

Hi,

I am a Senior Lecturer in the English Department at Ohio State and received my MFA from that same department over fifteen years ago. I am very proud to be affiliated with Ohio State and am concerned that funding cuts will continue the degradation of higher ed that the federal cuts and SB1 began. Every semester, I am dealing with at least one student and sometimes multiple students that are experiencing a mental crisis of some kind. There are signs at the top of the parking garages because of all the suicides. There are mental health professionals embedded in certain programs like Engineering because of the demanding nature of the program and the toll it takes on the mental health of students. Waitlists for the college counseling center are already egregious, and that facility has a high turnover rate, partially because they are worked to the bone. We should be investing in the next generation of scientists, nurses, teachers, artists, etc. or we will all suffer in the years to come. Degrading the brand of Ohio State which is an academic jewel in our state, along with all the other incredible public higher education institutions that invest in our young people would be catastrophic to the value of our state, both financially and in terms of reputation.

Thank you for your time.

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