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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 9/27/2021
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Good morning!

I hope everyone had a great weekend. Here are just a few announcements to start the week:

Flu Shot Clinics: The OTC Health and Wellness Clinic will hold flu vaccine clinics starting later this week. This is your opportunity to get protected against four different strains of flu. Clinic times, dates, and locations are listed below:

Date	Time	Campus	Room
Sept 30	9am-11:30am	Springfield Campus	LCN 204
Oct 01	9am-11:30am	Springfield Campus	LCN 204
Oct 07	10am-1pm	Lebanon Center	RMC 131
Oct 07	9am-10am	Waynesville Center	Rm 138
Oct 07	1pm-3pm	Republic Center	Rm 101
Oct 07	10am-3pm	Richwood Valley Campus	LSC 230
Oct 08	10am-3pm	Table Rock Campus	ASN nursing lab

Center for Academic Innovation 2020-2021 Annual Report: CAI released its second annual report with several highlights from the last academic year. You may read the report [here](#). Remember that CAI's purpose is to provide all OTC faculty with the support and education they need to be more successful in their work with students. If you have requests for CAI offerings or have suggestions, please [complete this survey](#).

Virtual Open Education Conference, October 18-22: If you are interested in learning more about Open Educational Resources (OER), here's your opportunity. The Hamra Library is sponsoring a few scholarships towards free admission to the virtual Open Education Conference happening October 18-22. Those interested may apply at tinyurl.com/OTCOEC by Wednesday (9/29). You may learn more about the conference program at <https://openededucationconference.org/2021/program>.

Campus Visits to Richwood Valley and Table Rock: I will be on the Richwood Valley Campus tomorrow (Tuesday, 9/28) at 2 p.m. in LSC 228 and the Table Rock Campus on Wednesday (9/29) at 11 a.m. in the 4th floor conference room. If you are at either of those locations, I'd love for you to stop by and visit!

Another Example of a Culture of Care: If you've ever had an experience with the Carol Jones Writing Center, you know what a great resource it is for students and faculty alike. As we talk more about deepening our commitment to a culture of caring at OTC, I'd like to highlight the CJWC and their approach to helping students. Dr. David Ball directs the CJWC, and he shared with me a message he recently sent to the tutors. He's given me permission to share an excerpt here:

*The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing is the mission: **We help people negotiate the process off solving problems through the act of writing.** Everything else is just details. If the student is on the spectrum, that is just a detail. If the person is deaf, that is just a detail. If the person is totally stressed out over something that seems like it ought not to be such a calamity, that is just a detail. If the person is a parent with a child in tow, that is just a detail. If the person does not exhibit an adult's understanding of proper social protocols, that is just a detail. We help them. Wherever they are. With as much grace as we can muster. Even if it's tricky or vexing. I mentioned this in training this week: tutoring is as much about reading the person as it is about reading the text. They are wherever they are. They know whatever they know. They do not know whatever they do not know. That's just details. We creatively and empathetically meet them where they are and help them go where they need to go. How do we do that? The best we can.*

Although Dr. Ball's audience is the CJWC tutors, what a powerful reminder this is for all of us. The main thing is to fulfill our mission which is, "...to provide accessible, high quality and affordable learning opportunities that transform lives and strengthen the communities we serve." Everything else is just details. We serve the students we have, not the students we want. They've come to us because we've told them this is the place where you can transform your life, so let's keep that in mind when they come to us with a life that needs to be transformed. How do we do that? As Dr. Ball says, "The best we can."

I am honored every day to work alongside each of you. You bring your best to your students even when it's hard. You are appreciated.

Have a great week.

Tracy M. McGrady, Ed.D

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