



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**2022-23**

# Statewide Impact Report

# Message from the President

## To my fellow Ohioans:

The Ohio State University takes its responsibility to serve Ohio and its people with great respect and honor. Part of our responsibility is to transparently demonstrate how our programs, projects and initiatives provide value back to Ohioans.



This university has employees, students, alumni, patients and facilities in every one of Ohio's 88 counties, where Buckeyes actively contribute nearly \$20 billion to the state's economy. Nearly three-quarters of our 65,000 students are Ohio residents, and the university is committed to keeping as many Buckeyes in the state as possible.

Whether it's on one of our campuses, in an Ohio State health care facility, or in one of our county Extension offices, Ohio State helps Ohio thrive by:

- \* **Educating Ohio's workforce.** With Intel's impending arrival and commitment to Ohio, the university is delivering and improving upon its goal of preparing students to work in and lead the most in-demand Ohio jobs now and in the future.
- \* **Keeping Ohio State accessible and affordable.** Ohio State offers an excellent education at a lower cost than its in-state and national peers. Whether offering full need-based scholarships or filling in the gaps, a student can graduate with little to no student debt. Our commitment to affordability and value will not waver.

## \* Leveraging research to better Ohioans' lives.

The university's research and development are already excelling, ranking No. 11 among all universities in expenditures in the 2023 HERD rankings. Carmenton, Ohio State's innovation district, will improve our standing and reputation as it brings private, public and academic sectors together.

## \* Advancing health care for all Ohioans.

Leading-edge research in public health, innovative community health initiatives and evolving the education of health care providers have improved lives across the state, helping to reduce infant mortality and opioid deaths and creating new research centers that attract top-notch scholars.

No matter where you are around the globe, you can find a fellow Buckeye when you hear an "O-H!" I'm convinced that there is such devotion from so many not just because of the friendships forged in Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark and Wooster, or of the satisfaction gained from working alongside other health care providers at our medical centers. It comes from the shared values, experiences and proud traditions we have based on being a Buckeye.

The collaborative effort of students, faculty, staff, alumni and partnerships enable Ohio State to have such a tremendous impact. We truly are a university for all Ohioans, and we proudly serve all Ohioans. Our reach and influence will only grow in the future, and this report is only the beginning. As always, go Bucks!

Walter "Ted" Carter Jr. | President



In 2023, Pierre Agostini (left) won the Nobel Prize in Physics. He led research and advised graduate students in the lab at Ohio State (right) that bears his name.

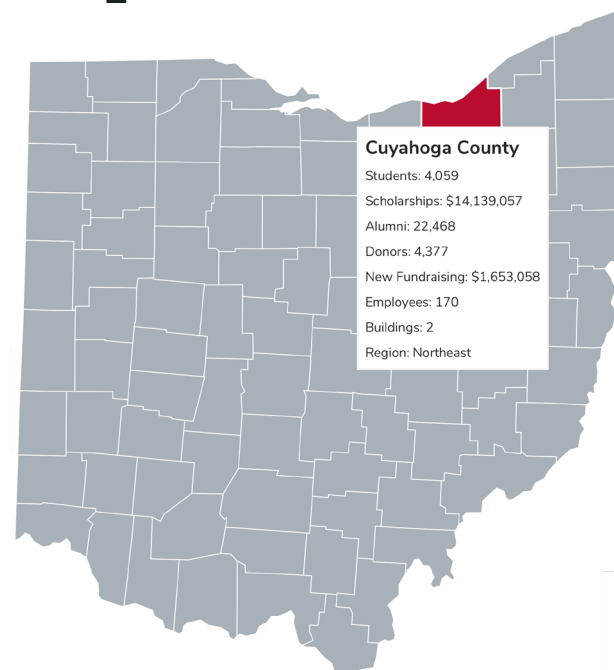
# Ohio State's impact highlights for 2023

1. Ohio State celebrated its **first sitting faculty member to be individually recognized as a Nobel Laureate** for contributions that enrich the understanding of our world. His work established a foundation for applications in optical engineering and semiconductor research.
2. **Nearly 75%** of the incoming class for the 2023-24 academic year was from Ohio. There are enrolled Ohio State students from each of Ohio's 88 counties. Total enrollment on Ohio State's regional campuses and Wooster ATI grew for the first time in five years, despite national trends of declining regional campus enrollment.
3. Ohio State **moved to 11th** among all universities in research expenditures in the National Science Foundation's annual Higher Education Research and Development survey rankings, up one spot from the previous year. The new rankings put Ohio State ahead of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Harvard University. Ohio State is sixth in the country in industry-sponsored research, totaling nearly \$142 million in fiscal year 2022. Ohio State's federally funded research brought \$636,902,000 to Ohio that year, a 14% year-over-year increase.

