



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## **CSU Extension opens regional offices across the State of Ohio**

**WILBERFORCE, OH** – Expanding its programming across the State of Ohio, Central State University Extension (CSUE) has opened regional offices managed by newly hired coordinators.

Kelly Beers has been named the CSUE Northeast Ohio Regional Extension Associate and is based at the Northeast Regional Office, located in the downtown Stark State Community College campus in Canton, OH.

CSUE Associate Director Siddhartha Dasgupta, Ph.D., says regional offices will allow the organization to provide educational programming specifically designed to meet the needs of the communities it serves across Ohio.

“CSUE understands that each community in Ohio is unique and has special needs that can benefit from our four core programming areas, which are: agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, and community and economic development. CSUE programming is specifically designed to meet the needs of underserved and underrepresented populations in Ohio. I’m excited to have Kelly Beers join our team,” Dasgupta stated.

With a professional background in educational leadership, Beers has significant experience in conducting needs assessments, strategic planning, team development, educational programming, and coalition building. She has managed a variety of teams throughout her career, and will do so again in this role, with a team of professional Extension Educators and paraprofessional Program Assistants.

“We have very talented individuals on our team, each bringing their own unique background and skill set to CSUE,” said Beers.

“Working for a university that shares dual missions as an HBCU and a Land Grant university is exciting. CSUE has a great opportunity and responsibility to help people across the state understand what Extension can offer to them. I’m looking forward to getting to know the needs of our communities throughout Northeast Ohio and finding ways we can help these communities thrive,” Beers says.

Beers grew up on a dairy farm in Warren County. She was active in her county 4-H program, which is where she developed her interest in education. After completing both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Ohio State University, she moved north and took her first professional role at the University of Maine. In her eight years there, she helped develop numerous programs related to retention of and skill-building for first-year college students. She also served on numerous university committees and community coalitions in order to build partnerships across departments and with external partners.

In 2015, Beers returned to Ohio, settling in Trumbull County with her husband, where they established a small farm. Beers worked for the OSU Extension 4-H program, and then went on to serve at Youngstown State University where she held numerous leadership roles, including twice serving as the inaugural Director of newly established departments. To continue to develop her professional skills in the areas of management and leadership, she has also been working on her MBA, with which she will graduate from YSU this May.

Other regional offices and coordinators include:

\*Seth Swallow, Southwest Ohio

\*Leslie Horner, Southeast Ohio

\*Justin Barnhart, Northwest Ohio

For more information about any CSUE programs across Ohio, visit [www.centralstate.edu](http://www.centralstate.edu).

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About Central State University: Central State University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is a regionally accredited 1890 Land-Grant University with a 133-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research and service. The University, which has been named HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, fosters academic excellence within a nurturing environment and provides a strong liberal arts foundation and STEM-Ag curriculum leading to professional careers and advanced studies globally.

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