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Subject: Provost's Notes: Week 9
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Good afternoon, and welcome to Week 9!

A few items to share:

Resuming as Scheduled After Thanksgiving Break: The college plans to resume classes as scheduled after our week-long Thanksgiving Break. However, that could certainly change. As positivity rates continue to rise in our area, we are keeping a close eye on disease spread at our campuses and centers. We're encouraged by the success we've had at preventing infection within the OTC community, so we expect to finish the semester as planned. But as always, the health of our OTC community is our primary concern, and we will act accordingly.

Innovation Celebration: The Innovation Celebration season kicked off earlier this month with the opening of grant applications and award nomination forms, which are open until Dec. 1. This is a great opportunity for full-time employees to share their bright ideas with the college, and potentially get them funded with grants up to \$10,000 each. Five [Game Changer Grants](#) and five [Student Success Mini Grants](#) will again be awarded to projects that advance the college's strategic plan. And this year, six [Trailblazer Awards](#) will be given to full-time faculty and staff who have made significant individual contributions to the advancement of the strategic plan. Like last year, both the Game Changer Grants and Trailblazer Awards will be determined by a vote of your peers.

No More End of Semester Paperwork! Because of the electronic nature of our record-keeping, faculty no longer need to submit grades or attendance at the end of the semester. Praise Be!! Now all you need to do is finalize your grades and attendance in Canvas, then submit your final grades in MyOTC. Many thanks to Gavin O'Connor for his work in bringing our storage of grades into the 21st century. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. O'Connor (oconnorg@otc.edu).

Hey Springfield Campus, You Seem Tents. Okay...so my Monday attempts at humor aren't so great. ANYWAY, if you're on the Springfield campus, you've likely seen the tents on the plaza and one on the north side of ICW. These are designed to encourage employees and students to mingle outdoors instead of inside. The tents are outfitted with picnic tables and benches – and I'm told heaters will be installed this week.

Thanks again to all of you who reach out with questions or concerns, Keep 'em coming and have a great week!

Tracy

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