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Subject: Provost's Notes: Week 7
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Happy Monday, and Happy World Teachers' Day! Welcome to Week 7 of the Fall semester.

I do not have a great deal to report today, but I didn't want the day to pass without recognizing the significance of the day. If there has ever been a year to acknowledge how important teachers are to our world, this is it. Everything is messy, and nothing looks like it did before, and yet you have powered through a lot of uncertainty and continued to put students at the heart of all you do. This year's World Teachers' Day theme is, *Leading in crisis, reimagining the future*, and I can't think of anything more fitting.

A few things to share:

- As you read in Dr. Higdon's *Notes*, we are now offering testing to asymptomatic students and employees who have had a direct exposure to a COVID-positive individual. Testing is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Lot O on the Springfield campus. This is limited to Greene County due to the requirements of the grant.
- As a result of your feedback, the college is working on consolidating COVID-related employee resources on the website. Just as students have an "I Need Help" button, we want to make employee resources that easy to find as well. An update will follow once this has been accomplished.
- Dr. Higdon also shared that we continue seeing a decrease in COVID cases system-wide. Our new case management system is working well; thank you for your continued reporting! We know that the success we are having at managing the spread of disease is due in part to our strict masking protocols. We know that masks work! We can be proud that Dr. Higdon was one of the first higher education CEOs in the area to take such a strong stance about masking. Now all four higher education leaders are unified in their support. They will all speak tonight at Springfield City Council as Council considers extending Springfield's masking ordinance. In addition, OTC's Chief Research Officer, Matthew Simpson, serves on Springfield City Council. When you see either Dr. Higdon or Mr. Simpson, please thank them for their leadership in keeping us all safe.

What kind of support do you need? What help can I offer? Please do not hesitate to reach out.

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