Access, affordability and excellence. Continuing a number of unprecedented steps to increase the value of an Ohio State education for all, the university eliminated 278 course fees while providing steep discounts on digital textbooks. Ohio State also waived costs when students take additional credit hours to complete their degrees, accept internships or conduct research — and extended in-state tuition to more military families. In all, these latest actions will save students an estimated $1.9 million a year.

Health care excellence. A $10 million gift from the Belford Family Charitable Fund will allow the Wexner Medical Center to establish a center focused on spinal cord injury research to prolong and improve quality of life. The Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury will be established at the College of Medicine in collaboration with the Neurological Institute. Academic health care is a focus of the university’s Time and Change strategic plan — aimed at driving breakthrough solutions to improve people’s lives.

TBDBITL. The marching band is off to a fast start this semester — from innovative performances that have rocked the 'Shoe (catching the attention of Rolling Stone and Queen guitarist Brian May, to name a couple) to a new monument honoring Script Ohio and anticipation of a first-ever appearance in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. See more about what it takes to become part of the band from the perspectives of its most important element: Buckeye students.

The professors are in. An Ohio State faculty member who was among the first to study the psychological aspects of cancer and another recognized as a leader in the field of electronic materials and devices have been recognized with one of the university’s most prestigious honors. The Distinguished University Professor designation is awarded to individuals who have exceptional records in teaching; research, scholarly or creative work; and service. Only 58 other faculty members share the title.

Inspiring action. Maggie Griffin took a study break late one night and walked to a nearby convenience store. Inside, she saw a family doing their weekly shopping, relying on frozen meals because they didn't have access to fresh produce. She applied for and won the President’s Prize, established by Michael V. Drake to provide new graduates with support for projects with the power to transform communities. Griffin’s project has since helped deliver close to 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to neighbors in need.