**September**

**Powerful partnerships.** A project to help eligible central Ohioans seal their criminal records and improve their lives has been provisionally awarded $500,000 in the 2020 Alliance for the American Dream competition sponsored by Schmidt Futures. Ohio State’s Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Columbus City Council, Legal Aid Society of Columbus, Smart Columbus and Buckeye Interactive developed the Opportunity Port project. The online portal combines technology and legal expertise to guide eligible people through the application process.

**Research record.** The College of Medicine set a new record in research funding. The growth in funding can be attributed to innovative investigative projects, the growth of existing strategic areas, the recruitment of prominent new faculty, new relationships with industry partners and increased collaboration among Ohio State health sciences colleges and other academic health centers. The college received more than $300 million in grants and contracts during FY20. Total research awards increased about 10% to $300.9 million.

**Together As Buckeyes.** Hundreds of “O”s stretched across the Oval on the first day of autumn semester. The circles painted on the grass help students, faculty and staff maintain physical distancing and slow the spread of COVID-19 while they spend time in the heart of campus. The project was then expanded to the grass at the John F. Wolfe Columbus Commons in the heart of downtown, a collaboration between multiple university departments and the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation.

**O-H!** A full-length documentary focusing on life inside The Ohio State University Marching Band is now available to watch at home. The award-winning “TBDBITL 141” takes viewers inside the 141st season of the marching band, from summer practice to tryouts to the makings of their legendary halftime shows. The season featured historic trips to New York for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and to the Rose Bowl. Proceeds from “TBDBITL 141” support Ohio State Marching Band scholarship funds.

**Health care leadership.** A team from the Wexner Medical Center and the College of Medicine is the first ever to perform a novel gene therapy brain infusion to treat a patient with Parkinson’s disease with the goal of slowing the neurologic deterioration associated with the disease. This new approach overcomes many of the previous obstacles that have slowed this type of clinical trial research. The medical center also received an LGBTQ Health Care Equality Leader designation from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.