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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 12/6/2021
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Good morning!

I hope you all enjoyed the beautiful weather over the weekend. I was able to visit [Gardens Aglow 2021](#) at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. If you haven't been, I definitely recommend it to get you in the holiday spirit. We're fortunate to have this kind of display right in our own backyard.

Just a couple of updates to share:

Care-Full Teaching: I'm excited to share that the Center for Academic Innovation (CAI) will be offering a third faculty training course "Care-full Teaching" as a follow-up to "Preparing to Pivot" and "Delivering Flexible Courses." Topics include equity, flexibility, integrating institutional supports, self-care, inclusive and accessible practices, effective communication, syllabus, assessment, and more. This course is being supported with HEERF funding, and faculty that successfully complete the course by the deadline will receive a \$200 stipend. The course is optional. There are some eligibility requirements for participants, but instructors who meet those requirements will be automatically enrolled in the course by December 18. The course will run December 20, 2021-January 14, 2022, is self-paced in Canvas, and staff will be available to assist you over the break. For more information, contact CAI at facdev@otc.edu or 417-447-4800.

OTC Choir Winter Concert: I hope you can join us for the OTC Choir Winter Concert tomorrow (December 7) at 7 p.m. at University Heights Baptist Church in Springfield. The concert is free.

OTC Cares: Our Drafting and Design full-time faculty, Rene Wade and Ryan Friend, send a monthly newsletter about their program to DDT students and other interested stakeholders. In the November newsletter, they shared a little about the life of a drafting instructor. Included in this was a section entitled, "Why Are We CTE Drafting Instructors?" In this section, they wrote about trying to make a difference, sharing their love of learning, making classes enjoyable, and the joy they get from teaching. They wrote:

"Teaching our students brings us a lot of pleasure and fulfillment...When it comes down to it, teaching is much more than a means of earning a living. Making a difference in the lives of our students and molding them into the talented employees they will become with skills that will last a lifetime are our rewards. Graduation is one of the most rewarding events of the school year. The second-best event is when a student achieves a job that they have worked hard for by improving themselves and becoming a proficient drafter."

I love that Ryan and Rene shared their "why" with their students. How many of us pause to do that each semester? It made me think about the professionals in my life and how much I appreciate it when they share their passion for their work with me. Whether it's my doctor, my hairdresser, my florist, or my barista at Starbucks, I find myself to be a happier customer when they share how much

they enjoy their work and the joy it brings them to be able to provide their service to me. Applied to our work, this is another aspect of OTC Cares: Communicating to our students that we love what we do, that we find value in it, and that they are special to us because we are personally fulfilled by having them as our students.

Have a great week!

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