

Redefining the Student Experience – Joseph A. Alutto, Executive Vice President and Provost

At the core of Ohio State University's new initiatives is a commitment to redefining the student experience with a focus on ensuring student success from the first day of enrollment. Evidence of this can be seen across campus in facilities improvements such as Scott Lab, the Math Tower, the redesign of Sullivant Hall, the recently renovated Thompson Library, the new Ohio Union, and the ongoing south campus renovation project. Further proof of the commitment can be found in our steadily increasing graduation and retention rates, the strategic consolidation of the Arts and Sciences, the remodeled curriculum that emerged from the transition to semesters, and the expansion of career services for all students.

Continuing this commitment, we are focusing on enhancing the education of students beyond the classroom through an innovative second-year plan. This effort is focused on more intensive engagement with faculty and a living experience that integrates academic achievement, self-awareness, and the development of life and leadership skills.

The program that was approved in April will offer individual development modules with applications for career growth and global citizenry, increased faculty engagement and mentorship, and a stipend program to increase student participation in experiential education opportunities.

To allow this innovative second-year experience to achieve its full potential, it has become clear that facilities improvements must be integrated with program innovations. Over the past year, as the program elements have been redesigned, a feasibility study was conducted to look at the opportunities to enhance the North Residential District. As a result, the university is proposing a transformation of the area. The proposed plan will create a unique living environment that is designed to incorporate the elements of student success, programmatic needs, architectural innovation, student and faculty interaction, and One Framework Principles.

The approval of this plan will allow for a two-year on-campus residency requirement designed to lead to higher graduation and retention rates, improved student engagement and satisfaction, as well as post-graduation success.

With this program, Ohio State will set the bar nationally through the development of an innovative second-year experience and the construction of the facilities to support that experience. By taking this next step in the redefinition of the student experience, we will quicken the pace of Ohio State's journey from excellence to eminence.