



# **Office of Student Life Impact Report**

**2022–23**

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**Engage. Learn. Thrive.**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE





## Message from the Senior Vice President

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The more time I spend at Ohio State, my appreciation grows for this institution's tradition, excellence and impact. The Ohio State student experience is truly remarkable. The 2022-23 academic year was no exception, and I am thrilled to share an overview of some of the ways that the Office of Student Life contributed to the iconic Ohio State experience.

Student Life has four strategic goals that guide our work and tie directly to our effort to help students engage, learn and thrive. You will see our work in each of these areas highlighted throughout the Annual Impact Report. Our strategic goals are:

- Foster engagement and community
- Invest in learning, growth and development
- Promote health and well-being
- Advance operational excellence

Throughout this report, you will learn about the progress we have made toward these goals and hear from students, in their own words, about the extraordinary impact the Office of Student Life has had on their Buckeye journeys.

I thank each of you for the ways you contributed to Student Life's success this past year and for your continued engagement in the years to come.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa".

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

# Overview of the Office of Student Life

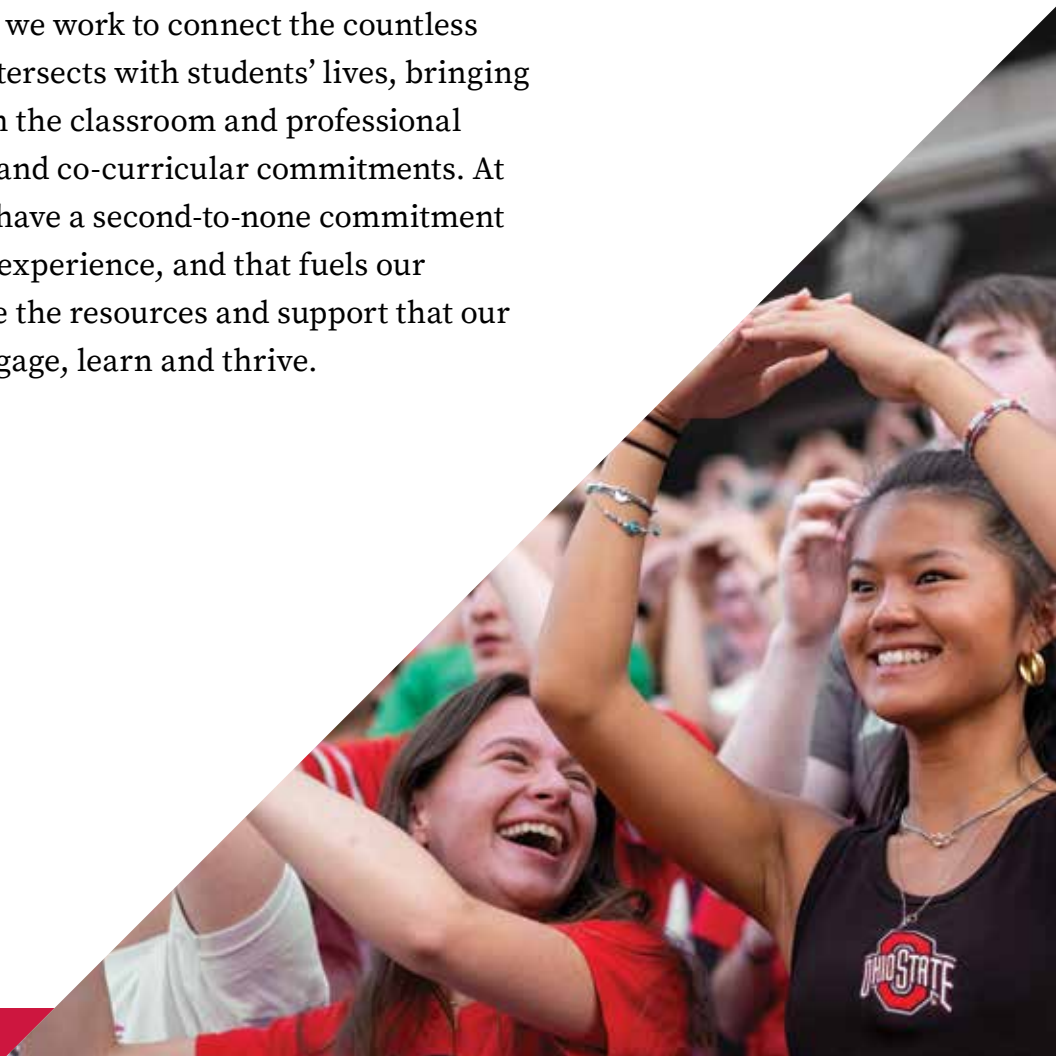
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The Ohio State University's rich legacy was born in a single building that served multiple purposes: classroom, laboratory, living space. Over the years, these complementary uses have emerged as hallmarks of the iconic Ohio State education that generations of Buckeyes have come to strive for and expect.

