Action Council Spotlight: November 2022

Biographical Statement:

This month's spotlight features Steve Brady who is an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences, for the past 21 years he has worked in the area of 4-H Youth Development.

Before starting with OSU Extension, he worked as a full-time AmeriCorps *VISTA volunteer and served as the Speaker's Bureau Director for the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington DC.

Brady has three main work areas of focus in his work with young people:

1. 4-H Camp Counselor Training – he annually works with 60-70 teenagers to train and implement three local summer camping programs.
2. Community School Enrichment programs. This includes teaching in the classroom around topics of Financial Literacy, Workforce preparation, and emerging global issues.
3. Leadership / Diversity Training. This includes presentations to youth and adults around topics of Diversity Equity and Inclusion in local and statewide organizations.

My passion is expanding and challenging young minds, particularly integrating cultural learning and cross-culture immersion programming. Since 2013, I have led eleven 4-H Urban Immersion Experiences in Washington DC, Chicago, Cincinnati and four adult and youth Cultural Immersion program in the US Territory of Puerto Rico.

- Why is engaging in diversity, equity, and inclusion important in your work?
  - As a youth development educator who trains and prepares young people for the future, I believe it is essential to challenge their worldview and learn about different cultures and ways of thinking.
Action Council Spotlight: November 2022

What inspired you/why was it important for you to volunteer on the Action Council?

- I have been involved with CFAES DEI work since I started my work here in 2001. Working in a county Extension office, I don’t always feel connected to the larger CFAES community, but being a part of the Action council allows me to contribute and feel a sense of belonging to the college. Working with like-minded colleagues on the council provides a sense of support for the work I am doing in the county.

- What strengths related to DEI do you see within CFAES?
  - Provides a place to find support for the hard work of DEI which is not always embraced by others in the community.
  - The council is a safe place to ask questions and learn from others about how to deal with complicated DEI issues. I have grown in my appreciation of the complexity of DEI work that the council does for the wider college.

- In what areas related to DEI would you like to see growth within our college?
  - I would like to see more integration of DEI work in all aspects of college life. It is difficult to sustain a group of dedicated individuals who work in so many different areas around the state. Developing an ongoing CFAES DEI network that meets regularly would help support the mission of the council.

- What advice do you have for other College members who are interested in getting involved in DEI work?
  - If others have a passion and curiosity about DEI work, I encourage them to apply to be a part of the council. The work to be done is plentiful and often it seems like the workers are good but few.

If you are interested in the Action Council email CFAES-DEI@osu.edu for more information.