

Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summaries 2014-2019

ROADS SCHOLARS TOUR



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

#OSUontheroad



Introduction

The Ohio State University Roads Scholars Tour provides faculty and administrators the opportunity to travel Ohio learning about research, teaching and community engagement connections with businesses, non-profit organizations, human services and other partners.

The Roads Scholars Tour is one of the longest standing university tours of its kind, offering not only opportunities for partnerships external to the university, but also opportunities for faculty to build their networks at Ohio State.

As one of Ohio's land-grant universities it is vital that our impact extend beyond our campuses to our communities through research, teaching and learning in mutually beneficial and meaningful ways.

The Roads Scholars Tour not only provides faculty the experience of learning about existing initiatives, but also the opportunity to establish connections throughout the state. At the same time, it also provides the citizens of Ohio the opportunity to form relationships with Ohio State faculty. This type of collaborative experience between the university and the State of Ohio is at the core of the Roads Scholars Tour.

As we look forward to upcoming tours, we seek to continue this longstanding Ohio State tradition, while exploring ways to best support and forge innovative and impactful connections between The Ohio State University and our partners.

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About the Roads Scholars Tour

Started in 1997, Ohio State's Roads Scholars Tour is an annual, two-day, traveling seminar that takes faculty, administrators and community partners through a region of Ohio to meet faculty and community partners who are collaborating, talk with current and future Ohio State students, learn from community and business leaders and get acquainted with others who may be partners for future projects.

More information, including a history of tour stops, can be found at <https://engage.osu.edu/roads-scholars-tour>.

Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summaries (2014-2019)

Overall, participants were highly satisfied with the opportunities to learn more about Ohio State, including regional campuses, as well as Ohio State's partnerships across the state. Participants appreciated opportunities to expand their networks with other faculty and administrators. Participants especially liked opportunities to engage with the President, the Provost, and student leaders. The Outreach and Engagement staff consistently received high marks with regards to organization and execution of the Tour.

Opportunities for improvement include:

- More meaningful connections with other participants, partners, and community
- Connecting the Tour to participants' research, scholarship, and teaching
- Slowing the pace to create opportunities for deeper learning and conversation
- Moving from a "show and tell" format to one with more intentionality and connection



**Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summary
2014**

Twenty-four participants responded to the post-Tour survey. The following are key findings with regards to the Roads Scholars Tour objectives.

Roads Scholars Tour objectives:

	Did not meet expectations	Met expectations	Exceeded expectations
Learning more about Ohio and its communities	4.2% (1)	41.7% (10)	54.2% (13)
Learning more about Ohio State	0.0% (0)	43.5% (10)	56.5% (13)
Better understanding Ohio State's partnerships that exist throughout Ohio	4.2% (1)	33.3% (8)	62.5% (15)
Developing connections/networking opportunities	16.7% (4)	50.0% (12)	33.3% (8)

The participants ranked the first three objectives very high. They were less satisfied with the opportunities to develop connections and network.

Participants found the following components of the Tour to be most beneficial:

- Visiting regional campuses
- Learning about partnerships across the state
- Meeting faculty members from other departments

Participants noted the following opportunities for improvement:

- Pace of Tour was too fast
- Not enough opportunities for meaningful connection



"I will never forget the interactions with my colleagues and the enthusiasm of those I met and their willingness to share what makes them proud. I am now even more proud of the quality and the breadth of Ohio State and the state of Ohio. It is an experience I recommend absolutely."

- **David Manderscheid, Executive Dean and Vice Provost, College of Arts and Sciences**

2014 Roads Scholars Tour stops:

- Ohio Stadium
- Ohio State Mansfield
- The Cleveland Museum of Art
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland
- Goodyear Headquarters, Akron
- Ohio State Wooster

Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summary 2015

Thirty-four participants responded to the post-Tour survey. The following are key findings with regards to the Roads Scholars Tour objectives.

Roads Scholars Tour objectives:

	No	Somewhat	Very much
Learning more about Ohio and its communities	0.0% (0)	5.88% (2)	94.12% (32)
Learning more about Ohio State	2.94% (1)	11.76% (4)	85.29% (29)
Better understanding Ohio State's partnerships that exist throughout Ohio	0.0% (0)	18.18% (6)	81.82% (27)
Developing connections/networking opportunities	0.0% (0)	29.41% (10)	70.59% (24)

The participants ranked the first three objectives very high. They were less satisfied with the opportunities to develop connections and network, though this was still ranked above average.

Participants found the following components of the Tour to be most beneficial:

- Meeting faculty members from other departments
- Learning more about partnerships across the state

Participants noted the following opportunities for improvement:

- Greater clarity among relationships of Tour visits with Ohio State
- Increased opportunities for intentional networking



"I truly learned a lot. I was very happy that I went. It was good to get outside the Arts & Sciences bubble and witness the contributions made by other components of OSU. It was also great to see alums working in such a wide range of industries. I will recommend this to many of my colleagues."

- **2015 Roads Scholars tour participant (via anonymous survey)**

2015 Roads Scholars Tour stops:

- Havener Eye Institute, Columbus
- Next Generation Films, Lexington
- ArcelorMittal, Cleveland
- Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Independence to Akron
- University of Akron
- Ohio State Wooster



**Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summary
2016**

Twenty-nine participants responded to the post-Tour survey. The following are key findings with regards to the Roads Scholars Tour objectives.