CONTINUES ►

4. Student **debt among Ohio State graduates decreased for four years in a row.** In the 2022-23 academic year, 58% of Ohio State undergraduate students graduated with no student loan debt. This number is 2% higher than the previous year.

## Learn more about Ohio State's impact and county-by-county impact data



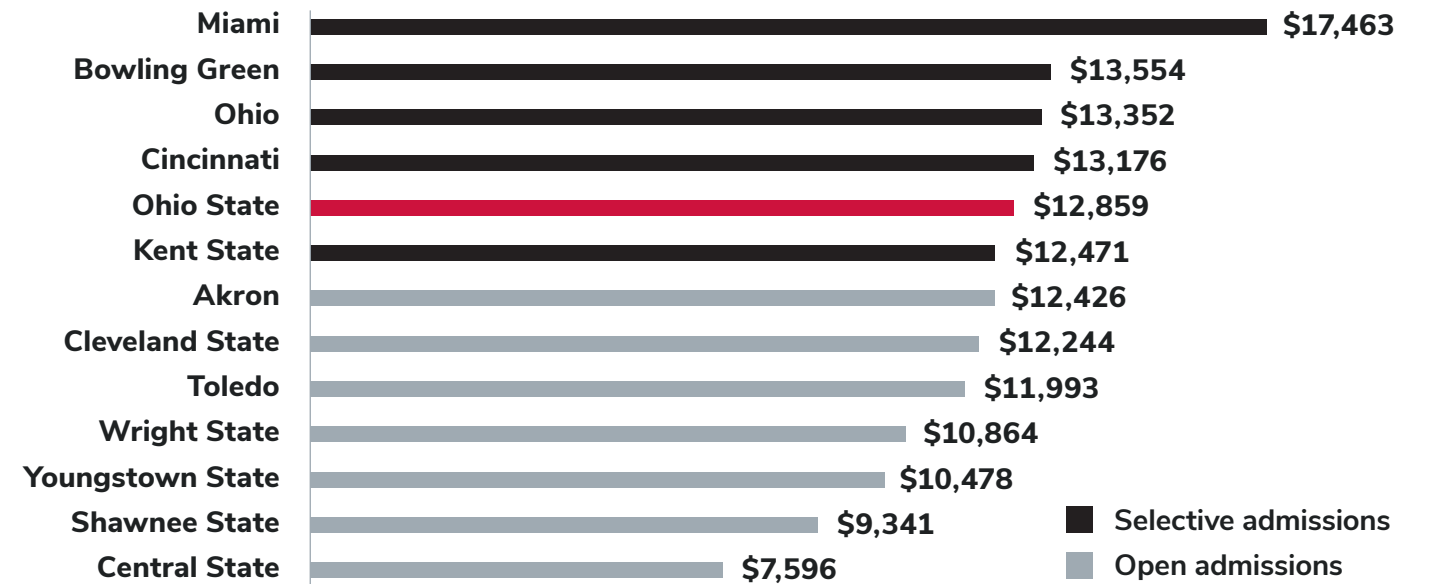
5. Ohio State — the 16th-ranked public university in the country — offered the **second-lowest tuition** among selective public universities in Ohio.

6. Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center — Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute celebrated the opening of the **first proton therapy treatment facility in central Ohio**, offering this highly targeted form of radiation therapy for treatment of complex tumors that cannot be removed through surgery. It is the first treatment center in the United States specifically built with a dual-capability system that can deliver both conventional proton therapy and research-level FLASH to both adults and children.

7. Ohio State partnered with Honda, the State of Ohio and JobsOhio to announce that a **new battery cell research and development center** will be developed in Carmenton, the university's innovation district. Slated to open in April 2025, the lab will accelerate the domestic development of battery cell materials and manufacturing technologies while providing an experiential learning setting for advanced battery technology workforce development. The center will be managed and operated at Ohio State by the Institute for Materials and Manufacturing Research.

8. Ohio State joined the new STARS (Small-Town And Rural Students) College Network of colleges and universities established to help students **from small-town and rural America enroll in, succeed at and graduate from college.** The initial focus, starting in autumn 2024, will be on Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.

