## COMMUNITY AND DONOR 2020 IMPACT REPORT







#### **Letter from the Dean**

Last fall I was invited to submit an essay for a book, *Fulfilling the 21st Century Land-Grant Mission*, as part of the sesquicentennial celebration of The Ohio State University. This essay, "Reinventing the Regional Campus," discusses the challenges facing higher education in general and regional campuses in particular. Higher education has been refashioning itself to meet the increased demands for a workforce skilled in complex problem solving for an everchanging technological workplace. Our region and state rely on higher education to help create this vital workforce, and my message was that we must expand the pipeline by increasing the diversity of college students in terms of income, age, race and ethnicity.

Then the current public health crisis erupted, posing daunting challenges to our students. In phenomenal Buckeye fashion, we mobilized. Faculty pivoted 180 degrees to online instruction and assessment. Our staff marshaled themselves in outreach initiatives to ensure students kept learning. I am incredibly proud of our students for successfully meeting the challenges of that unprecedented spring semester. In May, we celebrated over 60 graduates who completed their degrees entirely at the Mansfield campus. In August, more continuing students chose to return to our campus than the previous year despite the uncertainties of the pandemic.

As I write this letter to you, the campus fall enrollment and student success numbers stand strong. While we are down in overall enrollment by 6.1 percent this year, we fared better than many of our peers. In keeping with the vision I outlined in "Reinventing the Regional Campus," our retention rates this fall rose for first generation and lower-income students, and the racial and ethnic diversity of the Mansfield campus student body reached an all-time high. Despite the pandemic, we also continue to update our curriculum to meet tomorrow's workforce needs, most recently by successfully launching a new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology degree this fall with our first cohort of 18 students.

For this we are indeed grateful to be #TogetherAsBuckeyes,

Norman Waters Jones, PhD Dean and Director

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## Response

#### Student Emergency Aid Fund: A critical step to keep learning

Early on in the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, a first-year Mansfield student relying on a job to help pay for college was uncertain if he could continue to work. He was fortunate to be an essential employee, but his car was in desperate need of repair.

This is when he received assistance from The Ohio State University at Mansfield Student Emergency Aid Fund. The Fund helps students facing financial burdens throughout the school year, and an increasing number of students are applying for the funds during these challenging times.

"This is going to let me continue to earn my livelihood," the student shared when he received the funding. "Now I can get my car fixed and return to being an employee. Helping me to fix my car is a huge deal to me."

An anonymous donor created the Student Emergency Aid Fund in 2015 to help students afford academic experiences like study abroad and conferences. As it became clear that students had a broader set of needs, staff members worked with the donor to adjust the fund's focus.

"Over time, the emergency fund on campus has broadened to include all the needs of students that might impact their ability to be here, be present and get their education," said Donna Hight, PhD, assistant dean, student success.

## Communications student launches E-Mansfield website to keep downtown businesses connected

Braxton Daniels, a communications major at The Ohio State University Mansfield, found a productive way to help Mansfield residents and classmates stay connected to downtown businesses. He is part of a team that created the website E-Mansfield.com.