Roads Scholars Tour objectives:

	No	Somewhat	Very much
Learning more about Ohio and its communities	0.0% (0)	6.89% (2)	93.1% (27)
Learning more about Ohio State	2.94% (1)	17.24% (5)	82.76% (24)
Better understanding Ohio State's partnerships that exist throughout Ohio	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	100% (29)
Developing connections/networking opportunities	0.0% (0)	17.85% (5)	82.14% (23)

Participants ranked all objectives high.

Participants found the following components of the Tour to be most beneficial:

- Meeting faculty members from other departments
- Connecting with administrators, including the President and the Provost
- Learning more about partnerships across the state

Participants noted the following opportunities for improvement:

- Greater clarity among relationships of Tour visits with Ohio State
- Increased opportunities for intentional networking



“I was not necessarily looking forward to spending two days out of the office, as I started a new position at Ohio State that week. But the value received for me personally and the connections for the Center proved incredibly valuable. The outgoing nature of almost all of the tourists was a wonderful forum for open discussion.”

- **Paul Reeder, Executive Director, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

2016 Roads Scholars Tour stops:

- COSI, Columbus
- Transportation Research Center, East Liberty
- Unverferth Manufacturing, Kalida
- Toledo Zoo
- Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion
- The Andersons, Maumee
- Cooper Tire, Findlay



**Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summary
2017**

Thirty-three participants responded to the post-Tour survey. The following are key findings with regards to the Roads Scholars Tour objectives.

Roads Scholars Tour objectives:

	No	Somewhat	Very much
Learning more about Ohio and its communities	0.0% (0)	12.12% (4)	87.88% (29)
Learning more about Ohio State	0.0% (0)	18.18% (6)	81.82% (27)
Better understanding Ohio State's partnerships that exist throughout Ohio	0.0% (0)	6.06% (2)	93.94% (31)
Developing connections/networking opportunities	0.0% (0)	39.40% (13)	60.60% (20)

Participants ranked all objectives relatively high. There does appear to be room for improvement for developing connections and networking opportunities.

Participants found the following components of the Tour to be most beneficial:

- Meeting faculty members from other departments
- Learning more about partnerships across the state

Participants noted the following opportunities for improvement:

- More explicit description of connections with partners
- Moving beyond "show and tell" to issues that matter



“I really loved the agricultural stops. I didn’t necessarily anticipate that. I think one of the great things about an interdisciplinary audience is that people are translating their research into broadly accessible language which is something my department does a lot.”

- **Ashley Pérez, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Studies**

2017 Roads Scholars Tour stops:

- The Ohio State University Airport
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Dayton
- Emery Oleochemicals, Cincinnati
- Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati
- University of Cincinnati Community Design Center/Niehoff Urban Studio
- National Weather Service, Wilmington
- Ohio State Western Agricultural Research Station, South Charleston

Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summary 2018

Thirty-one participants responded to the post-Tour survey. The following are key findings with regards to the Roads Scholars Tour objectives.

Roads Scholars Tour objectives:

	No	Somewhat	Very much
Learning more about Ohio and its communities	0.0% (0)	9.68% (3)	84.85% (28)
Learning more about Ohio State	0.0% (0)	19.35% (6)	80.65% (25)
Better understanding Ohio State's partnerships that exist throughout Ohio	0.0% (0)	12.9% (4)	87.10% (27)
Developing connections/networking opportunities	0.0% (0)	19.35% (6)	80.65% (25)

Participants ranked all objectives high.

Participants found the following components of the Tour to be most beneficial:

- Meeting faculty members from other departments
- Learning more about partnerships across the state

Participants noted the following opportunities for improvement:

- Clearer stated Tour goals
- Moving beyond “show and tell” to issues that matter
- More intentional networking



"I wish I could do this every year! it is a wonderful, awesome, engaging and enlightening experience."

- **2018 Roads Scholars Tour participant (via anonymous survey)**

2018 Roads Scholars Tour stops:

- The Ohio State University Airport
- Glen-Gery Brick Yard, Iberia
- Buurma Farms/Ohio State Muck Crops Research Station, Williard
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland
- Greater Cleveland Food Bank
- Gorman-Rupp Pumps, Mansfield
- Flying Horse Farms, Mt. Gilead



**Roads Scholars Tour Evaluation Summary
2019**

Twenty-eight participants responded to the post-Tour survey. The following are key findings with regards to the Roads Scholars Tour objectives.

Roads Scholars Tour objectives:

	No	Somewhat	Very much
Learning more about Ohio and its communities	0.0% (0)	22.22% (6)	77.78% (21)
Learning more about Ohio State	3.57% (1)	35.71% (10)	60.71% (17)
Broaden your perspective and enhance your work	0.0% (0)	35.71% (10)	64.29% (18)
Developing connections/networking opportunities	0.0% (0)	21.43% (6)	78.57% (22)

The third objective was different than the previous years. There is opportunity for improvement in all categories.

Participants found the following components of the Tour to be most beneficial:

- Networking opportunities
- Learning more about partnerships across the state

Participants noted the following opportunities for improvement:

- More interaction with students
- More intentional networking
- More time at stops



"I was able to experience the tour as an adult learner. This tour gave me the chance to get exposed to people across the university and our communities. I also learned about different areas that I don't necessarily get the chance to delve into in my everyday work."

- **Jennifer Rodis, Assistant Dean and Professor, College of Pharmacy**

2019 Roads Scholars Tour stops:

- Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center
- Honda Heritage Center, Marysville
- Ariel Corporation, Mount Vernon
- Great Circle Earthworks and Museum, Heath
- Ohio State Newark
- Dave Brandt Farm, Carroll
- Fayette County Memorial Hospital, Washington Court House
- Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Columbus