

Buckeyes First's Statement of Support

We are the executive board members of Buckeyes First Student Organization, a student organization at The Ohio State University which exists to provide support and community to the first-generation college students of Ohio State. First-generation college students come from many backgrounds and hold many identities -- many of the members of our organization's general body, leadership team, and executive board are Black students at Ohio State. Our organization has existed from day one with the interest and goal of supporting first-generation students at Ohio State -- supporting this resolution is consistent with the goals of Buckeyes First. From our Constitution - "Buckeyes First will [...] acknowledge the intersecting identities and interests in our community to foster a sense of belonging".

The legacy of John Bricker is not one to be proud of, or to be admired. His role in the upholding of separate but equal in the case against Dorris Weaver is a disgrace that cannot be dismissed. To have a building named after him is a painful reminder for the Black students of Ohio State of the university's past discrimination. When Black first-generation college students step on campus for their first time -- as the trailblazers of their families who have overcome many challenges to get to this point -- they are met with the president of their university's office residing in a building named for a racist segregationist. This is abhorrent and unacceptable. We believe it is necessary for Ohio State to rename Bricker Hall.

Support of this resolution will be a step towards making Ohio State a more equitable environment for the Black members of our community. To have a building named for oneself suggests that the individual is a revered figure on campus, one that students should aspire to be. For John Bricker to be that figure is morally corrupt. The actions of John Bricker in defending separate but equal on Ohio State's campus is nothing to be celebrated or commemorated. We are strongly urging the support of this resolution, in order to continue the university's work towards creating an equitable and just environment for students of all backgrounds and identities.

In Solidarity,

The Buckeyes First Student Organization Executive Board 2020-2021