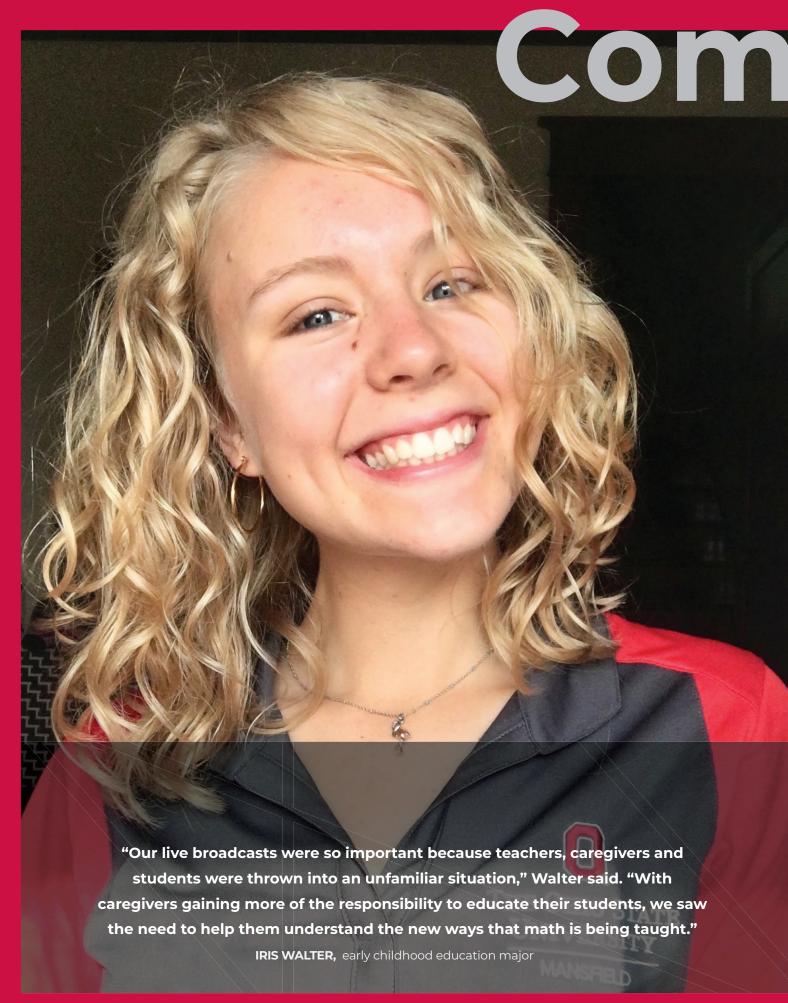
"During COVID-19 and the 'Stay at Home' order, we lost a lot of resources," Daniels said. "The E-Mansfield website informs the community about what is available."

Daniels used the skills he has learned as a communications major to help build the website in a few days. E-Mansfield.com provides information for residents seeking a carry-out meal or other services. The website features downtown businesses, restaurants,

retail stores and nonprofit organizations. He hopes students and community members will take advantage of the site and explore the businesses in and around Mansfield.

A social media ambassador for the Mansfield campus, Daniels wants to do his part to help keep students connected as virtual learning continues. He offered some tips to students adapting to taking virtual courses.

"My advice to students learning online is to continue reading your emails. I have been reaching out to my professors, classmates and tutors at the Conard Learning Center to stay connected," Daniels shared.



## munity

#### **Keep Teaching:**

#### Education students helping parents at home

Many parents found themselves teaching math to their children at home with schools closed in March. That meant trying to remember those math equations from years past. Early and middle childhood education students Iris Walter, Bruce Dewey and Lacey Luikart teamed up with faculty member Terri Bucci, PhD, to broadcast math lessons and questions on social media using Facebook Live.

The project is part of the Math Literacy Initiative (MLI) led by Bucci. MLI transforms the way K-12 math is taught by using a five-step process that focuses on instructional strategies, content knowledge and classroom culture.

"Our live broadcasts were so important because teachers, caregivers and students were thrown into an unfamiliar situation," Walter said. "With caregivers gaining more of the responsibility to educate their students, we saw the need to help them understand the new ways that math is being taught."

The three students and Bucci wanted to find a way to help caregivers who are teaching their children at home and who may not be comfortable or familiar with the way math is now



being taught. Research was done by the group to better understand how to serve those in need. "We are constantly posting on Facebook and Instagram asking for input and feedback," Walter said. "We also asked local school districts what topics would be most relevant for them."

Dewey advised, "Reach out if you need assistance and just take it one day at a time." Walter agreed and offered this advice. "Take a deep breath and remember we are all in this together!" she said.



TERRI BUCCI, PhD



**LACEY LUIKART** 



**BRUCE DEWEY** 



### Campus and community leaders celebrate a new way to welcome visitors

The Ohio State University at Mansfield and North Central State College leaders gathered on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, to formally celebrate the installation of the campus' joint signage, a part of the multi-phase Mansfield Campus District project. The public-private project included construction of student housing, relocating the campus main entrance road closer to the business district along Lexington-Springmill Road and additional walking pathways.

