

# December

**Congratulations, grads!** Approximately 3,600 Ohio State graduates received diplomas at the university's autumn [commencement](#). Frederic Bertley, president and CEO of COSI (the Center of Science and Industry), delivered the commencement address. Earlier this year, he partnered with Ohio State to host "QED With Dr. B," a WOSU series exploring the scientific issues that play such a vital role in people's daily lives.

**Starring role.** Ohio State is the lead university partner of a multimillion dollar NASA-funded [effort](#) to develop a new generation of commercially based, human-occupied space stations. Buckeye research and innovation will support the Starlab commercial space station. Work is expected to involve key centers along with the colleges of Engineering; Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; and Arts and Sciences.

**Powerful partnership.** U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown [joined](#) Ohio State President Kristina M. Johnson at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory to highlight the critical role of agriculture in the nation's economy. Vilsack said the research and education at Waterman and Ohio State is critical to the nation's agricultural and environmental future.

**National honors.** Two Ohio State faculty have been [elected](#) to the National Academy of Inventors 2021 class of fellows. Ayanna Howard, dean of the College of Engineering, and Stuart Cooper, distinguished professor of chemical engineering, join a class of 164 academic innovators representing universities and governmental or nonprofit research institutes named to the Fellows program this year.

**A rich legacy.** The Wexner Center for the Arts announced its winter 2022 [exhibition](#): *To Begin, Again: A Prehistory of the Wex, 1968-89*. The exhibition, which will be on view February 5-May 8, will fill galleries with pieces by more than 70 artists that were acquired or presented by Ohio State during the 1970s and '80s, including major works by Futura2000, Eva Hesse, Adrian Piper, Sol LeWitt and Frank Stella.