In support of Ohio State's motto, "Education for Citizenship," the Office of Student Life is focused on creating unmistakably unique, supportive and productive environments in which students can expand their aspirations and achieve their full potential, prepare for a life of success and make a difference in the lives of others.

In a place so big in possibility, we work to connect the countless points where the university intersects with students' lives, bringing the experience full-circle from the classroom and professional development, to living spaces and co-curricular commitments. At The Ohio State University, we have a second-to-none commitment to the comprehensive student experience, and that fuels our collaborative efforts to provide the resources and support that our students, and staff, need to engage, learn and thrive.





# Student Life Foundations

## 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 inclusive, supportive and welcoming.

## Mission

The Office of 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.

## Our Culture Commitments



**APPRECIATION**



**CONNECTION**



**SUPPORT**



**CARE**



## Our Tagline

# Engage. Learn. Thrive.

## Our Values

As a premier student affairs division, The Ohio State University's Office of Student Life values and fosters a campus culture that affirms the dignity of every student and staff member and their unique backgrounds, identities and experiences. Our work is grounded in the cultivation of personal and professional skills that nurture a sense of belonging, grow empathy and compassion for others, and contribute to positive social change. We are steadfastly committed to advancing the university's Shared Values throughout our operations and interactions:

- Excellence and Impact
- Diversity and Innovation
- Inclusion and Equity
- Care and Compassion
- Integrity and Respect

## Student Learning Goals

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





# Our People

The Office of Student Life employs more than 5,000 individuals, including:

**520+**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

**150+**

**CIVIL SERVICE STAFF**

**4,600+**

**PART-TIME STUDENT EMPLOYEES**

**300+**

**BARGAINING UNIT STAFF**

(housekeeping, food service, maintenance)

**60+**

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**



# Facilities

Our footprint across Ohio State's campuses covers six million square feet and includes:



## Food Service

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More than 35 food service locations on Columbus, Newark, Mansfield and Wooster campuses

## Residence Halls

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36 residence halls and five houses on the Columbus Campus, three graduate residence halls and three housing complexes on the Wooster, Newark and Mansfield campuses

## Outdoor Recreation

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36 acres of outdoor recreation space on and around the Columbus campus



## Event Center

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One of the area's most comprehensive event centers, the Ohio Union



## Health, Wellness and Student Success

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Eight health, wellness and student success facilities on the Columbus campus including the Adventure Recreation Center, Jesse Owens Recreation Centers on North and South Campus, the North Recreation Center, the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC), McCorkle Aquatic Pavillion, the Wilce Student Health Center and the Younkin Success Center

# By the numbers:

Student Activities supports more than **1,400** registered student organizations featuring a range of interests from academic, community service, sports and religious affiliation, to creative and performing arts, political affiliations and cultural backgrounds.

**1,500** Naloxone kits and 400 Fentanyl strips were distributed on the Columbus campus in partnership with the Wexner Medical Center and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH).