Along with Dean and Director of Ohio State Mansfield Norman Jones and President of North Central State College Dorey Diab, guest speakers at the ribbon cutting event hosted by the Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development included Chamber President and CEO Jodie Perry, Ontario Mayor Randy Hutchinson and Richland County Commissioners Tony Vero and Darrell Banks.

"I'm thrilled to be out here today to officially open this entrance as a new front door to our campus," said Dean Jones. "It brings us closer to the local business district and allows us to be a stronger partner in the economic development of the area."

The event was arranged to recognize this final stage in completing the new entrance, honor the local officials and area businesses that helped throughout the project, and also kick off the fall 2020 semester as both Ohio State Mansfield and North Central State College were preparing to welcome students back to campus.

## Committed to Autumn 2020 enrollment hits high

### Autumn 2020 enrollment hits high marks in racial and ethnic diversity

The racial and ethnic diversity of enrolled students at Ohio State Mansfield is at an all-time high, with 22 percent of students self-identifying as students of color. The enrollment of Latinx students increased to 52 students, representing 5.1 percent of the student body. Enrollment of students of Asian descent increased by 2.2 percent while African American students rose to 108, an increase of 17.5 percent from autumn 2019. Additionally, students who identify as "two or more races" represent 4.2 percent of the total student body.

As of September 2020, the official autumn 2020 enrollment numbers showed an overall decline of 66 students or 6.1 percent from last fall. The full-time equivalent total is down 6.5 percent from last fall (this total accounts for the mix of part-time and full-time students). With limited ability to predict enrollment due to the impact of the pandemic, the campus made preparations for declines as high as 10-15 percent but ended up faring better than many other college campuses.

The state's budget outlook — and therefore the state share of instruction for public higher education — is still unknown. As a result, the

campus is taking a cautious approach in terms of budget outlook for the current academic year.

Dean Jones credits the relatively strong enrollment numbers to the retention and student success team and their partnership with faculty. "Despite the disruption and sudden change to virtual teaching mid-way through spring semester, the Mansfield campus faculty and staff went the extra mile to help our students be successful," Jones said. "These are numbers to be proud of even while we aim to keep increasing them in the future."

The retention rate for new first-year students who started in autumn 2019 and were still at Ohio State in autumn 2020 was 70.5 percent, same as the previous year. Retention among PELL students and first generation students saw significant increases. PELL students were retained at a rate of 66.5 percent, an increase of 3.9 points from last year, while first generation student retention was 71.9 percent, an annual increase of 3.3 points. PELL and first generation students consistently make up more than 40 percent of the new first-year students each year.

## 44.4% 17.5% 70.5% 71.9%

Increased enrollment of Latinx students

Increased enrollment of African American students First-year retention rate is one of the highest in the state for open-access college campuses

Pell student retention, an increase of 3.9% over last year Retention of first generation college students, an increase of 3.3% over last year

## A safe and



### Research from The Ohio State University at Mansfield will help make water safer for Ohioans

How safe the water some Ohioans drink or swim in may depend in the future, at least in part, on some unusual objects floating on the Grant and Mary Milliron Research Wetlands of The Ohio State University at Mansfield.

The quiet setting behind Riedl Hall is where graduate student Zhaozhe Chen conducts the key research he needs as he works to add a master's degree in earth science to his master's in biochemistry. As Chen has learned, fundamental elements of research include the ability to be flexible and to expect unexpected things, and sometimes the unexpected happens before you even get started.

When concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Columbus resident to rethink his original plan to use Mirror Lake and Chadwick Arboretum on the Ohio State Columbus campus, Chen was grateful that Norman Jones, dean and director of Ohio State Mansfield, approved his use of campus wetlands. The availability of the Milliron Research Wetlands at Ohio State Mansfield during the summer

growing season became paramount for Chen's research.

"It was very important," said Ozeas S. Costa, Jr., associate professor of earth sciences and Chen's thesis advisor. "If the dean did not allow us to use the wetland there, Chen would have lost a year of research. It can only be conducted during the growing season (from about April to September)."

The experiment, which uses three cells that each contain six artificial floating islands (AFIs), assesses the nutrient removal efficiency of these floating structures. Chen's goal is to eventually implement the floating wetlands as a low-cost, environmentally friendly and effective remediation/prevention treatment for nutrient pollution in lakes, wetlands and streams in Ohio and elsewhere.

Nutrient pollution in bodies of water is one of the most widespread and costly environmental problems in the United States and worldwide.

In conjunction with this natural experiment on

## sustainable future

the wetlands, the researchers are running an outdoor experimental system containing small AFIs, in controlled conditions, to determine how much of the nutrient-removal is being done specifically by the artificial floating islands.

The research uses a concept that is about 40 years old. "Popular in Asia, it adapts to the conditions and species found in Ohio's wetlands," Costa said.

"Chen noticed that much of the work in the scientific literature is based on plants that are not common in North America," Costa said. "His idea was to modify the concepts, adapt them to plants that are native to Ohio and see if they do well."



Costa with class (left) and Chen's Artificial Floating Islands (above)



Zhaozhe Chen is working to complete research designed to reduce nutrient pollution



#### For Buckeye fans, Ohio State Mansfield has a sweet option

Buckeye fans can now pour official Ohio State Maple Syrup on their pancakes, with sap from the Mansfield campus. Students and faculty at the Mansfield campus and the School of Environment and Natural Resources planned, and are running, a nearly 20-acre sugarbush forest. A sugarbush is a maple tree used to produce maple syrup. The project is co-led by Gabriel Karns, PhD, and Kathy Smith.

"To my knowledge, the branded syrup is a first for Ohio State," said Smith, SENR forestry program director. Proceeds from selling the syrup will support student scholarships for the campus Ecolab, which includes the sugarbush forest.

Karns, who has shared accountabilities with Ohio State Mansfield and the School of Environment and Natural Resources, is trained as a wildlife ecologist. His primary focus is exploring economically viable landscape activities and value-added opportunities for conservation.

Students in one of the capstone courses Karns teaches initially conceived the concept of a sugarbush forest at the Mansfield campus, and share a primary role in the operation.

Available in half-gallon (\$50), quart (\$24), pint (\$16) and half-pint (\$12) sizes, purchase syrup by visiting woodlandsteward.osu.edu/maple.

## Enhanced learning



#### Science lab renovation underway

While many university and state construction projects were suspended because of the pandemic, the renovation of Ohio State Mansfield's Conard Sciences Laboratory commenced in May 2020. This project will allow students to take organic chemistry, a requirement of many science programs. The additional courses will enable Mansfield's campus to offer a full biology degree. Dawn Kitchen, PhD, associate dean, is energized by the expansion and its potential.

"The Conard Science Lab renovation is an important milestone," Kitchen said. "It increases the opportunities for students to access an affordable, world-class science education in north central Ohio."

State capital project dollars covered the costs of necessary renovations to the electrical and HVAC

systems — essential to supporting the massive chemical fume hoods required to protect students. Yet due to reductions in state capital funding, many facets of the project designed to enhance research and community study spaces were put on hold.

"We still need an adaptable laboratory space for research and community study spaces to truly enhance student learning," Kitchen explained. "With the incredible faculty-student ratio at the Mansfield campus, we would be selling our region short by not having adequate facilities for undergraduates to work alongside their professors on Ohio State research initiatives."

An additional \$500,000 is needed to fully complete the science lab complex remodel.

## ng environments

## What is that old pile of brush along the new campus entrance?

#### A site of historical significance in light wave technology

If you have driven onto campus, you may have noticed a dilapidated platform that is surrounded by orange caution fencing and weeds. This spot was a 1967 research and development project during the early days of distance-measuring light wave technology.

