

## PRESS RELEASE

# DEVIN W. HEADRICK NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Devin W. Headrick of North Ridgeville, Ohio, has been named a 2024 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 23 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Headrick is an environmental science major in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR). He was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The Lorain County resident completed a summer internship with Marathon Petroleum in Findlay, Ohio, as a sustainable landscapes program intern. “I significantly improved my plant ID skills and practiced drafting official documents with government agencies,” he said.

The first-generation college student recalled several unique experiences including his first conference experience at the Wildlife Habitat Council Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, and working with the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, D.C. “I was able to see how guidelines and policies are established and how laws are lobbied for,” he said.

He took his first trip west of the Mississippi with stops in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado, and also conducted over 100 field assessments across Ohio and Indiana. “I was able to see how plant communities vary in different landscapes, engage with landowners, and learn species ID and traits the old-fashioned way—by getting out there and seeing them,” he said.

His extracurricular activities included leadership positions in the Sierra Club and coordinating campus Earth Day activities, service in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University bible study, and membership in the Society for Ecological Restoration. He also served as a resident advisor/representative on the Barrett Nosker Jones Community Council.

According to Steve Matthews, SENR associate professor of wildlife landscape ecology, Headrick also joined a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service research collaboration. “He explored American elm phenology, a critical aspect of the larger USDA research program developing Dutch elm disease-resistant American elms for forest restoration. He was an important team member, interacting with the public at field sites across central Ohio and at the Forest Service extensive tree plantation in Delaware, Ohio, while collecting data in often challenging field conditions.”

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2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Academic Programs

100 Agricultural Administration  
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Headrick also credits mentor, Bart Elmore, environmental historian and Ohio State Sierra Club advisor, with having a large impact. “Bart encouraged curiosity in both academics and activism, and showed me that everyone has the power to evoke the change they want, so long as they have the passion and grit to pursue it,” he said.

Headrick will graduate in three years, was on the dean’s list each semester, and has a 3.98 cumulative GPA. After graduation, Headrick will enter the workforce and pursue a career in ecosystem restoration.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Thursday, April 4, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 23 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at [go.osu.edu/CFAES2024DSA](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2024DSA).

“Honoring the award 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 2023, there were 2,224 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in 21 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at [go.osu.edu/B4V2](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## Devin W. Headrick

NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OH

Environmental Science - Ecosystem Restoration

School of Environment and Natural Resources

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

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