The Vice President’s Conversation on the Future of Extension

A journey of discovery to create a dynamic organization for the next century
What will people NEED to thrive in 2035?

As expressed by nearly 400 OSUE employees and stakeholders

**Culture & Society**
- Respect for cultural differences and an understanding and practice of worldwide interconnectedness

**Access & Affordability**
- Equitable distribution across geographic and socio-economic groups in relation to technology, healthcare, education, healthy foods, and energy

**Health & Healthcare**
- Health and well-being achieved through a better understanding and practice of prevention and treatment among all physical, emotional, cognitive, and mental issues; Nutritious, plentiful, and safe food; A shift in paradigm in the delivery and coordination of healthcare

**Education & Career**
- Workforce training (all ages); Skills to evaluate and synthesize information and knowledge; Flexible and diverse educational systems that accommodate life-long learning; A balanced approach between science and humanities

**Technology & Innovation**
- Balanced use and application of technology; Skills to help foster innovation related to food production practices, healthcare, and economic development

**Relationship Building, Communication, & Leadership**
- Leadership, interpersonal, and relationship building skills; Support networks and skills to bring people together and build teams; Capacity to navigate complex issues

**Civic/Government Engagement & Security**
- A focus on influence, accountability, and efficiency in government; Proactive measures to mitigate crime, terrorism, and data insecurity; A practice of good citizenship and social responsibility (across lifespan)

**Economic Conditions**
- A strong, diversified, and resilient economy; Dynamic business communities supported by innovation, collaboration and vigorous entrepreneurship; A strong sustainable infrastructure; Increased use of venture capital and philanthropic support

**Environment & Natural Resources**
- Responsible practices and a focus on sustainability related to water, air, energy development, soils, waste disposal, and agriculture; Prevention and mitigation of the effects of climate change

**Personal Development & Accountability**
- Personal responsibility and management of personal thoughts and behaviors; Flexibility, self-reliance, resilience, self-worth, and positivity; Personal and financial resource management; Decision making skills; Life-long learning

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**3D Application**

A map is just a two dimensional representation of space. But that’s not how we live. The space that we live in has depth and nuance that brings dimension and richness to our lives. To pull the ideas in this guide off of the page, to bring them to life, consider a 3D application – Discover, Dig Deeper, and Discuss.

**Discover** – Read and explore the ideas generated from the VP Conversation.

**Dig Deeper** – Consider its application to your work. Explore further uncharted territory by reading more about the topics that interest you, teaming up with others to conduct applied research, and/or conducting your own research.

**Discuss** – Talk with colleagues, stakeholders, leaders, youth, and anyone else who is interested in preparing for and positively impacting the future.
What will be the most challenging trends and issues for Ohioans by the year 2035?

Opportunities

Health & Wellness
Pursue and maintain optimum health and wellness

Resourcefulness
Become self-reliant and thrive

Social Skills, Competencies, & Relationships
Foster personal growth and relationships

Leadership & Career Development
Build personal capacity related to leadership and career development

Agriculture
Effectively manage food production and environment

Community Vitality & Economics
Build vibrant and sustainable communities

Natural Environment
Practice good and sustainable environmental stewardship

Engagement
How we interact with others to provide educational solutions

Operational
How we utilize our assets to maximize operational effectiveness

Connectors
Bringing people together to identify and utilize resources, collaborations, and partnerships to achieve desired outcomes

Paradoxical Tensions
Contradictory ideas that impact OSUE (see insert)

Niche vs. All things to all people
Local vs. Statewide
High tech vs. High touch
Specialized knowledge vs. Generalist roles
Centralized admin vs. Local autonomy

Ohio State University Extension 2035

How can OSUE – now and in the future – find solutions for the needs?
From more than 3,000 data points

Opportunities: Sharing Research-Based Information and Skills

Health & Wellness
Pursue and maintain optimum health and wellness related to preventive measures; nutrition, food safety and security; cognitive and mental health issues; self-care and medical rights

Resourcefulness
Become self-reliant and thrive through gaining skills related to financial literacy, personal decision making, food preservation methods, and basic living skills

Social Skills, Competencies, & Relationships
Foster personal growth and relationships to improve family dynamics, parenting, interpersonal skills, conflict management, problem solving, mindfulness, personal resilience, citizenship, social technology literacy

Leadership & Career Development
Build personal capacity related to relationship building, group dynamics, decision making, workforce development (all ages), educational attainment, complex and divisive issues

Agriculture
Effectively manage food production and the natural environment related to farm preservation and land use, urban farming, production practices, innovation and technology solutions, awareness, and generational sustainability

Community Vitality & Economics
Build vibrant and sustainable communities by creating entrepreneur friendly environments; Mindful and proactive perspectives on planning and approaches to change; Understanding regulations, economics, food systems, and global impacts; Practicing sustainability; Understanding the impact of urban growth

Natural Environment
Practice good and sustainable environmental stewardship by monitoring and interpreting research databases for environmental quality; Understanding implications of food production practices and energy development; Understanding and adapting to the effects of climate change; Recycling, repurposing, and conservation

Opportunities: Maximizing Our Educational Impact

Engagement
Utilize a variety of innovative delivery methods; Seek balance between technology and personal interaction as well as practical and experiential application; Develop customized services, addressing the concept of N=1; Coordinate interdisciplinary teams around issues; Utilize innovative approaches, such as open source, to acquire and share information; Provide free or affordable access as needed; Offer certifications and CEUs that are supported by business and industry; STEAM curriculum for youth audiences; Act as a knowledge broker sharing ideas in research and practice to solve problems

Operational
Improve communication and networking to prevent duplication of efforts; Continually assess and utilize current and relevant technology; Manage data security in-house; Document value and impact of educational efforts; Provide resources and support for employees to perform job responsibilities

Connectors
A primary role of the organization is to serve as a connector, bringing people together to facilitate conversations; To build community; To encourage community involvement, problem solving, and change; To educate, facilitate, and stimulate thought, discourse, and action

Visioning

Paradigmatic Thinking
Contradictory ideas that impact OSUE (see insert)

Niche vs. All things to all people
Local vs. Statewide
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Centralized admin vs. Local autonomy

Research Trends

Discover

Dig-Deeper

Discuss

Scenarios-Potential Alternative Futures

Needs of Ohioans

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