Because the Mansfield campus has the only one in existence in North America, preservation of this historic asset is vital.

The first geodetic standard baseline in North America, and one of only six in the entire world, resides at Ohio State Mansfield.

The baseline consists of six concrete pillars placed in a line at different intervals about five-and-one-half feet above the ground, and in pits nearly ten-foot deep.

The baseline was constructed in the autumns of 1965 and 1966 and was used to calibrate precision instruments and devices for surveying and mapping, including satellite mapping. Using complex calculations involving the speed of light allowed scientists to make more precise observations, such as satellite measurements, space travel, and the size and shape of the earth and moon.

"The Richland region has been the site of significant manufacturing and technology developments.

Developing this site as a destination, along with multi-use paths and the appropriate gateway commemoration signage, is part of the expanded vision to grow the campus."

- Cindy Wood, Director of Community Relations and Development



Ohio State Mansfield's geodetic standard baseline in 1967

Providing community access to the campus and this unique asset includes a number of smaller changes. Necessary enhancements include reconstruction of the wood deck around the concrete bases, adding a bike path rest stop, and acquisition and installation of an Ohio historical marker.

Over the coming years, additional renovations of campus woodlands will further increase community accessibility. Planned campus enhancements include multi-use paths — with an all-weather, asphalt-surfaced pedestrian and bike path — to link the campus core to student living complexes and the retail corridor of Richland County.

## The great

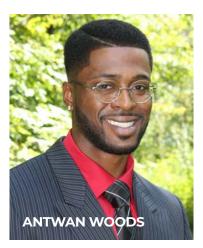
## Ohio State Mansfield students share the impact of scholarships on their college experiences

While students finance their college education in a number of ways, including part-time jobs, financial aid or loans, scholarships play a key role in ensuring access and affordability.



Linda Cho, a freshman biology student, has received scholarships from The Ohio State University Alumni Club of Richland County and the Ohio State Mansfield Scholarship Endowment Fund.

"By reducing the increasing financial burden of a college education, I was given more time to focus on my studies and a well-rounded college experience," Cho said. In addition to her studies, Cho was able to participate in the theatre program as a light board operator. This spring, she helped with the lighting for the American and English-language premiere of an Italian musical called Back to the Divine Comedy. "My favorite thing to do as a Buckeye is attending all the school events available. It is a very fun opportunity and a great experience for students," she explained.



Another thriving scholarship recipient is recent graduate Antwan Woods. Before completing his bachelor's degree in social work, Woods served as a student trustee on the Ohio State Mansfield Board of Trustees and was involved in the student veterans' group. Woods received the John S. Jordan scholarship, which was created to honor the legacy of its namesake, who served as the Public Works Director for the City of Mansfield and a member of the Ohio State Mansfield Board. The scholarship is for new or returning minority students and is also based on academic and leadership potential.

"I honestly thought I would never receive a scholarship, even though I had applied for them," Woods said. "I had been out of high school so long and was not required to take the SAT or ACT exam. Scholarships are often based on the scores. I am delighted to have been awarded this scholarship and recognized for my leadership abilities," he added.



Junior early childhood education major Hannah Beck describes Ohio State Mansfield as "the best-kept secret in Ohio," Beck enthusiastically said. "It has a small-town feel but offers a chance to earn an Ohio State degree. It can't get much better!"

Beck, who received a scholarship from the Ohio State Mansfield Scholarship Endowment Fund, hopes to teach in the Mansfield area after graduation. She values the lifelong relationships she has built during her time at Ohio State. "I have learned so much at Ohio State Mansfield and created many relationships that will be there forever," Beck said.

## returns of giving Lessons from a dear friend

### Dick Walters generously paid forward to ensure opportunities for future Buckeyes

Anyone who knew Dick Walters would say he "bled scarlet and gray". An avid fan, Walters graduated from Ohio State with a degree in Business Administration. Service was a way of life for him throughout his four-decade career at Rinehart Insurance Company.