In autumn 2022, Student Life facilitated the packing of more than **300,000** meals that were distributed to food insecure families across the state.

The Buckeye Food Alliance food pantry had **5,168** visits.

More than **4,600** students engaged in the Student Employment Experience program.

**6,511** students are registered with Student Life Disability Services.

The Student Wellness Center reached more than **14,500** students.

Recreational Sports had **2,032,480** visits, throughout all facilities.

**312** students received a Student Emergency Fund grant, averaging \$896.

**40,000** transactions were completed on a typical day in Dining Services.

**2,412** donors contributed more than \$1.9 million to Student Life.

**3,411** Ohio State students donated to the university.

Property owners of more than **10,000** units participated in the Off-Campus Housing Network.

Our partnership with GrubHub has resulted in students using their BuckID at more than **900** restaurants in 30 states.



# Engage



## Strategic Goal

Create opportunities for engagement and community that foster an environment of belonging for all students, staff and the campus community

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## Highlights

### Leadership and Community Engagement

Student Life bolstered our commitment to providing students with opportunities to develop deep leadership skills and engage in service throughout the community and the world through our Leadership and Community Engagement area. Leadership and Community Engagement offers immersive service trips, opportunities to serve locally, nonpartisan civic engagement and voter registration, leadership programming and cohort groups that offer a more in-depth look at leadership and student philanthropy programs.

A prime example of this work was the first annual Keith B. Key Buckeye Social Entrepreneurship Program's pitch competition, where students "pitched" their social entrepreneurship business ideas to funders. Of the 45 teams who applied, 12 teams were selected to participate in a social enterprise training program, powered by Social Enterprise Accelerator (SEA) Change throughout spring semester.

SEA Change challenged each group of students to develop a sustainable business model that incorporated meaningful social impact. The experience culminated with the Pitch Event, a celebration of the work the teams accomplished and an opportunity to showcase their ventures to members of the local social enterprise ecosystem. Five teams, chosen by a panel of judges, received funding to invest in their businesses. The goal of this event was to teach students how to address social issues and increase economic value for communities.

Leadership and Community Engagement is also committed to providing education around civic engagement and fostering an environment where students can explore and express their views. OSU Votes is a student-led, non-partisan movement to register, educate and encourage students to vote in every local, state and federal election.



## NPHC Plaza

In autumn 2022, Ohio State dedicated the new National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Plaza, with monuments representing the council’s nine historically Black, Greek-letter fraternities and sororities – known as the Divine Nine. The plaza is located on the South Oval of Ohio State’s Columbus campus by the historic Dr. Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center. The NPHC Plaza is a central space for Black students to explore their sense of self and community and serves as a physical display of Ohio State’s commitment to every Buckeye while honoring Black history, heritage and tradition. The Office of Student Life raised more than \$130,000 from more than 200 donors to support the construction of the NPHC plaza.



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## Staff Culture Commitments

Student Life recognizes the important role our staff play in creating an iconic Buckeye experience for all of our students, which is why we have clear culture commitments of appreciation, connection, support and care. These culture commitments highlight the way in which we work together and support our students. In the past year, Student Life has lived our culture commitments through intentionally-designed practices like monthly all-staff Scarlet and Great Gatherings, High Five Friday email messages, appreciation activities and engagement opportunities like BuckeyeLove and Random Acts of Kindness week. We will continue to double-down on our culture commitments in the coming year to ensure our students and staff feel supported as they engage, learn and thrive.

# Abby Huffman

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“I didn’t know that higher education existed as a career field before coming to Ohio State for my undergraduate degree and getting to work as a residence hall front desk manager and peer mentor. Being exposed to those opportunities and the comprehensive experiences offered through the HESA program made me want to stay at Ohio State for my graduate degree.

