February

**Academic excellence.** For the second straight year, Ohio State students received a gold medal at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Giant Jamboree. iGEM is a nonprofit dedicated to the advancement of synthetic biology, education and competition. The team of Buckeyes was awarded for its work on creating an engineered phage therapy to combat sepsis — more specifically, the buildup of lipid A.

**Research excellence.** Ohio State’s annual research and development expenditures crossed a record-breaking threshold. New analysis from the university’s Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge shows research expenditures for the 2021 fiscal year were $1.236 billion — part of a goal announced last year by President Kristina M. Johnson to double the university’s research expenditures in a decade.

**Talent and culture excellence.** Minority student enrollment has increased on all Ohio State campuses. The new numbers are part of the Spring Semester Enrollment Report. According to the report, total minority student enrollment at all campuses and all levels increased by 4.3% to 16,119. “Our spring enrollment report underscores the ongoing recognition of the incredible value and importance of an Ohio State degree,” Johnson said.

**Service excellence.** An Ohio State commission has examined the university’s current services for positive mental health and identified opportunities to enhance that support. The Commission on Student Mental Health and Well-Being conducted a comprehensive analysis of students’ mental health needs and recommended five areas for improvement and innovation. Teams are now working to implement the recommendations.

**Operational excellence.** The university announced that it had reached the $3 billion mark of Time and Change: The Ohio State Campaign, surpassing the pace of the previous campaign, which took almost eight years to achieve the same amount. At the same time, the university has reached 100% of its efficiency savings goal of $35 million, demonstrating a commitment to be a careful and responsible steward of its resources.