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## PRESS RELEASE

# OHIO STATE CFAES NAMES ITS TOP 25 SENIORS

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Twenty-five seniors have received the most prestigious undergraduate award at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

The Distinguished Senior Award honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus who exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.

“The 2021 recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond,” said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs.

Listed below are the Distinguished Seniors, including their academic units, majors, and hometowns.

### **Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership**

Melanie Fuhrmann, Community Leadership, Wheelersburg, Ohio

Courtney Heiser, Agricultural Communication, Attica, Ohio

Olivia Pflaumer, Agriscience Education, Chillicothe, Ohio

Milan Pozderac, Agriscience Education, Fredericktown, Ohio

### **Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics**

Zeke Miller, Agribusiness and Applied Economics, Oceanside, California

Todd Peterson, Agribusiness and Applied Economics, Washington Court House, Ohio

### **Department of Animal Sciences**

Annika Diaz, Animal Sciences, Upland, California

Brietta Latham, Animal Sciences, Thurmont, Maryland

Allison Rapp, Animal Sciences, Xenia, Ohio

Laura Tavera Montañez, Animal Sciences, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Cameron White, Animal Sciences, Washington, Pennsylvania

### **Department of Entomology**

Vashti Tatman, Entomology, Columbus, Ohio

### **Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering**

Chris Baird, Agricultural Systems Management, Springfield, Ohio

Rachel Leitson, Construction Systems Management, Pepper Pike, Ohio

Jacob Lesch, Agricultural Systems Management, Fredonia, New York

Clare Sollars, Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Washington Court House, Ohio

### **Department of Food Science and Technology**

Philip Eberly, Food Science and Technology, Wooster, Ohio

Jacqui Fox, Food Science and Technology, Centerville, Ohio

Natalia Jaspeado Becerra, Food Science and Technology, Mexico City, Mexico

### **Department of Horticulture and Crop Science**

Rachael Cline, Sustainable Plant Systems, Toronto, Ohio

Jason Hollick, Sustainable Plant Systems, Dublin, Ohio

## School of Environment and Natural Resources

Tara Allen, Environmental Science, Mason, Ohio

Brian Bush, Environmental Science, Worthington, Ohio

Melina Mallory, Environmental Science, Playa Del Rey, California

Jayson Velazquez, Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability, Paterson, New Jersey

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's recognition of the CFAES Distinguished Seniors will occur on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, via a YouTube Premiere video beginning at 7 p.m. on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel. Vice President for Agricultural Administration and CFAES Dean Cathann A. Kress will recognize award recipients during this special event.

"Unfortunately, we will be unable to gather in person, but the safety of our community is our top priority," Neal said. "However, this honor and these 25 students remain an important focus of our college. Their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as an undergraduate student will still be recognized via social media, professional networking platforms, and the YouTube Premiere video. We invite everyone to view the video on April 7."

In autumn 2020, there were 2,457 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 32 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at [go.osu.edu/B4V2](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### 2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

#### Academic Programs

100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

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