Ohio State FY 2024 vs. Peers' FY 2023 rates  
Ohio — resident tuition and fees

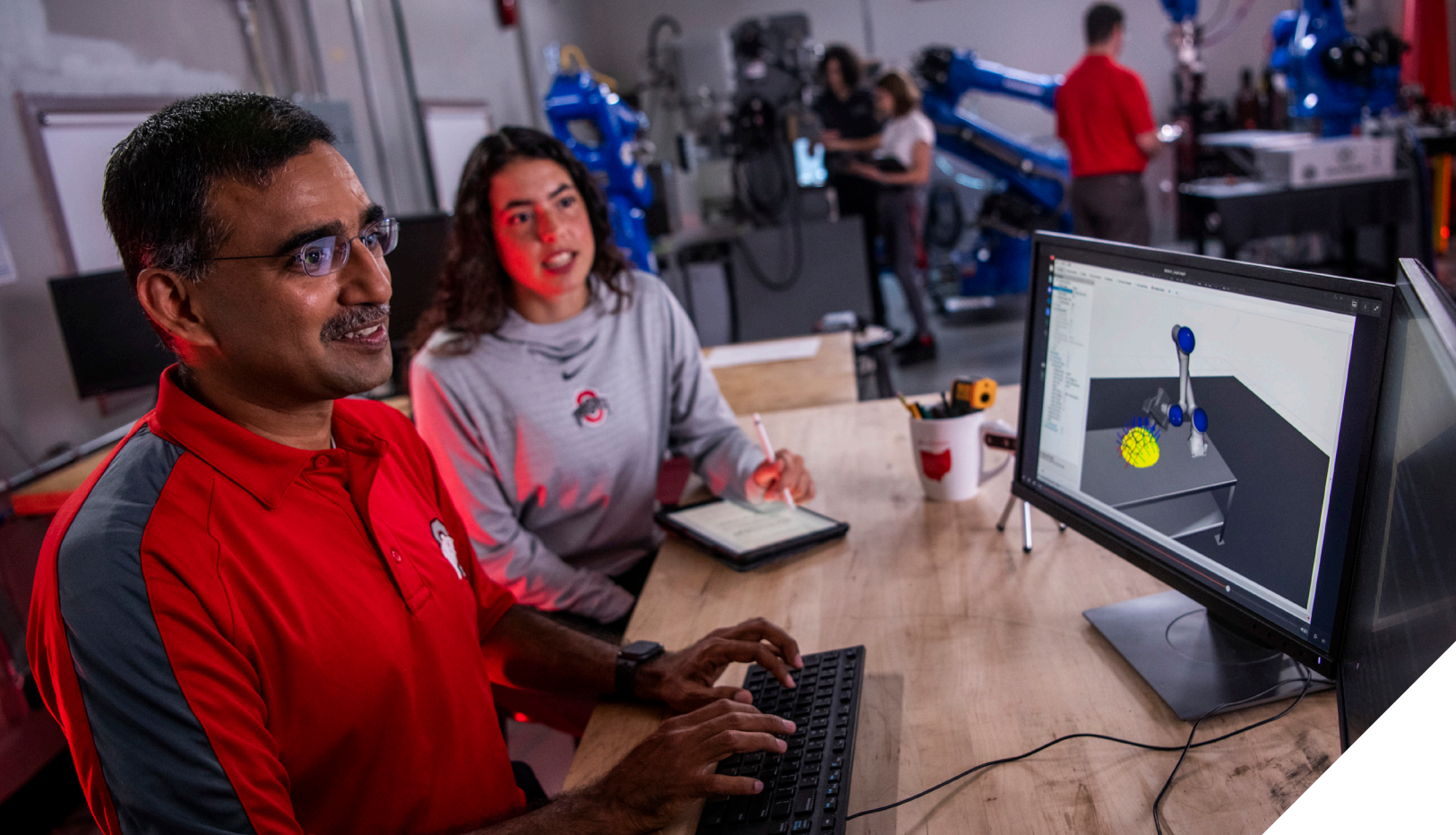


9. The **Pelotonia Research Center opened in Ohio State's innovation district, Carmenton**, providing new space for medical, engineering and data scientists to work together to understand some of the biggest questions facing health care, such as cancer, gene- and cell-based therapies, cardiovascular and pulmonary medicine, and neurological disease.

10. Researchers in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry were the first to detect a section of a protein's structure that had previously been unobservable by standard lab tools. Ohio State leveraged the most powerful nuclear magnetic resonance instrument in the United States, **enabling cancer researchers** to breathe new life into the study of a protein with an outsized link to human cancers.

