August

**National health care leader.** The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center is recognized as a national leader in 10 specialties, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. This puts the hospital system in a category with fewer than half a percent of hospitals in the country. The College of Medicine’s Dr. Rebecca Jackson, meanwhile, was awarded a $25 million Clinical and Translational Science Award by the **National Institutes of Health**, helping scientists to extend programs beyond central Ohio to all 88 counties in the state.

**Record-breaking generosity.** Nearly 270,000 donors — a new university high — helped fundraising activity eclipse $600 million for the first time in Ohio State history. Overall, $601.8 million was raised in the last fiscal year with a record $438.6 million in cash receipts. The generosity of friends and alumni throughout Buckeye Nation is helping to build scholarship funds, support world-class faculty and their research, fuel lifesaving medical treatments and more.

**Best in class (and in the classroom).** Three Ohio State faculty members have been nationally recognized for outstanding teaching excellence in higher education. Professor Nicholas Basta, Professor David Hix and Associate Professor Roger Williams received the 2018 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Educator Award. Excellence in teaching and learning is a major focus area of the university’s **Time and Change strategic plan**.

**A matter of degrees.** Approximately 1,500 degrees were awarded at summer commencement this month. The event bookended a season that also saw a university-record 11,907 degrees and certificates awarded in May — further adding to the more than 550,000 Ohio State alumni living and working across the nation and around the globe. Accomplishing the ceremonies’ personal touch, meanwhile, is no small feat. Ohio State is among the largest universities to hand out individual diplomas.

**Access, affordability and excellence.** As Ohio lawmakers consider strategies to reduce the cost of attending colleges and universities, Ohio State President Michael V. Drake is highlighting the university’s **leadership** in this area. He provided written testimony to the Joint Committee on College Affordability demonstrating the impact of several programs and initiatives — including a $100 million commitment in additional need-based aid for students and families since 2015.