



Office of Student Life

Impact Report

2025-2026 Academic Year

Engage. Learn. Thrive.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE



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Message from the Senior Vice President



The Office of Student Life plays a vital role in supporting success and connection throughout a student's Ohio State journey. From housing and dining to wellness, leadership development, involvement opportunities and career preparation, we create the environments where students can engage, learn and thrive. We help Buckeyes develop the confidence, skills and connections that prepare them to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the world.

The stories and accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the collective efforts of our students, staff, donors, alumni and campus partners. Whether through new approaches to career development, essential needs support, artificial intelligence education or residential life enhancements, our focus remains steadfast: supporting student success in a rapidly changing world.

This year also marked an important milestone as Student Life launched a refreshed strategic plan. Developed with extensive input from myriad stakeholders, the plan aligns closely with Ohio State's Education for Citizenship 2035 framework while remaining grounded in the day-to-day experiences of our students. Organized around four interconnected priorities— Engage, Learn, Thrive and Operational Excellence —the plan builds on our past successes while sharpening our focus on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

As you explore this report, I hope you will see the outcomes of the past year and also the dedication, innovation and care that made them possible. Thank you for your partnership in advancing student success and strengthening the iconic Buckeye experience.

In firm friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa S. Shivers". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melissa S. Shivers, PhD
Senior Vice President for Student Life





Foundations of Our Work

Vision

To be the premier student affairs division in the country; student- and staff-centered with cross-cutting experiential learning and a dedication to facilitating an environment that is supportive and welcoming.

Mission

Student Life fosters students' development, learning, well-being and sense of belonging; empowers students to achieve their academic, personal and professional goals; and prepares students to be engaged in a global society.

Culture Commitments



Appreciation



Connection



Support



Care

Student Learning Goals

- Embrace self-discovery
- Cultivate community
- Foster health and well-being
- Think critically



Our Strategic Goals

Work in Student Life is oriented around four strategic goals:

Engage

Strengthen opportunities for engagement and community that foster a connected and welcoming environment for every Buckeye.

Thrive

Promote academic excellence and a supportive campus environment through investments in holistic well-being and essential needs.

Learn

Strengthen academic partnerships and support students' transition into the workforce through investing in experiential opportunities and career skill development and navigation.