11. Ohio State opened its regional **Center for Software Innovation** which aims to catalyze efforts across the region to create a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and product development activity. The Center, established by a historic \$110 million gift from the Timashev Family Foundation, hosted Startup Midwest, bringing together technology entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and others from the startup ecosystem.

12. The Ohio State University at Newark launched a new **Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology** in autumn 2023. The degree program offers students the technical, business and leadership skills necessary to start a career in today's advanced manufacturing industry, and provides students immersive internships and senior capstone experiences with regional manufacturers.



Ohio State researcher Vimal Buck (left) is leading an effort to help improve cybersecurity in the manufacturing realm. (Photo: Logan Wallace)

# Meeting the needs of Ohio today

Among undergraduate students who plan on entering the workforce after graduation, 69.8% report they will remain in Ohio for employment. As part of our land-grant mission, Ohio State ensures these graduates are ready to add value to the workforce of today, as well as innovate and lead to shape Ohio's future economy.

## Educating Ohio's workforce

Ohio's historic strength in manufacturing and education, paired with targeted investments in technology and research, position the state to become America's "Silicon Heartland."

Ohio State is a leader in producing research and graduates who find solutions to society's most pressing problems and build new technology.

In 2021-22, more than half of undergraduates accepted a position by the time of graduation, and this rate increases each year.

With Intel's impending arrival and accompanying millions of dollars in investments in Ohio higher education, the university is delivering on its goal of preparing students to enter, thrive and lead the most in-demand jobs now and in the future.

Ohio State created a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program, developed with input from manufacturers near the regional Ohio State campuses where this program is offered, providing local companies with well-qualified workers whose expertise meets their needs. The degree offering expanded to Newark in 2023, in part to support Intel.

Artificial intelligence-enabled manufacturing is Ohio and America's pathway to reclaiming a position of leadership in the industry.

In advanced manufacturing, Ohio State is developing and deploying revolutionary, intelligent autonomous manufacturing systems through research-focused areas like the Hybrid Autonomous Manufacturing, Moving from Evolution to Revolution Engineering Research Center, also known as HAMMER. The goal is to create more American-made products, more quickly and less expensively.

Beyond manufacturing, Ohio State's depth and breadth of expertise is at service to the people of Ohio who are displaced or are exploring how to access education benefits.

## Ohio's Career Resource Navigator

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs, through its Ohio Education Research Center, designed and launched Ohio's Career Resource Navigator. The platform helps Ohioans explore the education and training resources available to help them navigate their career journey. For example:

- Job seekers can identify education and training programs that have the highest employment and earning outcomes for people like them.
- Current and future students can use the tool to identify how their earnings may change over time.
- People in jobs that help others overcome barriers to employment can add the navigator to their toolbox as a resource to easily provide their clients with education and career guidance.

The navigator was created in collaboration with Ohio Analytics, a partnership of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services,

Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio Department of Education, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

## Supporting Ohio's Broadband and 5G Strategy

Another workforce partnership investment was made in early 2023 when Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced, at Ohio State, that \$12 million in grant funding through two programs will be allocated to support Ohio's Broadband & 5G Sector Partnership as it works to implement the state's broadband and 5G workforce strategy. Since the strategy launched in 2021, Ohio has announced 11 new programs across the state. The programs are located at career centers, colleges and universities and are designed to prepare participants for a variety of jobs in the telecommunications industry. Ohio State was awarded \$3 million in January 2022 to design the curriculum for the partnership.

## SET FOR SUCCESS

When Zachary Ernest was searching for a way to rise in the manufacturing world, he found it in Ohio State's new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (BSET) program.





**Making an Ohio State degree more affordable for Ohioans**

Ohio State is a land-grant university. This means that at its very foundation there is a commitment to providing Ohioans opportunities for professional and personal growth.

We take that charge not as an expectation, but as a great responsibility to families of Ohio. As demonstration to that commitment, nearly 75% of each Ohio State incoming class is from Ohio.

Nationally, affordability is one of the top reasons given for why people do not pursue college degrees. Ohio State is committed to addressing this issue for Ohioans.

Whether by offering full need-based scholarships or filling in the gaps, a student can graduate with little to no student debt.

The average debt students graduated with decreased for the sixth consecutive year. The percentage of undergraduate students who

graduated with debt declined from 52% in 2017-18 to 42% in 2022-23.

