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Subject: Provost's Notes: Week 14
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:55:12 AM

Good morning!

Here are a few updates to start your Monday:

OTC CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY: The college is moving forward with the formation of a Center for Public Safety (CPS). There won't be a physical space for CPS (yet!), but the structure will officially begin on July 1. The CPS will serve as a central recruiting, advising, and training entity for those in the public safety and emergency management profession within OTC's service region. Centralizing resources and efforts will better support students interested in a career in public safety and help support working professionals with career advancement and continuing education opportunities.

This is a concept that has been discussed for several years at the request of local law enforcement, healthcare, emergency management and fire safety organizations. One of the main goals of the CPS is to promote interagency coordination to improve the response and recovery efforts of public safety agencies in the region. It is expected that high-quality, continuing education opportunities can attract and serve public safety professionals statewide.

The CPS will create a structure for coordination of existing and new public safety programs and educational opportunities. Programs/departments which will fall under this structure include:

- Fire Science Technology
- Paramedicine
- Center of Excellence for Medical Simulation
- Emergency Management (new program)
- Criminal Justice

Josh Freeman, program director for Paramedicine, will serve a dual role as interim executive director of the CPS. The CPS will fall within our Education Center reporting structure, with oversight of Dr. Dusty Childress, President for OTC Education Centers. This is a really exciting development, and local public safety professionals are very enthusiastic about lending their support to this effort.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION FINAL REPORT: Dr. Higdon shared with you last week that we received a glowing final report from HLC. Thanks to all of you who took time to participate in Open Forums during the site visit. **We have some work to do regarding assessment of student learning**, but Marcia Wheeler, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, and Dr. Megan Weaver, Dean of Academic Services (together dubbed "Margan" by the site visit team) will be leading us in that effort. Their talents were evident to the site visit team, who expressed full confidence in their ability to move OTC forward.

YOUR HELP NEEDED - STUDENT AFRICAN AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD: OTC is excited to establish a chapter of the SAAB (Student African American Brotherhood) organization beginning fall 2021. This

national organization, whose executive headquarters are now located in Springfield, serves as a national leader in providing systems to support young men of color who embark upon post-secondary education. Most recently, Missouri State University, Evangel University, and two of Springfield's high schools have established chapters. We anticipate our chapter will join with the remaining SPS high schools this fall. In advance of fall, plans are underway to form a student steering committee at OTC, and your assistance in identifying potential members is requested. This chapter is intended to serve the OTC system, so voices from each location are welcome and needed. Please email Dr. Joan Barrett at barrettj@otc.edu or Mr. Daniel Ogunyemi at ogunyemd@otc.edu by April 29 with the names of students you believe would be interested in being a part of the new OTC chapter of SAAB and they'll gladly reach out to them. Thank you for your help!

Have a great week!

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