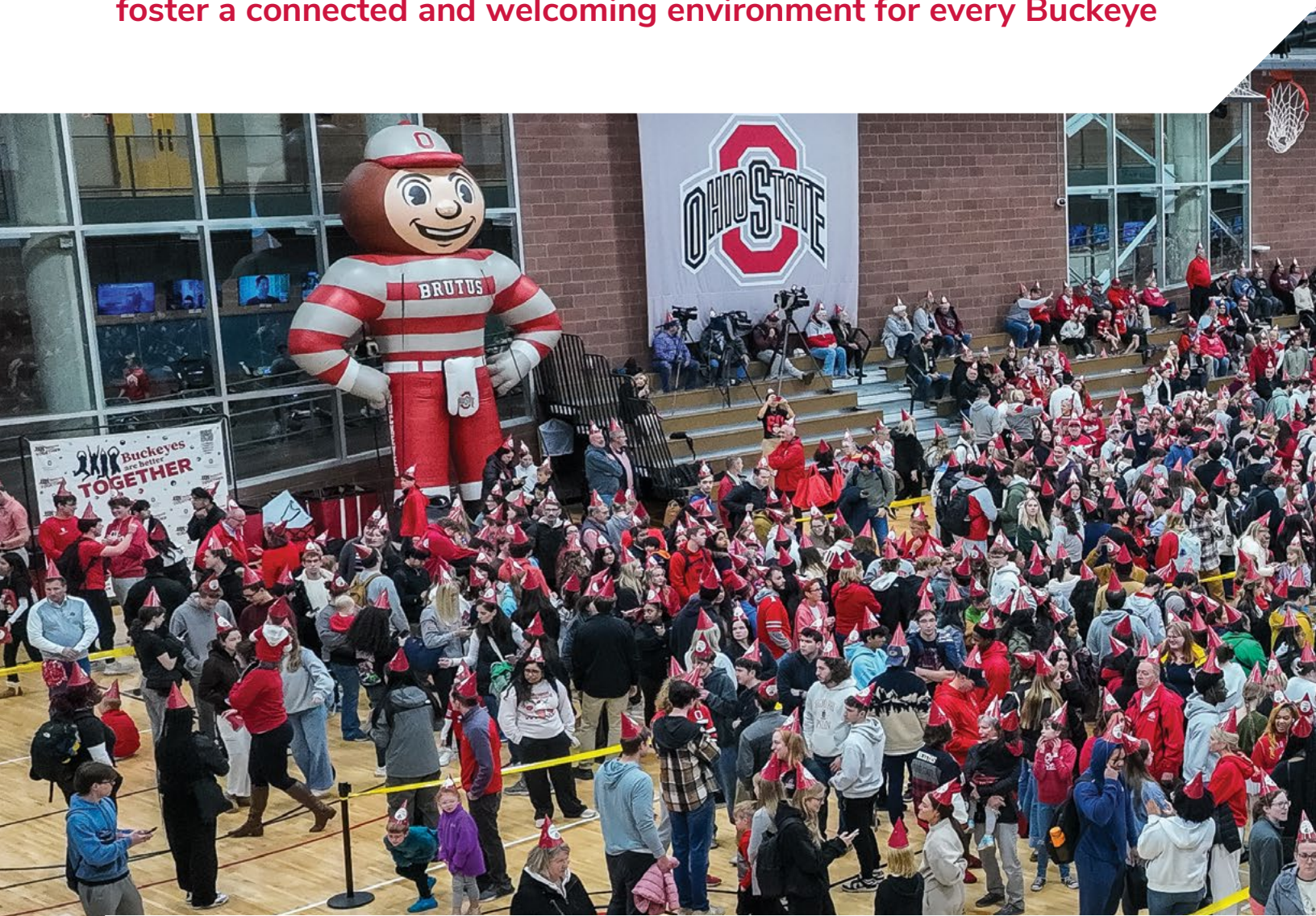
Operational Excellence

Ensure organizational sustainability and efficiency through innovative practices and resource stewardship.

Together, these overarching goals guide our daily work and strategic vision for Student Life's 30+ departments across six million square-feet of physical space and 5,500+ full-time, part-time and student employees.

Engage

Strengthen opportunities for engagement and community that foster a connected and welcoming environment for every Buckeye



**32 unique
service experiences**

were offered through **Buck-I-SERV** across winter, spring and summer breaks, including 23 domestic and 9 international trip experiences.

**97,114 active
users engaged**

with **Buckeye Family Connection**, Parent and Family Relations' communication platform.



\$200,000+ in scholarship funding

was generated in celebration of Brutus Buckeye's 60th birthday.

25,912 students were engaged

by **Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement** through outreach efforts, a 13% increase over the prior academic year.

Program Feature

Enhancing Student Engagement through Ohio State's Mobile App

Student Life is helping meet students where they are by expanding opportunities for engagement through Ohio State's official mobile app. In partnership with the Office of Technology and Digital Innovation, **Student Life has integrated involvement tools and resources into a platform used by more than 200,000 unique users**, placing opportunities for connection alongside essential campus information such as bus schedules, grades and academic resources.

A centerpiece of this effort is the **Get Involved** tab, a one-stop destination designed to simplify discovery and participation. Students can explore our more than 1,500 student organizations, browse campus events, check recreation facility capacity counts and personalize their experience with custom app icons and wallpapers. The Get Involved tab has already become one of the app's **top 20 most-visited screens of the year with over 500,000 unique views**, demonstrating strong demand for accessible involvement resources.

The app also transformed the Student Involvement Fair experience through a new **interactive Involvement Fair** feature, in use at both the Autumn and Spring Involvement Fairs. Students can navigate the events using interactive wayfinding, learn about organizations through detailed profiles and connect directly with groups through in-app sign-ups and messaging. In its first year, the feature engaged more than 4,200 distinct users, generated more than 65,000 screen views and facilitated more than 180 direct connections between students and organizations. By reducing barriers to discovery and engagement, the platform helps students find meaningful opportunities to build community.

Student Life continues to build on this momentum. Planned enhancements for the coming fiscal year will focus on the student Move-In experience, giving students and families a centralized location to access housing assignments, move-in schedules, facility maps and key checklists. By integrating these services into a platform that students already use every day, Student Life is creating a more connected, convenient and engaging campus experience from pre-arrival through graduation.