Ohio State has offered \$305 million in need-based financial aid since 2015, and \$53.9 million in fiscal year 2023 alone. Multiple programs offer students opportunities to save. With the Ohio State Tuition Guarantee, the university freezes tuition, mandatory fees, housing and dining rates for each incoming class of in-state students. This guarantee provides price stability and lasts four years for each class.

Other affordability initiatives include:

- The **President's Affordability Grant** program provides up to \$2,250 in grants each year to approximately 15,000 low- and moderate-income Ohio students.
- The **Buckeye Opportunity Program**, which began in Columbus in fall 2018 and expanded to regional campuses in spring 2019, ensures that Ohio students who qualify for Pell Grants receive an aid package that covers the full cost

of tuition and mandatory fees. The university provides institutional aid to close any gap that remains after Pell Grants, Ohio College Opportunity Grants and other gift aid. The program benefits about 9,400 Pell-eligible students from Ohio each year.

- The **Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship** covers the cost of attendance for 176 students each year, with the goal to award the scholarship to two students from each Ohio county.
- Ohio State has welcomed more than 250 first-year students into the **Scarlet & Gray Advantage** program, a recent push to empower eligible Ohio State students to create new pathways to earn their bachelor's degree debt free.

Ohio State focused on reducing operating costs to provide more savings for students, making administrative and operational efficiencies to fund millions in student financial aid. In fiscal year 2023, these efficiencies paid for \$53.9 million in additional student aid.

**Average undergraduate student debt among Ohio State students with loans**

2018-19 **\$27,242** ↓ 2022-23 **\$24,817**

**\$28,950**

2022-23 national average

**Percentage of Ohio State undergraduate students with debt**

2018-19 **50%** ↓ 2022-23 **42%**

**61%**

2022-23 national average

**Enhancing engagement across the state to improve access**

Ohio State empowers people to learn and grow through exposure to a diverse range of communities, perspectives and experiences for individual growth.

In 2023, Ohio State provided several new pathways for high school students to engage in the Buckeye community.



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**Ohio State has students attending our campuses from all 88 counties in Ohio.**

Ohio State joined the **STARS (Small-Town and Rural Students) College Network**. As a member of the network, which is supported by a \$20 million grant, Ohio State will prepare academically talented, rural, first-generation undergraduate students across Ohio for success in work and life with free resources, like college counseling and financial workshops. Ohio State will implement expanded outreach and support throughout the state, especially within the 32 Appalachian counties, to engage rural community students by:

- Increasing visits by admissions staff to high schools, college fairs and community events.
- Supporting rural and small-town students and family members through the college search and application process, whether they choose to go to Ohio State or not.
- Holding on-campus programs for first-generation students and their families, and offering transportation to those in need.
- Building upon existing programs that help provide a support network for students from small towns and rural areas once they have enrolled.

Ohio State launched the **Buckeye Student Leadership Academy (BSLA)** to improve Ohioans' access to higher education by providing an opportunity for high-achieving Ohio high school students to experience an intensive taste of college life through in-person and virtual programming. Students apply for the program in their junior year and attend the following June through November. During the program, students learn more about themselves, leadership, the college experience and resources to support their success. The first-year cohort consisted of 46 students representing 35 high schools, with 98% of BSLA students earning admission to Ohio State in autumn 2023.



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## Providing care in communities across Ohio

Ohio State plays a vital role in advancing health care within the state. Our medical school training, research in public health and community health initiatives have improved the lives and well-being of our citizens.

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center treats patients from all 88 counties, with 40% of patients coming from outside Franklin County.

**Providing personalized, comprehensive care in communities across Ohio**

Ohio State's nationally recognized academic medical center is co-located with many of the university's multidisciplinary research centers

and seven health sciences colleges.

The College of Medicine is a leader in innovative programs, initiatives and curriculum designed to produce the finest physicians and researchers in the world. Through record research funding, top-notch learning activities and high-quality, patient-centered care, our teams of learners, faculty and staff collaborate to develop transformational solutions for the communities across Ohio and beyond.

The university is at the forefront of addressing health and wellness needs for Ohioans. The Wexner Medical Center manages more than



2 million patient visits each year as part of a world-class medical center campus that offers future health care professionals the chance to learn in an environment that sees a wide array of complex medical conditions.

**Leading-edge research**

The Pelotonia Research Center, opened in 2023, is leading the way in transforming health sciences research. It is one of the most advanced research facilities in the world, equipped with the spaces, technologies and resources needed for researchers to work across disciplines to accelerate new discoveries.

