vaccination information and exemption requests. Walk-in appointments are available on campus and there are Wexner Medical Center locations around central Ohio and at retail locations throughout the state. [Learn more on the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site](#). We have been raising issues unique within our college and collecting FAQs and are waiting for additional information on specific questions related to the vaccine requirement. We will be sure to share more information as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience.

I hope you are all able to enjoy a safe and relaxing Labor Day weekend. Thank you for all that you do to make our CFAES community a great place to learn and work.

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress

Updates include:

- CFAES Director of Strategic Partnerships Search
- New Extension Today – NBC4 Partnership Pilot Project Underway
- Back to campus. Back to Tradition.
- Visit the Teaching and Learning Resource Center
- Thinking Leisure is a Waste, Hurtful to Your Mental Health
- Community Connector Q&A: Karima Samadi
- New CABS On-Demand Service
- USDA-ARS Position Openings
- Upcoming University Events

#### **CFAES Director of Strategic Partnerships Search**

We are pleased to announce we are launching the search for a fully donor funded CFAES Director of Strategic Partnerships. Dr. Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education and Director Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station will lead the search committee. In the coming weeks, Dr. Pierzynski will begin assembling the search committee which will include representation from across CFAES. We encourage you to

participate in the search process as it proceeds. The full position description can be found [full position description can be found here](#), and is scheduled for posting at the start of September.

### **New Extension Today – NBC4 Partnership Pilot Project Underway**

Extension Today is a pilot project and new partnership of NBC4 WCMH-TV, OSU Extension, and CFAES. NBC4 is partnering with OSU Extension and the college to share viewer-focused stories about gardening, cooking, and other tips and resources for improving central Ohioans' gardens, lives, families, and local communities. A weekly segment will air on Daytime Columbus each Wednesday as well as on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The first two segments covered growing tomatoes and making tomato salsa and street corn. The next segment (to air September 8) will feature tips for tailgate grilling. To learn more and access the playlist of previously aired segments, visit [go.osu.edu/ExtensionToday](http://go.osu.edu/ExtensionToday).

### **Back to campus. Back to Tradition.**

This semester, we're thrilled to be back on campus or in the office for classes and in-person events. We're looking forward to strengthening our relationships, renewing connections, and continuing to build a spirit of community. Even if you worked on campus throughout the pandemic, this fall promises to be something special.

We want to hear from faculty and staff. [Tell us about things related to your work that you are excited about doing this fall](#). Our goal is to build excitement around being back together on campus, in the office, or at in-person events. Selected responses will be shared on college/department social media platforms throughout the fall semester.

### **Visit the Teaching and Learning Resource Center**

Start your semester off on the right foot — visit the Teaching and Learning Resource Center to find curated teaching strategies, examples, information and opportunities from across the university. Read evidence-based teaching articles such as A Positive Approach to Academic Integrity or Shaping a Positive Learning Environment, explore extensive information on the university's eLearning toolset and peruse a growing list of learning opportunities for those who teach. [Read more.](#)

### **Thinking Leisure is a Waste, Hurtful to Your Mental Health**

Feeling like leisure is wasteful and unproductive may lead to less happiness and higher levels of stress and depression, new research suggests. In a series of studies, researchers examined the effects of a common belief in modern society: that productivity is the ultimate goal and time's a-wasting if you're just having fun. [Read more.](#)

### **Community Connector Q&A: Karima Samadi**

This month's Community Connector Q&A is with Karima Samadi, food and agriculture integration specialist with the CFAES Knowledge Exchange: "As public health professionals, community is integral to our work because members of the community are viewed as colleagues, collaborators, key stakeholders, knowledge keepers and customers of our service," she says. [Read more.](#)

### **New CABS On-Demand Service**

CABS On-Demand provides daytime transportation between areas west of Olentangy River and three campus bus stops: RPAC, Baker Systems and Watts Hall. Overnight, the service provides transportation between campus buildings. Students, faculty and staff can download the "TripShot" app via the Ohio State app for scheduling and real-time tracking. Learn more at <https://ttm.osu.edu/on-demand>.

### **USDA-ARS Position Openings**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Field Organization in Wooster is seeking a [Financial and Budget Technician](#) and an [Office Automation Assistant](#). Please share these positions with colleagues that may be interested.

### **Upcoming University Events**

- At noon **Friday (Sept. 3)**, [Foundational Principles of Inclusive Teaching](#) will be a discussion on Universal Design for Learning. The discussion will include equity in the classroom, student identity and strategies to cultivate a welcome learning environment.
- At 11 a.m. **Wednesday (Sept. 8)**, [Digital Flagship for Instructors: Leveraging a Common Technology in Your Courses](#) is an engaging introductory workshop on this student success initiative, which includes Ohio State's 1:1 device program.

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

Vice President for Agricultural Administration & Dean

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