My GTA position involves fostering a sense of community in residence halls, supervising Resident Advisors and responding to resident concerns. Through this role, I’ve developed as a supervisor by

## Featured engagement

Housing and Residence Education  
Graduate Teaching Associate (GTA)

## Major

Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA)

## Rank

Second-year Master’s student

## Campus

Columbus

learning how to have difficult conversations in a way to help people grow while still holding them accountable and seeing the big picture. I feel better prepared to have those conversations professionally in any workplace.

I’ve also been given the opportunity to take an inclusive lens to everything that I do, to make sure everyone in the residence halls has a chance to participate in programming and activities. Looking forward to my professional career, I’ve learned how ask the right questions to help make everyone feel involved.”

# Learn



## Strategic Goal

Invest in student and staff opportunities to deepen their learning, growth and development

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## Highlights

### Student philanthropy

Student Life approaches student philanthropy through a lens of student learning and development. Student philanthropy, at its core, is an opportunity for experiential learning, as students explore social problems and passion areas, then determine where to spend their time, talent and treasure. We believe that Buckeyes are always finding ways to give back to the communities they care about. There are many ways that students can get involved, from learning about philanthropy in the First Year Success Series, attending a Philanthropy Speakers Series event, engaging in Day of Giving or Student Philanthropy Week. Certainly, one of the most exciting ways our students get involved in student philanthropy is through BuckeyeThon.

A program of the Office of Student Life, BuckeyeThon is the largest student-run philanthropy in the state of Ohio. The program raises funds and awareness for the Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Nationwide Children's Hospital with the ultimate goal of ending pediatric cancer. Founded in 1999 by Ohio State alumna Rosa Ailabouni, BuckeyeThon has raised more than \$13 million and engages thousands of students annually, fostering a spirit of philanthropy and uniting the Ohio State community to make a difference. This past year, BuckeyeThon raised \$660,787. Research on BuckeyeThon's Dance Marathon, an annual celebration of their fundraising, highlights its impact on student participants: 90% of participants reported that involvement allowed them to gain a new perspective on the importance of serving others. BuckeyeThon exemplifies student philanthropy in action.



## Student learning goals

During summer 2022, Student Life charged a group of staff, faculty and students to create a common set of learning goals that guide our work toward our collective purpose of fostering student learning and development. The goal is to provide a roadmap for staff to create, develop and scaffold intentional pathways that result in student learning. The goals are aligned with Student Life’s strategic plan and the university’s General Education program. Since their development, staff in all departments have attended educational sessions about the learning goals and additional workshops have been offered around implementing and assessing the learning goals. The four learning goals of the Office of Student Life are:

### Embrace Self-Discovery

Self-discovery leads to personal development as students explore, identify and encounter new experiences and environments along their college student journey. Embracing self-discovery centers students’ lived experiences and supports their growth to meet their full potential.

### Cultivate Community

Students will develop an understanding of and lead through allyship, advocacy and action within and across communities to cultivate community. This supports the Student Life belief that community members who are grounded in appreciation, connection, support and care enable a sense of belonging and a community where all can thrive.

### Foster Health and Well-being

Students will build health and well-being into their everyday lives, at both an individual and community level, as a means of advancing toward a thriving and equitable community. Students will develop a growth mindset around their capacity and confidence to pursue academic, personal and professional goals.

### Think Critically

Students will creatively engage in critical reflection that evaluates information within multiple contexts to inform decisions, solve problems and innovate for the future. Think Critically particularly connects to Ohio State’s General Education Goals around Modes of Inquiry and Intellectual and Cognitive Skills.

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## Staff mentoring program

Student Life completed year one of our new Staff Mentoring Program, through which more than 100 staff members participated as either mentees or mentors. The goal of the staff mentoring program is to provide professional development opportunities for staff via a formal, structured support system and to enhance team retention, engagement and satisfaction. Staff are matched with a mentor based on their interests and encouraged to meet monthly throughout the year to discuss topics like skill building, career growth and how to gain valuable professional experiences.