In 1981, as president of the newly formed Ohio State Alumni Club of Richland County, he began a new tradition when he organized the Buckeye Bash and was key in creating the Richland County Scholarship Endowment. The Bash, continued annually ever since, raises scholarship dollars for students planning to attend The Ohio State University at Mansfield.

Walters was in his element when he could share all things "Buckeye" with friends and family, especially his grandchildren.

Upon his passing in June, his wife, Joyce, continued to honor his legacy with memorial gifts to further expand the fund. Joyce explained that Dick's great desire was to ensure that individuals in Richland County would be able to attend Ohio State Mansfield.



### At Ohio State, we believe in the power of people and their potential

Within all of us lies the ability to dream, to create, to grow, to lead, to heal. To make our communities stronger and better. To enrich others' lives.

When we invest in people, we invest in their potential to affect the world in ways not yet imagined.

When they succeed, we all do.



**Julie McCready** 

1983 BS Education, 1993 MA Education (Attended Mansfield '79-'81, '82, '88-'93)

Julie McCready has lived in Richland County all her life and is well known as a champion for the community and the wealth of opportunities for its residents.

She taught for 20 years at Eastern Elementary school in Lexington. In 2003, she won the Franklin B. Walter Excellence in Education Award for Ohio.

She and her husband, Tom, own McCready Interiors. A century-long family legacy in Mansfield, the Chamber named it 2018 Small Business of the Year.

McCready contributes regularly to regional TV and magazines. She donates her design talents through the creation of learning or meditation spaces for Ohio State and North Central State College veteran-students, the Richland Prosecutor's Office, and Mansfield Schools. She currently serves as chairperson of the Richland County Foundation.



**Helen Bond** 

1992 BS Education, MS Communications, PhD Human Development, (Attended Mansfield '75-'77, '88-'92)

Dr. Helen Bond has more than 20 years of academic and humanitarian experience throughout the world. She was raised on a small farm outside of Mansfield.

She now serves as Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Bond served as West Virginia Human Rights Commissioner and was appointed by the governor of West Virginia to this post. In 2011-12, she taught courses and conducted research in India as a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar.

She has excelled in international scholarship and service, and she believes none of this would be possible without the firm foundation provided by Ohio State Mansfield.



**John Grove** 

1977 BS Agriculture Economics (Attended Mansfield '73-'75)

John Grove believes in giving back to his community as a lifelong value. As a member of the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield, he advises the Mansfield Senior High Key Club and has taught hundreds of students the value of leadership and volunteerism.

After serving as chaperone for national ag-science conventions, he was asked to judge for the National Proficiency Awards and served in that national capacity for many years.

Grove spent more than 40 years as a Loan Officer and Account Specialist at Farm Credit Mid-America. His Ohio State education prepared him to work with customers, the agribusiness community in Richland and surrounding counties, and in service to the Farm Bureau, the Richland County Fair and several local school systems.

# Early Achievement Awardee

#### Sarah Schmidt

2011 BA English, MA Global Affairs (Attended Mansfield '08-'11)

Sarah Schmidt is the program coordinator for the Office of Global Initiatives Outreach at Kent State University's Stark campus. She is responsible for advising international students and scholars and overseeing education-abroad initiatives and international partnerships.

Schmidt is pursuing a doctorate in cultural foundations, with an emphasis on peace education in post-conflict reconstruction. Her vocation has taken her to Prague, Dubai, London, Kenya and Haiti.

She launched her commitment to excellence as a student at Mansfield, receiving several honors including the President's Salute to Undergraduate Achievement. She then served with distinction as a staff member in the Office of Admissions at Ohio State Mansfield. She attributes her success and commitment to global service to her foundation at Ohio State Mansfield.

