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Subject: Provost's Notes: Week 15 & TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!
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Good morning, and happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

More on Teacher Appreciation Week in a moment, but let's start off with some updates:

SMALL TEACHING ONLINE: In case you missed the Center for Academic Innovation's virtual event "**Small Teaching Online: A Conversation with the Author – Flower Darby**" on April 16, here is a [link to the recording](#). The passcode to view the video is "**OTC@Eagles1**". Flower modeled techniques you can use in your course, and addressed questions posed by the live audience and the CAI Reading Group. If you would like more information or need assistance, please contact the Center for Academic Innovation at facdev@otc.edu or 417-447-4800.

ADVISEE LISTS IN MyOTC: You may notice that your advisee list becomes shorter after the end of the semester. That's because our Registrar's Office will be "cleaning up" those lists by removing students who have not been active in the system for the last couple of years. So don't panic if you see some names drop off your list. Your current, active advisees will still be there.

OTC FACULTY PODCAST: When you get a chance, check out [the new podcast, "Oh That's Cool!"](#) Faculty members Andrew Crocker and Jared Durden have created an informative, funny, and entertaining experience that highlights some of the impressive folks we have working here at OTC. The first episode features Jennifer Bump, History instructor, who discusses the only successful coup in US history. So interesting!

And finally...

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: We're all fortunate to live in a world where there are many people to admire and inspire us. For me, one of those is Dolly Parton. Dolly is a reminder that living a life of love and respect really is the way – and that starts with loving and respecting ourselves. Dolly writes in her biography that even as a young girl, she always loved dressing up in flamboyant clothes and wearing gaudy makeup, much to the dismay of her more pious family members. Dolly is unapologetic about who she is, what she believes, and how she lives her life. A well-known Dolly quote is, *"Find out who you are, and do it on purpose."*

So what does this have to do with Teacher Appreciation Week? The way I see it, you have all found out who you are: You are teachers. You feel it in your bones. You may have started your professional life as something else—a nurse, a mechanic, a business owner, a machinist—but the draw of sharing your knowledge with others in order to help them live better lives, your purpose—this is what brought you here. We all have our own stories about what led us to OTC, but why we stay is the same: The students. You are teachers, and you do it on purpose.

It's been a tough year; I'm sick of saying it, and we're all sick of living it. But I don't think I've had a conversation yet with anyone who isn't thankful for it. The challenges have made us braver, smarter,

and more agile as teachers. We've got more tools in our tool belt. I belong to a Facebook group that is comprised of faculty from across the world, sharing stories and seeking advice about teaching during a pandemic. They are understandably worn out, but their fatigue often worms its way into their posts as cynicism and criticism of their students. When I read those posts, I'm thankful that's not who we are. *Of course*, we all have our moments of frustration. But those moments quickly rebound back to a focus on our purpose.

You are teachers, and you do it on purpose. And you make OTC very, very proud.

Have a great week!

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