# Anitvir Taunque

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## Featured engagement

Buckeye Leadership Fellow (BLF)

## Major

Biomedical science, pre-medicine

## Rank

Third-year student

## Campus

Columbus

“I initially joined Buckeye Leadership Fellows to explore my interests outside of medicine. Getting to work with community partners through the pitch competition and solve problems with a team showed me that by pursuing the right opportunities, you can combine your passions to culminate in something bigger. I’m starting to think about how I can grow my impact by blending my interests in medicine and business, such as through hospital administration or health policy.

BLF has strengthened my resiliency. Though being a team lead for the pitch

competition was initially overwhelming, it allowed me to gain new perspectives, rely on an amazing team and taught me to be responsible for my own growth. BLF encouraged me to think through problems differently and has changed the approach I take to everything I’m doing.

BLF also gave me the opportunity to get to know students with different backgrounds and from other majors. Everyone has a different style of leadership, and I feel so inspired by the other Fellows and BLF staff. Having people genuinely invested in my growth has made all the difference.”



# Thrive



## Strategic Goal

Promote a holistic culture of health and well-being to empower students and staff to thrive

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## Highlights

### Off-Campus Housing Network

Access to cleaner, safer housing is critically important for our students who are living off-campus, which is why the Willie J. Young, Sr. Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement department launched the Off-Campus Housing Network. The program connects students to a network of property owners committed to a set of standards for cleaner, safer housing. The goal is that students can make more informed decisions about their housing. The network is a collaboration between the Office of Student Life, Student Legal Services, property owners and several City of Columbus departments, including police, fire, public safety and code enforcement.

The network establishes criteria that off-campus property owners commit to meeting, such as meeting the City of Columbus housing code, providing and maintaining exterior lighting at the rear and front of all properties and providing carbon monoxide detectors. In-network property owners receive exclusive benefits such as inclusion in the university's housing search, invitation to in-network meetings and events, and access to information and marketing opportunities. During the 2022-23 academic year, more than 10,000 properties participated in the Off-Campus Housing Network, and 695 partners attended ten community roundtable sessions, where Student Life shared information and facilitated dialogue.



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## Digital Wellness

For many years, the Office of Student Life has utilized a dimensions of wellness model that recognizes a multi-faceted, intersecting approach to wellness based on nine key dimensions: career, creative, emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, physical, social and spiritual. As technology is a necessary part of our daily lives, with more individuals working, learning and socializing in a digital space, the Student Life Student Wellness Center recognized the need to add a tenth dimension of wellness to our model: digital wellness.

Digital wellness considers the impact of virtual presence and the use of technology on a person's overall well-being by taking

steps to create sustainable habits that support values, goals, community and safety. The Student Wellness Center provides many resources and ways for students to explore their digital wellness, such as peer-to-peer wellness coaching, workshops and presentations provided by Wellness Ambassadors, many on-demand resources around cybersecurity and the Wellness Assessment, an interactive assessment of students' overall wellness. For example, data from the 2022-23 Wellness Assessment found that only 3 in 10 students report they have strategies for limiting their screen time each week. Moving forward, Student Life will continue to assess and provide resources to support digital wellness.

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## Wellness Education Efforts: Alcohol, Drugs, Anti-Hazing and Sports Betting

Students engaging in risky behaviors, including the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, problematic gambling and hazing behaviors, can challenge the health and safety of themselves and of the campus community. Student Life has multiple efforts to educate students about risky behaviors using a health promotion model that focuses on prevention and recovery. In the past year, Student Life made significant strides in our health promotion efforts around risky behaviors, including:

### ANTI-HAZING POLICY AND EDUCATION:

Student Life led the creation of the university's Anti-Hazing policy, making it clear that the university has zero tolerance for hazing in any form. To support these

efforts, Student Life launched the Collin's Law Anti-Hazing educational module that educates the university community on how to define and report hazing. During the 2022-23 academic year, more than 22,000 students, faculty and staff completed the educational session.

### ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG EDUCATION:

During the 2022-23 academic year, Student Life implemented educational modules for all incoming first-year and transfer undergraduate students to educate them on wellness related to alcohol use, prescription drug misuse and mental well-being. The goal is to equip incoming students with the knowledge and resources they will need to make well-informed decisions about their well-being throughout their time at Ohio State.



In addition to educational modules, Student Life reviewed and revised the university's response to a student's first-time report for an alleged alcohol violation. Student Conduct collaborated with the Student Wellness Center and Housing and Residence Education to develop a pathway to defer charges for students who complete CHOICES, an evidence-based educational experience. CHOICES is a group experience facilitated by student coaches that examines how alcohol and other substance use impacts the various dimensions of a student's well-being. CHOICES is provided to students at no cost. More than 150 students completed the program in its first year, gaining knowledge and skills to make healthier choices while avoiding a disciplinary outcome on their conduct record.

### **SPORTS BETTING:**

This past year, sports betting became legal in the state of Ohio. Taking a proactive, education-based approach, Student Life launched a website and series of educational sessions around sports betting and signs of problematic gambling so students were prepared to understand the law and how to bet safely. The Student Wellness Center's educational session titled "All In, Understanding College Sports Betting" is offered as an option through the university's First Year Experience Success Series and student groups can request this session. Student Life also launched an awareness campaign about sports betting that provides links to educational resources and support.





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## Employee Wellness Program

Student Life's strategic goal to promote health and well-being aims to empower both students and staff to thrive. For staff to provide the best care and support to students, they must also take care of themselves and feel supported. To promote our staff's health and well-being, Student Life created the Employee Wellness Program. The Employee Wellness Program seeks to connect staff with the plethora of resources Ohio State offers and create tailored opportunities for staff to invest in their own wellness.

Some examples of our wellness efforts in the past year include holding Scarlet and Great Gatherings for all staff that focus on self-care and service to the community. Student Life has also promoted and offered support for staff who want to utilize the university wellness programs like the Lifestyle Spending Account, webinars on health and wellness and the Bushel and a Peck program, providing fresh produce to staff. Student Life also coordinates biometric screenings specifically for Student Life staff in the places they work.

# Bobby A. McAlpine

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## Featured engagement

President, Undergraduate  
Student Government

## Majors

City and Regional Planning;  
Political Science

## Rank

Fourth-year student

## Campus

Columbus

“I was elected President of the Undergraduate Student Government, elected to serve over 50,000 students across The Ohio State University. But when I started college, I had a lot of fear coming into a large institution like Ohio State. As a senior, I can say that Ohio State surpassed my expectations of a campus community. My first year was one of the hardest of my life. I lost both my grandmother and a best friend, all while managing chronic illness and the stresses of being a student. It was hard, but the Ohio State family kept me afloat. After I lost my friend, Dean

Danny Glassmann and Dr. Shivers were the first and second calls to check in on me. My friends in Undergraduate Student Government and the Morrill Scholarship Community stepped up their support for everything from meals to a shoulder to cry on. That is the power of being a Buckeye – to be a member of the Ohio State family and have the support of students, staff and faculty who all want to see you succeed. As a senior, I now have the confidence to stand on my story and encourage other Buckeyes to lean on others, ask for help, and dream BIG!”

# Operational Excellence



## Strategic Goal

Advance operational excellence initiatives to ensure Student Life continues to leverage our administrative structure to be a strong and successful organization

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## Highlights

### Facilities Master Plan

The Ohio State University is built on a rich tradition of being a residential campus. As Student Life looks toward the future, we embarked on a master planning effort, in alignment with the university's Framework 3.0, that established a short and long-term plan to improve efficiencies and meet the needs of current and future students. The process gathered feedback from a variety of campus stakeholders and students, as well as looked at local and national trends and projections of housing,

facilities and student needs. The resulting plan will prioritize a strategy that sustains an ecosystem core to our mission: focusing on the first- and second-year residential experience, providing affordable options and supporting students holistically.

