

## PRESS RELEASE

# DANTE SPIEKER NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Dante W. Spieker of Cgynet, 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.”

Spieker is a construction systems management major in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE). He was nominated by faculty and staff who felt that he personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The Wood County resident spent a year in mechanical engineering before realizing that he was lacking passion for the major and began looking for one that truly felt like home. Spieker found that in CFAES and construction systems management (CSM) with appearances on the Dean’s List each semester.

His most rewarding experience was becoming president of the CSM Club and a teaching assistant for lecturer Jeff Suchy. “Both experiences forced me out of my comfort zone into socializing with others and being more of a role model,” Spieker said.

His performance and maturity were signaled out by Suchy, who received assistance from the senior in several classes. “I am continually impressed by Dante. He has demonstrated tremendous growth and achievement both inside and outside of the classroom,” the lecturer said. “He has proven to be a mentor and leader for other students in the CSM program and is always willing to go the extra mile to assist others.”

Two ways that he has assisted others is through participation in Buck-I-SERV and R-LEAD. Buck-I-Serv is an alternative break program with direct community service opportunities to help others. R-LEAD is a leadership-based early engagement program that provides a head-start for emerging leaders.

“Before becoming an officer for the CSM Club, these experiences were truly my first chance in college to explore my abilities as a leader and as a part of a team,” said Spieker. “I learn the most from practical experience, and these organizations provided me with that and a feeling of community within Ohio State. I had the chance to lead a team and be a mentor to others.”

While only one internship is required, Spieker completed two in Columbus, Ohio—one with Construction One, a commercial construction company and general contractor, and another with Whiting-Turner, a nationally

recognized construction management company.

“With Whiting-Turner, I worked on Ohio State’s new Energy Advancement and Innovation Center in Carmenton, the new innovation district on west campus,” Spieker said. “I gained a better understanding of the construction industry, had a great experience with the leadership in the Columbus office, and it’s a company that I’m looking forward to working with for years to come.”

After graduation, Spieker will work full-time for Whiting-Turner in Columbus, Ohio. With 50 locations nationwide,

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](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA).

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](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## Dante W. Spieker

CYGNET, OH

CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND  
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

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#### 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

#### Academic Programs

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