Ohio State is also taking a major step forward with the construction of a new hospital tower that will bring together interdisciplinary teams, the latest technology and leading-edge research

and innovation to provide the very best patient care. The 1.9 million-square-foot hospital tower is the largest single facilities project ever undertaken at Ohio State and is scheduled to open in 2026.

**Serving the community**

Ohio State provides innovative, personalized patient-centered care across the state, from preventive care and specialized treatments to breakthrough solutions that change and save lives — like two renowned surgeons at Ohio State who were first in the world to pioneer a minimally invasive surgical technique to remove rare and difficult-to-treat brain tumors.

The heart of our work is world-class care for every patient, every time. However, with nearly a quarter of Ohio’s population living in rural communities, we know that many struggle to find care.

To extend high-quality health care to all Ohioans, in 2022, the medical school created a new MD track to produce the next generation of community medicine physicians and increase the number of doctors to care for patients in midsize and rural communities. Starting in 2024, the medical degree track is offered at Ohio State with unique clinical experiences at a community hospital located in Lima. Students will spend the first two years of medical school on the Columbus campus and then transition to The Ohio State University at Lima for their third and fourth years, gaining clinical experiences at Mercy Health – St. Rita’s Medical Center in Lima. Ohio State’s Community Medicine MD Track is made possible by the Healthy State Alliance, which leverages the innovative medical education of the Ohio State College of Medicine and the community care expertise of Bon Secours Mercy Health.

The university also supports increased access to high-quality care and making health care more affordable across the state through the Ohio State Health Network. The Wexner Medical Center provides member hospitals with access to the highest level of specialized health care expertise to treat the most complex and uncommon conditions plus cost savings, scalability, learning opportunities and valuable resources for independent health care organizations.

**Addressing Ohio’s public health crises**

Ohio ranks No. 1 in the nation for opioid-related deaths, and nearly 5,000 Ohioans died in 2022 from drug overdoses. To fight a complex problem, Ohio State and the Wexner Medical Center have built a suite of programs and services to serve struggling Ohioans.

The medical school saw a gap in addiction medicine training and stayed ahead of the curve to train students. To increase the number of specialists who are trained in addiction medicine and are



**Ohio State and the Wexner Medical Center offer health and wellness programs and services to all Ohioans, including historically underserved populations.**

able to serve in community-based settings that integrate care with mental health services, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services chose 44 accredited addiction medicine fellowship programs in 2020, and our College of Medicine was among the programs selected. As a result, we received nearly \$4 million in funding over the course of five years to supply the increased demand for addiction medicine specialists.

An Ohio State-led coalition that has been working since 2019 seeks to reduce overdose deaths by 40%



**Wexner Medical Center has worked with more than 4,000 parents through community-based programs.**

in 19 Ohio counties, assisting Ohio counties with prevention, treatment and recovery programs, as part of a \$65.9 million federal research study.

Ohio State has also made Naloxone, the lifesaving overdose reversal medication, available for emergency public access at nearly 30 locations across the Columbus campus through a collaboration with the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County.

Ohio's rate of infant mortality, the number of deaths of an infant before the age of one, remains among the highest in the country, and there remains significant racial disparity in death rates.

The Wexner Medical Center is tackling this critical problem using research, treatment programs and community outreach to create a better future for all pregnancies and babies, and to reduce the disparities between white and black infant mortality rates.

**Programs include:**

- Community-based prenatal educational cohorts in central Ohio zip codes with the highest infant mortality rates.
- STEPP Clinic, which treats mothers with substance abuse disorders.
- PACT (Partners Achieving Community Transformation) on Columbus' Near East Side that works to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty through holistic community revitalization in housing, education and community wellness. These issues are identified as leading indicators of infant mortality. According to CelebrateOne, the Near East Side neighborhood is a hot spot of infant mortality in Franklin County.

As a provider of maternal health, Ohio State remains the destination for central Ohio's most high-risk pregnancies.



## Collaboration with partners across Ohio

**Breakthrough ideas and economic impact in Ohio**

Ohio State research doesn't just impact the state, though it does so enormously: Annual research and development expenditures, released in 2023, set a new university record in fiscal year 2022 at over \$1.3 billion. This is a double-digit increase over the previous year's then-record figures. Currently, Ohio State ranks 11th among all universities in research and development expenditures and sixth for industry-sponsored research.

We are solution-focused and action-oriented. We create solutions that people need now — and no challenge is too big, too complex or too daunting. Ohio State's research is made to be used by Ohioans, Americans and global citizens. It is fueled by prominent national funders like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which recently awarded Ohio State scientists \$37.9 million to turn scientific discoveries into clinical therapies that improve human health. Another NIH award, for \$22 million, accelerates gene editing research at Ohio State, allowing researchers to develop new

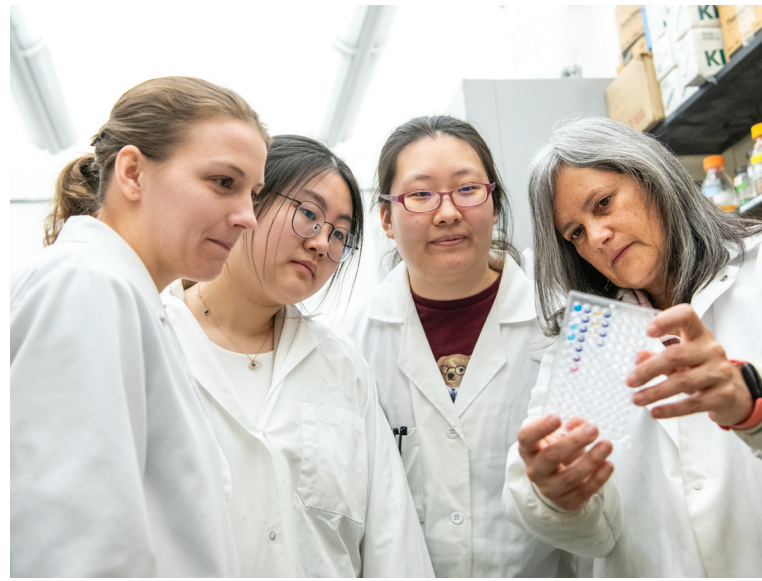




approaches to treat neurodegenerative diseases, including Huntington’s disease and ALS.

Ohio State research plays a leading role in expanding creative expression and scholarship, stimulating entrepreneurship, and building strategic partnerships. Its innovation district, known as Carmenton, is a burgeoning forward-thinking community that will bring private, public and academic sectors together, covering more than 270 acres on the west side of our Columbus campus, and merge entrepreneurial, corporate, academic and health care communities in collaborative spaces and programs. In 2023, three anchors opened: The Pelotonia Research Center, Energy Advancement and Innovation Center and Wexner Medical Center Outpatient Care. Together, they will fuel new jobs and economic impact.

Ohio State is increasingly turning research into dollars that benefit the public. Technology commercialization income grew to record highs of \$18.8 million in revenue in fiscal year 2022, more than quadrupling the total from the prior



year, and the number of startups hit double digits. Innovative research from university and medical center experts can turn into inventions that turn into startups, leading to new solutions.

**Connecting ideas, people and resources**

In the near future, Carmenton will house a new battery cell research and development center that will help accelerate the domestic development of battery cell materials and manufacturing technologies. Honda, Schaeffler Americas and JobsOhio are key partners and a prime example of how Ohio State collaborates with local and state businesses for innovations that positively impact experiential learning and workforce development for today’s key industries.

Ohio State has enjoyed a long partnership with Honda, working alongside each other for decades to advance the future of the mobility industry. A newer partnership moves away from the road and looks up to the sky: Ohio State is the lead partner for the first-ever science park devoted to space research, partnering with the NASA-selected



Voyager Space to host the George Washington Carver Science Park at Ohio State.

**STEAMM Rising**

In partnership with Ohio State, JPMorgan Chase hosted more than 100 Columbus City Schools educators interested in learning how to establish pathways for their students in science, technology, engineering, the arts, mathematics and medicine (STEAMM). Known as STEAMM Rising, the program is part of a collaboration between the university, the city of Columbus, Columbus City Schools and Columbus State Community College. Teachers had an opportunity to speak to technology leaders at the financial institution and explore some of the cutting-edge tools the company uses to support its customers.

STEAMM Rising is just one of the partnerships between the financial firm and Ohio State. Additionally, the New Skills Ready Network (NSRN) is a five-year, \$7 million investment in Columbus launched by the firm in 2020. The NSRN leverages innovative new practices and

policy solutions to expand access to real-world work experience, higher education and good careers for underserved young people.

NSRN comprises a collaborative of partners including Columbus City Schools, Ohio Excels, Ohio State and Columbus State Community College, with a shared goal of supporting Columbus students so they are exposed to tech careers and have access to tech career pathways, regardless of the school they attend.