Student Highlights



Pranav Ingale

Featured Involvement:

BuckeyeThon Executive Board

Program:

Spring 2026 Graduate, B.S. Exercise Science

Campus:

Columbus

Hometown:

Lewis Center, Ohio

Favorite Ohio State Tradition:

OH-IO!

“BuckeyeThon, the largest student-run philanthropy organization in Ohio dedicated to supporting pediatric cancer patients, has profoundly shaped who I am at Ohio State. My *why* really grew from my grandmother, a breast cancer survivor. Seeing how cancer creates a common thread across many families made BuckeyeThon’s mission feel personal and urgent.

BuckeyeThon gave me a fertile environment to grow and a space where mistakes are the catalyst for growth. I started as a general body member, then found pride as Director of Events, where I brought back Runway Rally as a signature event in 2024. The Rally featured a fashion show and opportunity to showcase our Champion Families – we had more than 500 students, Brutus Buckeye and Ohio State championship quarterback Will Howard attend!

Eventually, I stepped into the role of Vice President of Membership, responsible for building internal culture and supporting our largest general body class ever. BuckeyeThon taught me how to lead, how to fail safely and how to help others find their purpose. **BuckeyeThon is more than a fundraiser; it’s where I learned to make a meaningful impact while discovering the leader I want to be.”**





Emma Dawson

Featured Involvement:

Homecoming Court,
Student organization founder

Program:

Rising third-year in Primary Education

Campus:

Marion (transitioning to
Columbus in Autumn 2026)

Hometown:

Delaware, Ohio

Favorite Ohio State Tradition:

OH-IO!

“I’ve wanted to attend Ohio State ever since I was a little girl, but as my interest in being a teacher grew, my focus has shifted to career readiness and getting into the classroom early. My goal is to apply the tools I’ve gained to support students’ unique needs in the classroom.

My passion for student support and my brother’s experiences led me to establish a student organization dedicated to dyslexia advocacy and ensuring students with disabilities have a space in higher education. My role as Homecoming Court Royalty furthered this mission, allowing me to use my platform to collaborate with the Disability Services office to start an initiative to help local students navigate the transition from high school to college accommodations.

Being a Buckeye has taught me to be a symbol of leadership and not be afraid to ask questions or start something new and fresh. My experiences at Ohio State have given me the confidence to step into the role of an educator.”

Learn

Strengthen academic partnerships and support students' transition into the workforce through investing in experiential opportunities and career skill development and navigation



**1,889 programs
and events**

provided opportunities for
learning and community building
in **Ohio State residence halls.**

**6,743
participants**

engaged in newly developed or
expanded programs, services
and outreach through
Buckeye Commons.



95 events were staffed

by the **Campus Activism and Engagement Team**, up from 69 in the 2024–25 academic year.

5,667 attendees participated

in **Student Wellness Center** workshops with topics such as financial education, stress management and nutrition education.

Program Feature

Building AI Fluency for Student Success and Organizational Impact

As Ohio State advances President Bellamkonda's vision of AI fluency for every graduate, Student Life is supporting practical applications across the student experience through three workstreams focused on student education, staff professional development and organizational productivity.

Student Life's goal is to help students use AI thoughtfully, effectively and in alignment with their values and preferences. Data collected through the Student Life Survey show **that student use of generative AI increased from 42% in 2024 to 83% in 2026**. Through the student education workstream, departments across the division identified opportunities to integrate AI concepts into co-curricular programs and educational experiences.

Career readiness has been an early area of impact. **Buckeye Commons** has integrated AI education into most career workshops and coaching appointments, including the development of four specialized workshops designed to build AI fluency for career preparation and job searching. These offerings help students understand both the opportunities and limitations of AI while building skills they will need in a rapidly evolving workforce.

Internally, Student Life is exploring practical applications of AI to improve efficiency while maintaining a strong commitment to data privacy, governance and risk awareness. The division engaged 127 people leaders in an AI-focused professional development workshop and reached 205 staff members through a **division-wide forum focused on AI applications**. Future initiatives include chatbot solutions for departmental websites, expanded guidance on approved AI tools and a shared library of effective use cases and lessons learned.

