

## PRESS RELEASE

# ZACHARY D. JOHNSON NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Zachary D. Johnson of New Albany, 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.”

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

The Franklin County resident, who was on the dean’s list each semester, completed a summer internship with Kwest Group LLC, a civil construction and environmental services company. He worked as a project manager intern at its regional office in Dublin, Ohio. “I performed work estimating and coordinating. This included me performing takeoffs to get quantities of material in a project, calling vendors for product pricing, and creating bid packages.”

Kwest also provided Johnson the opportunity to go to multiple jobsites in and out of Ohio. These ranged from simple prebids and site walk-throughs, to watching and participating in the construction process. “I was involved in an AEP substation rail reinforcement in Findlay, Ohio, where I was able to oversee different stages of the project and gain hands-on experience pouring and finishing concrete with a crew,” he said.

Johnson credits mentor and FABE lecturer Phil Sutton as being most influential to him. He said, “Construction systems management is full of amazing lecturers, but Mr. Sutton has been a great resource to help me understand the industry and develop my skills. He has also given me amazing advice, and I know I can always reach out to him for assistance even after I graduate.”

ROTC has been one of Johnson’s most significant extra-curricular activities and has provided him with a variety of leadership and learning opportunities. “The program is heavily focused on developing the leadership skills you will need as an Air Force officer,” he said. “Currently, I am a squadron commander over 34 cadets who are preparing for field training this summer.”

Upon graduating, Johnson will commission into the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant. “I will enter active duty where I will start the multiyear journey of earning my wings and becoming a pilot. My goal is to be selected as an F-22 Raptor fighter pilot,” he said. “During my 10-year commitment in the Air Force, my career could go in many directions, and I am incredibly excited to see where it will take me. Upon leaving the Air Force, I am hoping to return to the construction industry.”

2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Academic Programs

100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6891 | [students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu](http://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu)

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).



## Zachary D. Johnson

NEW ALBANY, 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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