Additionally, JPMorgan Chase supports Ohio State Nisonger Center and its Autism College Experience — commonly known as Ace! — which helps students with autism confidently navigate college life. In 2023, the company invested \$198,000 in hardship funding for 20 students for the upcoming autumn and spring semesters. This investment brought the company’s total hardship funding to \$276,000, which has paid for 60 semesters worth of programming for students with autism and intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Students who benefit are participants in Ace! and another of Nisonger’s Learning and Interpersonal Development Services, Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings, which is known commonly as TOPS.

Focused on work in Columbus, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Ohio State’s College of Social Work an annual \$500,000 grant, for up to five years, to support the One Linden Schools Initiative, a coalition that includes Ohio State, Columbus City Schools, United Way of Central Ohio, and the City of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods. As part of this work, Ohio State brings its Community Collaboration Model to Linden-area schools, creating “hubs” within the schools to provide after-school and summer programming connecting families to essential social services. This includes food banks, housing, and behavioral and mental health support.



**Supporting travel and tourism and spreading the Ohio message**

While Ohio Stadium welcomes hundreds of thousands of Buckeye fans to campus on fall Saturdays, the venue also provides a one-of-a-kind experience for attractions in central Ohio. In 2023, the “Summer in the Shoe” concert series generated \$120 million in economic impact. Across eight days in August 2023, it was estimated that more than 225,000 people visited central Ohio to attend the concerts in the ‘Shoe, traveling from all 50 states, Mexico and Canada.

**Ohio State Extension serves all 88 counties**

Ohio State Extension lives by its name — it is unlike any other part of Ohio State or any other college in Ohio, serving each county in the Buckeye State. As the community-based outreach and engagement arm of The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), Extension

delivers research-based knowledge to Ohioans where they live. What it can do is as varied as the 88 Ohio counties it serves.

Extension empowers farmers, business owners, families, and communities of all sizes to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies and protect the environment.

In response to the February 2023 train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, Extension in Columbiana County led the university’s immediate, on-the-ground engagement with federal, state, and local partners to assess needs, communicate fact-based information and guidance, and provide operational support to the communities impacted. As a trusted source, CFAES and OSU Extension later developed and executed a testing protocol to assess the presence of semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in forage crops in agricultural land within proximity to the derailment. Samples collected by Ohio Department of Agriculture and Extension, and tested by CFAES’ Department of Food Science and Technology, ultimately confirmed the absence of VOCs, providing assurance to farmers’ concerns.

Extension’s continued engagement in supporting the East Palestine community is widely



celebrated, with the East Palestine Response Team receiving the CFAES Spirit of the Land Grant Award — an honor recognizing an individual or team that embodies our land-grant mission through translational research, collaboration and engagement, and lifespan learning.

With almost 800 employees — staff, educators, field specialists and state specialists — who live and work in the communities they serve, Extension is uniquely positioned to take the pulse of the needs of the state and local communities.

These professionals work to address some of today’s most challenging issues and help to develop Ohio teens into leaders.

Need guidance on building and maintaining a healthy business, or help with family finances? Have a question about your lawn or plants from a master gardener? Your local Extension office can help with that; all you have to do is ask an expert.

They also help with wider issues, like ensuring that young people, especially in rural settings, attain education and employment here in Ohio. Extension, through Ohio 4-H, works with partners to develop and implement targeted skills-building for youth, especially in high-demand manufacturing and STEM-related fields. These hands-on 4-H projects and experiences bring out young Ohioans’ potential and passions, and help meet the workforce needs of tomorrow.

In 2023, Extension received a \$2.5 million award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to fund a project that will focus on improving nutrition and physical activity, and will address health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical activity, and obesity.

The grant will fund the High Obesity Program (HOP) in Ohio, largely in rural communities where 40% or more of adults have obesity.

The program will focus on two Ohio counties, Lawrence and Fayette. According to County

Health Rankings, Lawrence County ranks 81 out of 88 for health outcomes, including life expectancy, quality of life, health behaviors, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. Fayette County ranks 74 out of 88 for those same health outcomes.

**Farm Science Review: Driving Innovation**

More than 116,786 attendees made the trip to the Molly Caren Agricultural Center for the university’s 61st annual Farm Science Review and left with new products, new ideas and new connections. Farm Science Review, which is hosted by CFAES, features 4,000 products displayed by more than 600 commercial exhibitors, and allows CFAES researchers and Extension specialists to engage with community stakeholders about Ohio State’s cutting-edge research and innovation partnerships.

**FINDING HER PLACE AT LAKE ERIE**  
Alex discovered her community and her passion for water quality science at Stone Lab’s research facility.





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