AI education for both students and staff, along with the optimization of existing technologies through responsible AI adoption, is a key priority within Student Life's new strategic plan. By building AI fluency and identifying opportunities for operational excellence, Student Life is helping position Ohio State graduates and the university community for success.





Student Highlights



Danny Offutt

Featured Involvement:

Career Studios

Program:

Rising second-year in Marketing

Campus:

Columbus

Hometown:

Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Favorite Ohio State Tradition:

Spelling out OHIO in photos

“During my first year at Ohio State, I’ve learned that making connections is so important. I always try to get out there, be open to talking to people and ensure I make a good first impact.

That’s why I decided to drop into a Career Studio. I didn’t have a formal appointment; I just wanted to see what I could get out of it to improve my resume. I met with two Peer Career Coaches who evaluated my layout, gave tips on helping my resume stand out and even provided resources for building a professional online presence.

The personal connection was a huge benefit of the experience. One student actually knew someone who held the position I was applying for and texted her to get tips for me. Even though I was only there for 30 minutes, the experience changed how I will approach the job search process. I highly recommend Career Studios to my friends, no matter where they are in the application process.”





Katie Conner

Featured Involvement:

Council of Graduate Students
Executive Committee

Program:

Linguistics PhD Student, Concentration
in Sociolinguistics

Campus:

Columbus

Hometown:

Hampton Roads, Virginia

Favorite Ohio State Tradition:

Crossing Out M's Before the Ohio State
vs Xichigan Game

“Through my graduate student career at Ohio State, I’ve been honored to be part of the Council of Graduate Students (CGS), the branch of student government representing graduate students. Graduate school can be a lonely endeavor, but **CGS provided a landing pad for community, learning and lifelong friendships outside my program.**

One of my proudest achievements was helping to lead the Edward F. Hayes Advanced Research Forum. This forum challenges students to share public-facing research with a broader audience beyond their specific departments. I even went through the process of creating a memorandum of understanding with our funders, ensuring student researchers receive institutional support and extending my own professional development in the process.

During my time as a three-term Vice President, **I practiced servant leadership, ensuring we focused on the we, not me.** CGS taught me that by showing up for others, you build the support systems needed to succeed. I don’t know if I would still be in my program today were it not for the community, mentors and institutional knowledge I gained through CGS.”

Thrive

Promote academic excellence and a supportive campus environment through investments in holistic well-being and essential needs



**\$327,107 in
emergency grants**

were disbursed to students throughout the academic year, with an **average grant of \$909**.

15 years

of **Buckeye Leadership Fellows** cohorts have been provided transformative leadership experiences that prepare students to lead with confidence, character and purpose.



97% of faculty and staff

in the **Counseling and Consultation
Service Liaison Program** reported
greater confidence in supporting
students experiencing mental health
and well-being challenges.

29,546 exams were proctored

for students registered for
accommodations with **Student
Life Disability Services**.

Program Feature

Expanding Impact through the Monda Student Resource Center

In its first year, the Monda Student Resource Center (MSRC) has become a cornerstone of student support at Ohio State, connecting students with resources that help them thrive academically and personally. Located in the Yountkin Success Center, the MSRC brings together the Student Food Pantry, Reid Family Career Closet and a centralized referral hub, creating a seamless, one-stop destination for students seeking support.

In April 2026, the MSRC celebrated its first anniversary and reflected on a year of remarkable growth. **Since its opening, more than 1,700 unique students engaged with MSRC programs over 8,000 visits.** The food pantry has emerged as the MSRC's most-utilized resource, providing students with groceries, cooking supplies and other essentials.

The MSRC's success has been made possible through generous support from donors, alumni, campus partners and community members who share a commitment to student well-being.

Friends of the MSRC rallied behind Ohio State's 2026 Day of Giving; **more than 80 donors contributed over \$12,500 to support the MSRC's programs, with a special focus on the Reid Family Career Closet.** Organizations and groups that provided in-kind donations to the MSRC over the last year include Penzey's Spices, Bob Evans Farms, Kroger Inc., Delta Dental, the Franklin County Alumni Club, Giant Eagle, Panera Bread, The Original Goodie Shop and Student Life Dining Services. Additionally, multiple student-led organizations, staff departments and Ohio State alumni clubs hosted drives to benefit the MSRC.