## Honoring alumni doers and achievers

Mansfield Campus Alumni

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# HALL© EAVARDS

#### **You Are Invited**

to the Virtual Alumni Honors Celebration Wednesday, November 18, 2020 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Please register for this virtual event at go.osu.edu/mansfieldcampusalumnihonors

Would you like to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame Awards? Nominations are due by March 1, 2021, for honors in fall 2021 during Homecoming Week. Criteria and online nomination forms can be found at:

go.osu.edu/mansfield-alumni-nomination

## Faculty and



#### Mansfield native Andrew Mueller honored by university

The Ohio State
University
presented
Andrew Mueller,
director of the
Conard Learning
Center, with a

Distinguished Staff Award. The university award is given annually to 12 individuals for outstanding achievements, leadership and dedication to The Ohio State University.

Mueller says he was surprised by the recognition. "I've seen others receive this recognition over the years, and it has always been something I hoped I could be a part of," he said. "I love being a member of the Buckeye family and this is a highlight of my career."

The Conard Learning Center provides supervised free tutoring services, study sessions and a writing center to Ohio State Mansfield. Mueller became director of the Conard Learning Center in 2013, starting as a student employee. Under his leadership, the center has thrived due to efforts to increase awareness and consultations with students. Ohio State Mansfield students using the Center's services have seen improved test scores and course grades.

Mueller appreciates the meaningful partnerships he's been able to form with so many coworkers and students. "With the multitude of tasks we all have, I've been able to collaborate with so many people on different projects," Mueller said. "It's been a blessing to get to know people better through working together."

Mueller was born and raised in Mansfield and attended Ohio State Mansfield. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Education, both from Ohio State.

#### Heather Tanner, PhD, honored with the Susan Hartmann Mentoring and Leadership Award

Heather Tanner, associate professor of history, was recently honored with The Susan Hartmann Mentoring and Leadership Award. This prestigious award is given annually to an individual within The Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences who has demonstrated outstanding mentoring and leadership on behalf of women, or other historically underrepresented groups at the university.

"We are proud to claim Heather as one of our own, and we are grateful for her contributions to inclusive excellence on our campus and beyond," Dean Norman Jones said. Tanner specializes in medieval history, with a focus on power and gender. Her published work explores countesses, queenship, governance, women and the law, Le Roman de Silence and emotion. Her teaching spans courses on ancient



through early modern political and religious history. She has been teaching at the Ohio State Mansfield campus since 2001.

## staff nonors

#### Kip Curtis named Faculty Fellow in the Office of Outreach and Engagement

Kip Curtis, associate professor of environmental history on the Mansfield campus, has joined the Office of Outreach and Engagement as a part time Faculty Fellow. In this role, he will continue his focus on the development and implementation of a replicable model of community engagement that results in expansion of microfarms to other communities.

Curtis specializes in environmental history and studies with a research and teaching focus on mining, environmental ideas, and food systems. He will focus his efforts on a number of key areas that will inform the potential replication of this model.



More specifically, he will:

- · Assess the current project to identify future best practices, strategies and opportunities.
- Share research through peer-reviewed publications so that others may adapt the model in their communities.
- Advise individuals and communities in Ohio focusing on broad-based implementation.

## Awards and accolades

#### Carol Landry, PhD, awarded Fulbright Scholar Research Grant

Carol Landry, associate professor of biology and plant ecology at the Ohio State Mansfield campus, has been awarded a Fulbright Core Scholar Research Grant to the Bahamas. Landry served as adjunct professor in the Department of Pure and Applied Sciences. She conducted research on maintaining biodiversity in coastal ecosystems with the University of the Bahamas Gerace Research Institute — during three time periods, for a total of six months over the 2019-2020 academic year.

Landry said the purpose of this project was to understand natural mechanisms that maintain biodiversity by investigating the reproductive ecology of plants and pollinators in Bahamian



coastal ecosystems and comparing pollinator species composition on islands with and without honeybees. "Coastal ecosystems are of great concern because they provide significant environmental and economic benefits," Landry said. "This study will provide information useful in the development of sustainable coastal management practices."

Buckeyes always have and always will support people in times of need. Now more than ever, we are grateful for the giving spirit of Buckeye Nation.

We appreciate your continued support of The Ohio State University at Mansfield



#### The Ohio State University

MANSFIELD

Cindy Wood '93 M.Ed

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