In the coming years as we work toward implementing the Student Life facilities master plan, we will continue to center student needs and fiscal responsibility to continue the iconic residential experience for generations of Ohio State students to come.



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## Dining Services Partners with Local Food Trucks

Student Life Dining Services continually innovates to provide students with a variety of nutritious options. From traditional sit-down dining options and grab-and-go to a robot delivering your favorite chicken tenders from Mirror Lake Eatery, Dining Services is always looking for new ways to meet students' needs. This year, Dining Services expanded offerings on campus through unique partnerships with local, private food trucks. Now, students can use their meal plans on local food trucks, providing them with an even wider range of culinary options without having to leave campus.

These mobile vendors specialize in specific cuisines that complement the robust offerings provided by Dining Services. Food trucks can also extend dining options to different areas of campus, reach a broader customer base and cater to individuals who may not have easy access to traditional eateries. This partnership also enhances our relationship with local businesses in the City of Columbus. This upcoming year, Dining Services plans on partnering with eight local food trucks that offer more than 100 menu items.

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## Staffing to Strategy

As part of Student Life's strategic framework, Student Life implemented the Staffing to Strategy process. All new, changing or vacant positions in Student Life undergo a review process to ensure hiring is aligned with Student Life's priorities or essential operations. This process considers potential operational efficiencies, span of control and appropriate classification of positions

according to Ohio State's Career Roadmap. Decisions on each position are reviewed by relevant staff, including Human Resources and Financial Management and final approvals are granted by the Senior Vice President for Student Life. This process provides structure for thoughtful review and reflection of all positions within Student Life, using a data-informed approach to position review and hiring.



# Julie Haas

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## Featured engagement

Alumna and former student employee in Buckeye Careers

## Current Role

Marketing Director,  
Hertvik Insurance Group

## Major

Strategic Communication, class of 2015

## Campuses

Mansfield, Columbus

“As a full-time student, working on-campus jobs provided me with the flexibility to remain on campus and work each semester around my academic schedule. These jobs helped demonstrate my ability to balance both work and academics all while gaining valuable experience for successful future employment. I learned how to take instruction, effectively communicate with my employer, connect with co-workers, address students, make decisions and multitask. In particular, being a Resident Advisor [on the Mansfield campus] gave me the opportunity to visit Columbus, so I already had a network built up when I changed to the Columbus campus.

I started working at Buckeye Careers my senior year as a Marketing and Events Student Assistant to hone my marketing skillset. My employment there was not just an average one. I felt like a part of the department and that I was a full collaborator. I ran the Twitter account for Buckeye Careers and increased our followers from 134 to over 3,100 in 11 months. I also got valuable experience developing media kits, writing for different audiences, and maintaining websites and databases. I apply the skills I learned in Buckeye Careers, from graphic design to writing press releases, in my current work as a marketing director for a Northeast Ohio insurance company.”

# Lexi Simon

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## Featured engagement

Student Assistant,  
Parent and Family Relations

## Major

Sport Industry with a minor in Hebrew

## Rank

Third-year student

## Campus

Columbus

“I started as a Student Assistant in Parent and Family Relations in the spring of my first-year at Ohio State after meeting the director, Beth Ullum, at Parent and Family Weekend. After learning about what the office did, I told Beth I would love to get involved. I bleed Scarlet and Gray and wanted to be able to share my knowledge about the university with others. As part of my role, I plan events for the office that engage students and parents such as the Buckeye Football and Family Tailgate, and I respond to emails and phone calls from parents and families who have questions about their student’s Buckeye experience. I love that I am able to help get parents

and families connected with the right resources on campus. Working here has helped me understand how everything is intertwined at the university to make a great student experience.

My career goal is to work in operations for a university athletics department or sports entity. The skills I am learning in Parent and Family Relations are skills that I will be able to use in any job: event planning, reporting, scheduling and communications. I have also learned how to work collaboratively and meet deadlines. I am so thankful to be a part of the Parent and Family Relations team and do so much for Ohio State.”





**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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