In your own words, describe your job here at Ohio State.
I work for an awesome program for second-year students, helping to connect them to peers, Ohio State, and achieve their goals through a transformational experience. My job specifically helps to provide resources and meet communication needs of students and Faculty Mentors to help make their cohort experience meaningful and fulfilling.

What do you love most about Ohio State?
The STEP Team connection. I work with the best set of employees at the University- hands down. Our small but mighty team works together to give so many students the opportunity to connect with Ohio State and the fiscal support to complete a project that can help advance their personal, professional, and/or career goals.

What is your favorite memory as a staff member at Ohio State?
Our Director, Susie Whittington, signed the STEP Team up for a competition in the Shoe sponsored by OSU ROTC. Together, as a team, we were to complete several different physical challenges and compete against other staff teams from the university. We may have come to the competition a little underprepared, thus leaving our medals on the sidelines, but we left with the biggest smiles on our faces!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?
I enjoy helping my husband with field work on our family farm in Northwest Ohio. We grow corn, soybeans, and wheat and sell seed. It’s always a great break when you can climb up in the tractor and not be at the computer!

What is something that most people don't know about you?
I am working my way through the rooms of our 100+ year old farmhouse, putting it back together to showcase its original beauty. I love to learn to do things for myself- like build cabinets and restore flooring. (The STEP Team thinks that I need to host a show on HGTV- anyone have any connections?!)

What is your favorite quote, TV show, movie, or book?
“Whatever you are, be a good one.” – Abraham Lincoln

Nominators: Susie Whittington
Nominators’ remarks:
“Caitlyn was the very first STEP Assistant Director. In her role, she works quietly behind the scenes guaranteeing that STEP Faculty Mentors receive the professional development necessary to provide excellent support to our second-year students at The Ohio State University. As we enter our 10th year, we have worked with 435 mentors from across the OSU enterprise; Caitlyn is the go-to name and face for every mentor. They trust her, respect her, and know through her efficient and knowledgeable responsiveness that she cares about them and about their STEP cohort of students. Caitlyn’s impact reaches across every department at the university. In STEP’s ten-year history, from our 15-day reporting records, we have touched over 20,000 second year students. Those completing any part of the fall STEP programming were impacted by Caitlyn’s curriculum and by the professional development provided to the students’ STEP Faculty Mentors.”

Name: Caitlyn Tietje
Title: STEP Assistant Director
Department/College/Unit: Student Academic Excellence, Office of Academic Enrichment, STEP
Years of Service: I’ve worked for Ohio State for 6 years and just finished my 4th year with STEP