

PRESS RELEASE

CELESTE MILLER NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Celeste E. Miller of New Franklin, Ohio, has been named a 2023 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES and honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus,” said Ann Christy, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs. “The 25 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Miller, a food science and technology major in the Department of Food Science and Technology (FST), was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

According to her FST nominator, a recent diagnosis of type one diabetes solidified Miller’s decision to pursue a career centering around food science, nutrition, and research and development. “She greatly enjoys learning, especially when the subject involves food and health,” they wrote. “Celeste is in the honors program and, although not required of FST majors, she selected a minor in human nutrition.”

The Summit County resident identified her most valuable learning experience as working closely with faculty and graduate students on research projects in a departmental lab. “By interning on campus as a research assistant, I was able to learn and better my research techniques related to microbiology, cellular biology, instrumental analysis, and much more,” she said. “I learned many laboratory skills and techniques, as well as how to write proposals and present my research.”

In addition to finding a passion for research, Miller is also active in several student organizations. She joined Know Food Waste, a student organization within FST focused on providing the community with ‘know-how’ for reducing and re-purposing food waste. She is also the president of the Citation Needed club which focuses on effectively communicating about science, food, and agriculture.

As president, of Citation Needed she represents the club and department at special events, such as the Hall of Distinction Ceremony by greeting guests, announcing awardees, and networking with alumni. She is also called on to speak to the FDSCTE1100 class encouraging club involvement and also presents information during orientation to graduate and undergraduate students.

Her greatest sense of accomplishment came from “working on, completing, and presenting my own research project that we are working on a patent for.” Another perk of being in food science and technology was that

Miller was often able to make and taste food during course lab sessions.

She helped to develop and test 10 ice cream flavors to be made in the dairy processing pilot plant in the Food Science and Technology Building. Two flavors, Maudine's Berry Patch and Sloopy Scarlet Smash, were even selected by Ohio State President Kristina Johnson to be offered at her investiture ceremony.

Miller also joined FoodS.U.R.E., which provides funding and engages undergraduate students of all ranks in research in FST. Working in professor Rafael Jimenez-Flores' lab, she focused on components of milk and milk additives to better understand how they impact health. She was able to assist with multiple graduate student projects and even create two of her own research proposals, apply for project funding, and present her research at poster competitions.

After graduation, Miller plans to attend graduate school and continue working in research in either food science or nutrition science.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Wednesday, March 22, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 25 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA.

"Honoring the 25 recipients for their excellence will be a highlight for us this spring. These students have excelled and most certainly will continue to thrive in their future careers," said Christy.

In autumn 2022, there were 2,248 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing bachelor of science degrees in 22 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Celeste E. Miller

NEW FRANKLIN, OH

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Photo available by sending a request to flood.13@osu.edu

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2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD