



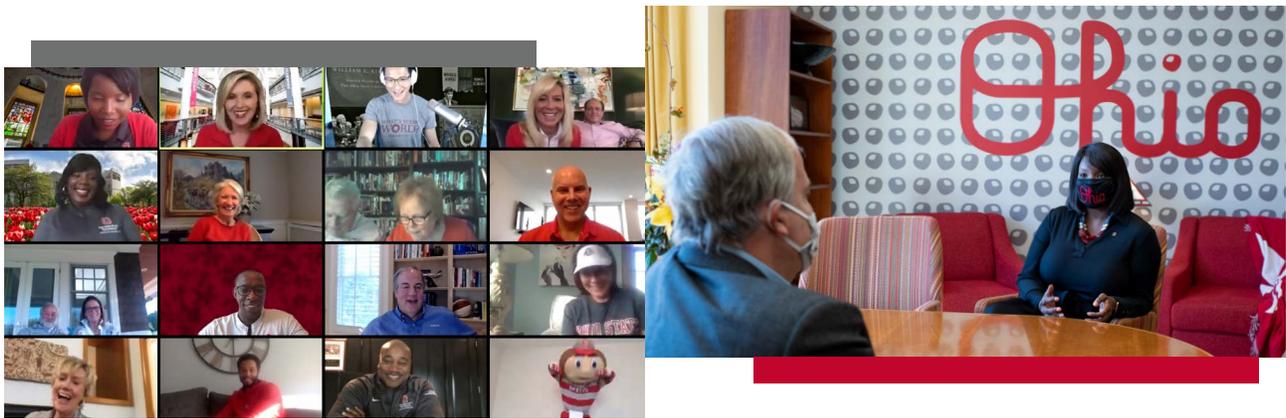
# O-H! What a year!

Over the past weeks, I've shared a lot with students about the concept of the O-H! I-O! call-and-response tradition. The fact is, you literally can't do it alone – the whole thing relies on someone else responding ... or calling out to you in the first place.

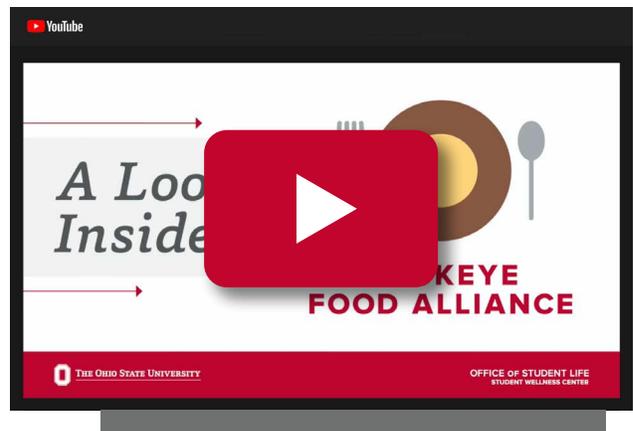
And though my time at Ohio State has been significantly interrupted by the pandemic, I learned early on that it's not just when someone calls out O-H! that Buckeyes spring into action. The truth is, any time the Ohio State community is called on, there is an overwhelming response.

And that's what you have done throughout this year, and throughout my time at Ohio State.

You offered the warmest of welcomes when I joined the team in January 2020, and then you rallied to offer your support as the pandemic hit.



Student Life friends helped make sure students in need were supported by making contributions to our [emergency grant](#) and Buckeye Food Alliance funds.





You showed #BuckeyeLove to our students in quarantine and isolation.



Thousands stood up to support BuckeyeThon's first-ever fully virtual Dance Marathon, resulting in more than \$2 million raised in one calendar year.



You checked in, showed up, recommended and participated in new ways to engage with students.





This list could go on, and at the end it would say: I-O!

Because that's what you have done – you have responded to the call, and for that I will always be Scarlet and Grateful.

While we still have a bit more time until we firmly achieve our next normal, in the months ahead I look forward to the opportunity to see you, here on campus or maybe even in your own hometown. Because we have so much to catch up on, and I'd love the opportunity to say in-person.

O-H!

*Melissa*

