

## PRESS RELEASE

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# SNYDER NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Hailey Snyder of Boardman, Ohio, has been named a 2020 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, recognizing the top graduating seniors from each of the academic units on the Columbus campus,” said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs.

Snyder, an animal sciences major from Mahoning County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

“One of the hallmarks of our college is an emphasis on student success, and it is heartwarming to see it exemplified through the accomplishments of our students,” Neal said. “Recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond.”

Among her accomplishments, Snyder was a volunteer trainer with 4 Paws For Ability, an organization that trains and places service dogs with children and veterans with disabilities. She said her work was highlighted by fostering and training a service dog named Hooper, and then seeing the dog placed with a young autistic boy in Texas. She called the experience the most rewarding of her undergraduate career.

Snyder also was a student research assistant and student worker in Ohio State’s equine endocrinology laboratory, was president of the Animal Science Community Alliance, was a competitive member of the Hunt Seat Equestrian team, and participated in the Second-Year Transformational Experience Program.

She has been a volunteer with the Licking County Trap-Neuter-Return feral cat program, a testing technician for the United States Equestrian Federation and, in what she describes as her greatest accomplishment, has been accepted as a student in Ohio State’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

“There were several points where I doubted my abilities,” Snyder said. “In spite of any doubt, I persevered and continued to work towards my passions. When the challenges and obstacles seemed insurmountable, I was determined to work that much harder.”

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**2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD**

She said getting accepted into Ohio State’s veterinary college showed her that “knowledge, experience, and determination can make any goal achievable.”

Her nominator, Mariette Benage, CFAES student success coordinator, said Snyder is “a dedicated leader that truly cares about giving back.”

Benage praised Snyder’s “service heart” and her “desire to truly make a difference, whether that’s implementing an event to create or enhance community or having coffee with someone that simply needs an ear.”

Snyder is a “refreshingly mature, humble person that has an ability to communicate with a level of diplomacy that you often don’t see,” Benage said.

An awards dinner to recognize all 25 CFAES Distinguished Seniors has been canceled due to COVID-19.

“The safety of our community is our top priority,” Neal said. “We are deeply sorry the planned celebration will not occur. The commitment and dedication of these students to their undergraduate education will still be recognized with a special award package that will be mailed later this semester.”

In autumn 2019, there were 2,486 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 31 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs online by visiting <https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>.



## HAILEY A. SNYDER

BOARDMAN, OH

ANIMAL SCIENCES – ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

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

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