

Godwin Apaliyah Award for Inspired Community Engagement

As many of you know, our good friend and colleague, Godwin Apaliyah, Extension Educator for Community Development in Fayette County, passed away earlier this year. Godwin was such a warm and welcoming person, who was always filled with gratitude for the opportunity to know and work with his clients and colleagues. Committed to building community capacity, Godwin's work in Fayette County focused on growing and galvanizing the business community, empowering local and emerging leaders, and engaging community officials in revitalizing downtown Washington Court House. Godwin often talked about the relationships and partnerships that were essential to his community and economic development work. In the spirit of Godwin's good work, this award is designed to recognize the outstanding efforts of an individual or team in building community through partnerships, cooperation, and meaningful engagement. This will be an annual award, and for this first year, we asked that at least one member of the team be an Extension professional with a Community Development title. The recipient of the award will receive \$500 deposited into their professional account to be used to add value to their project, to focus on professional development, or any expense to continue to grow the capacity to engage with and impact community building.

This year's recipient of the Godwin Apaliyah Award for Inspired Community Engagement is the GlobalOhio Immersion Experience. Here's a bit about their project:

The GlobalOHIO Immersion Experience is a collaborative program with OSU Extension, CFAES Leadership, CFAES International Extension Programs, and community cultural partners. In April of 2023, the first cohort participated in a culture immersion experience in Columbus and Cincinnati. The experience included engaged learning opportunities with the Bhutanese community, a tour of an international grocery store employing members of the international community, and an introduction to Islamic culture. Planning for the 2024 experience is currently underway and will be held in Cleveland.

I want to mention a special note about this project. Godwin was also a member of this team, and he often spoke about his excitement to be part of a team working to bring awareness to and an increased appreciation of different cultures.

I'd like the team members to join me on the stage. These include Jill Bartolotta, Steve Brady, Alisha Barton, Lorissa Dunfee, Julie Fox, Solomon Garner, Michelle Gaston, Chris Igodan, Daniel Remley, Poppy Thornton, and Susan Zies.

Congratulations team!

