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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 10/18/2021
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 8:30:17 AM
Attachments: [OTC Flyer - Burrell Therapy Services - Updated Oct. 21.pdf](#)

Good morning!

I hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy some of the beautiful fall weather we had over the weekend. Spending some time outside is always good for mental health, so I encourage you to take advantage of the cooler temps before the really cold weather sets in.

A few announcements:

Midterm Grades: Please submit midterm grades for 16- and 18-week classes TODAY by 10 a.m.

Free Counseling Services: As a reminder, all full-time and part-time OTC employees (including adjunct faculty) have access to free counseling services. Please visit [OTC's Counseling Services for Employees website](#) for more information. In addition, Burrell Behavioral Health has provided an updated flyer for part-time employees (attached) describing how to access their services.

MCCA Memberships: In Dr. Higdon's *Notes* yesterday, he encouraged everyone to consider participating in this year's [Missouri Community College Association convention](#), November 10-12. The college pays for every employee's membership – including our part-time employees. For those who cannot attend in person, there is a virtual option available for just \$100.

On College Development Day last Tuesday, full-time employees spent a good deal of time discussing OTC Cares and what it means. As we delve further into a mindset that is student-centered, data informed, proactive and holistic, it is important to keep in mind that what ultimately emerges as best for students, may not always be the thing that is easiest or most convenient for us as a college. But if we are to continue to thrive, we *must* become accustomed to change. I was with some fellow higher ed professionals from MSU, Drury, and Mizzou this weekend, and we all discussed the coming "cliff": a drastic decrease in traditional-age freshmen. As Dr. Higdon noted, OTC is not competing with our sister institutions in the region for enrollment; we are competing with employment. We must sharpen our focus on serving the working adult learner who is seeking career advancement or a more fulfilling, better-paying job. This means appreciating that they are adults with competing priorities, anticipating and being sensitive to their needs, and shifting the way we operate to meet them. It might not be easy at times; however, as we've demonstrated over the last 18 months, when the hard stuff comes our way, that's when we shine.

Wishing you all a great week!

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