As demand for services continues to grow, Student Life has expanded support through the addition of a Student Support Specialist position. This role strengthens the MSRC's ability to provide holistic support by helping students navigate complex circumstances through connections to resources and services beyond those available directly through the MSRC, while also addressing longer-term needs.

The MSRC is also looking ahead. **Future initiatives include continued investment and expanded production in the new MSRC community garden to further increase access to fresh produce.**





Donor Highlight



Keith Monda and Veronica Brady: Be Good, Do Good

For Keith Monda '68, '71 MA and Veronica Brady, paying forward reflects values shaped over a lifetime — noticing need, acting with compassion and investing in people. Their guiding philosophy — be good and do good — is at the heart of the Monda Student Resource Center (MSRC).

The MSRC supports students experiencing food insecurity, financial strain and other challenges with essential needs — including help navigating mental health resources — in a centralized, welcoming space that supports student success and fosters belonging and dignity.

The motivation behind Keith and Veronica's generosity is deeply personal. While pursuing graduate studies, Keith received a note from a neighbor asking for help feeding her children — a moment that revealed how hardship often goes unseen.

After decades of professional success, the couple consider themselves fortunate to pursue philanthropic endeavors together that focus on removing barriers and creating long-term impact. Meaningful philanthropy is about “meeting people where they are and helping them move forward,” Veronica says. Keith, who has also supported study abroad scholarships for students in the College of Arts and Sciences, says he “wants to make sure all Buckeye students have a chance to succeed.”

Beyond campus, they have supported initiatives that advance children, education and conservation as well as addressing food insecurity in Canton, Ohio; Sarasota, Florida; and nationwide, extending the same beliefs that inspired them to give back to Ohio State.



Student Highlight



Miles Meisse

Featured Involvement:

Group Fitness Instructor

Program:

Rising senior in Finance

Campus:

Columbus

Hometown:

Mansfield, Ohio

Favorite Ohio State Tradition:

Themed Reading Day

Group Fitness classes

“I began my journey at The Ohio State University in autumn 2024 after transferring from John Carroll University, where I was a collegiate runner. After facing health challenges, I made the difficult decision to step away from running and transfer to Ohio State.

When I first arrived on campus, I was unsure of my direction or how I would get involved. However, I discovered the Group Fitness Instructor program and decided to take a leap of faith. **I was welcomed with open arms, which helped restore my confidence and rebuild my relationship with fitness.**

Now, I will be stepping into a leadership role in my senior year as a Group Fitness Lead Instructor, where I will have the opportunity to positively impact the program and leave it better than I found it. Ohio State has played a major role in shaping who I am today by restoring my confidence, providing meaningful academic and professional opportunities and fostering a supportive environment that encourages me to succeed.”

Operational Excellence

Ensure organizational sustainability and efficiency through innovative practices and resource stewardship



**85% of
new students**

selected **mobile BuckID
credentials** over physical
cards with the modernization
of the system.

**\$872,919
raised by
BuckeyeThon**

advances research and care for
children with cancer treated at
Nationwide Children's Hospital.



322,202 pieces of mail

and packages were received,
sorted and delivered to
residential students.

7,328 students were members

of the **Ohio State sorority and
fraternity community** in
2025-2026, representing 52%
growth in membership since 2021.

Program Feature

Reimagining the North Towers for the Next Generation of Buckeyes

Student Life is making a significant investment in the future of the residential experience through a transformative modernization of Drackett and Taylor Towers, known as the North Towers. Guided by Student Life's strategic priorities and a commitment to operational excellence, the project will create more modern and student-centered living environments.

Following a comprehensive design study conducted with an external architectural partner and university planning and construction teams, Student Life identified Taylor and Drackett Towers as key opportunities for reinvestment. With approval from the Board of Trustees, both facilities were taken offline, allowing renovation work to begin. A comprehensive study found that further investment in Jones Tower would not be feasible; the building will be decommissioned and demolished.

When Taylor and Drackett reopen in autumn 2028, they will feature welcoming new lobbies and student spaces, in addition to comprehensive upgrades to critical building infrastructure, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, window, elevator and life-safety systems. These improvements are designed to extend the useful life of the facilities for decades while improving reliability, efficiency and long-term stewardship of university resources.

