November

**Powerful partnership.** The Wexner Medical Center and Mercy Health have launched Healthy State Alliance to tackle Ohio's most critical health needs and make a difference in improving the health of communities. The alliance, which will provide increased access to more than 50,000 team members and more than 600 points of care throughout the state, has identified 10 objectives. Early efforts will focus on three objectives in particular: addressing the opioid epidemic and increasing access to cancer and transplant care — all helping to drive breakthrough health care solutions to improve people's lives.

**TBDBITL in NYC.** For the first time in its history, the Ohio State Marching Band will perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The band's holiday showcase, to be viewed by millions, joins a season's worth of innovative performances, including a recent take on fantasy and fairy tales. Before taking to the streets of Manhattan, the band will lead a special skull session hosted by the Alumni Association.

**Honors encore.** For the second year in a row, three colleges at Ohio State were named recipients of the Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award: the colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Veterinary Medicine. Last year marked the first time that the honor — recognizing outstanding commitment to inclusive excellence — was awarded to three colleges at one university.

**Timely rewind.** President Michael V. Drake reflects on the 1960s through its songs in a nationally published article in The Conversation. "Perhaps in no other time in American history did popular music more clearly reflect the political and cultural moment than the soundtrack of the 1960s — one that exemplified a new and overt social consciousness." Read his perspective along with a playlist featuring Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan and more. Drake annually teaches a course on music, civil rights and the Supreme Court.

**Laser focused.** Ohio State is one of nine institutions selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to join a new high-intensity laser research network. The network includes the most powerful lasers in the country, including those with powers approaching or exceeding a petawatt. Petawatt lasers generate light with at least a million billion watts of power, or nearly 100 times the output of all the world's power plants. Ohio State's Scarlet Laser Facility will receive $1 million to fund its part of the network.