Equally important is the transformation of the student experience within these spaces. Renovated facilities will feature brighter study lounges that support both individual and collaborative learning, enhanced community kitchens and upgraded technology infrastructure capable of meeting the demands of today's digitally connected students. The redesign emphasizes flexibility, comfort and community-building, and creating environments that support student well-being and foster meaningful connections among residents.

This project is also part of a broader strategic plan initiative to evaluate Student Life's facilities portfolio and identify additional opportunities to enhance the student experience through strategic building improvements, modernization efforts and long-term infrastructure planning.





Student Highlights



Second-Year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) Ambassadors

Students participating in STEP can submit a proposal for funds to use toward a STEP Signature Project in one of six areas: Creative and Artistic Endeavors, Education Abroad, Internships, Leadership, Service Learning or Undergraduate Research. These highlighted students completed exemplary projects and were chosen as STEP Ambassadors to mentor their peers and inspire others to become involved with the program.

Olivia Morgan

STEP Signature Project:

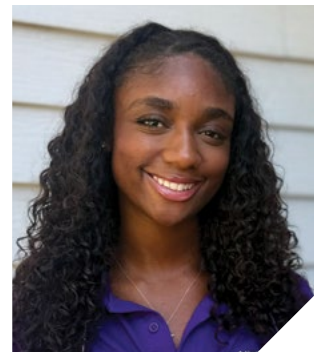
Foundations of Clinical Experience: Earning an EMT Certification

Major: Biology

Hometown: Gurnee, Illinois

Project Details:

STEP provided an opportunity for Olivia to make meaningful progress toward her goal of becoming a physician. By earning her Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification, she gained hands-on clinical experience caring for patients in real-world settings where quick thinking, professionalism and compassion are essential. The experience allowed Olivia to move beyond the classroom and develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in medicine. Through STEP, she connected her personal values with her professional aspirations, marking an important milestone on her journey toward a career dedicated to improving the lives of others.



Warren D'Souza

STEP Signature Project:

Safety, Strategy and Solutions: Capital Resin Corporation Internship

Major: Chemical Engineering

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Project Details:

Warren used his STEP Signature Project to gain firsthand exposure to the engineering profession through an internship at Capital Resin Corporation in Columbus, Ohio. Working in a chemical manufacturing environment, he applied classroom concepts to real-world challenges while contributing to projects focused on operational efficiency and workplace safety. Warren updated technical process documentation and helped develop procedures that support daily plant operations, gaining valuable insight into how engineers solve complex industrial problems. The experience strengthened his technical expertise and provided a clearer understanding of how engineering can drive innovation, productivity and organizational success.



Olivia Visani

STEP Signature Project:

Global Service through Buck-I-SERV at Montaña de Luz

Major: Animal Sciences

Hometown: Solon, Ohio

Project Details:

Through a Buck-I-SERV experience in Honduras, Olivia expanded her understanding of service, leadership and global citizenship. Working at Montaña de Luz, a community organization serving youth affected by HIV and AIDS, she helped support facility and infrastructure improvements while building meaningful relationships with children and community members. Through educational activities, sports and cultural exchange, Olivia gained a deeper appreciation for the power of community engagement and the impact individuals can have through service. The experience transformed her perspective on education and reinforced her commitment to using her knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the lives of others.







Carmen Ohio

Ohio State's Alma Mater

Oh come let's sing Ohio's praise
And songs to Alma Mater raise
While our hearts rebounding thrill
With joy which death alone can still
Summer's heat or winter's cold
The seasons pass the years will roll
Time and change will surely (truly) show
How firm thy friendship ... O-HI- O!

These jolly days of priceless worth
By far the gladdest days on earth
Soon will pass and we not know
How dearly we love Ohio
We should strive to keep thy name
Of fair repute and spotless fame
So in college halls we'll grow
And love thee better ... O-HI-O!

Though age may dim our mem'ry's store
We'll think of happy days of yore
True to friend and frank to foe
As sturdy sons of Ohio
If on seas of care we roll
Neath blackened sky or barren shoal
Thoughts of thee bid darkness go
Dear Alma Mater ... O-HI-O!



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