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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 1/24/2022
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Attachments: [Call for Proposals MO AOER 2022 v2.docx](#)

Good afternoon!

It's already the second week of the semester, and almost the end of January. Once again, COVID-19 has thrown a wrench into our gears – especially related to local school districts who have closed or moved to remote instruction – but we are moving forward and adapting as best as we can. Many thanks to all of you for your flexibility. I know it isn't easy.

Don't forget the [Healthy at OTC](#) webpage, which provides directions for how to report and manage the various impacts of COVID-19 – whether it be impacts to students or to you personally. When a student reports a COVID-related concern, please submit a Cares report, which can be found [here](#).

A few other items of note:

Call for Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers: For those of you who are in the Springfield vicinity, I encourage you to volunteer some time to the Crosslines at OTC Mobile Food Pantry this spring. We have expanded the number of students we are serving (over 150 during the last event in December). This is such an important service we provide to our food-insecure students, but it takes a lot of people to make it work. You may [sign up here](#).

Second Chance Pell Update: In 2020, OTC was selected as a site for the Second Chance Pell experiment through the US Department of Education. This initiative awards Pell grants to incarcerated individuals, enabling them to access higher education so they are better prepared for work or additional education after their release. In this initial phase, OTC has partnered with the Ozark Correctional Center in Fordland. This spring, we limited our class sizes to 10 students (though many more than that applied), and we are offering four online courses in 8-week blocks. Due to several Department of Corrections restrictions, developing and delivering courses for this population is challenging, so I want to thank the four faculty members who have stepped up and volunteered to be part of this initiative:

- Andrew Crocker, Political Science
- Dane Galloway, English
- Dr. Dianna Parker, Business
- Dr. John Gambon, Psychology

I also want to thank Jordan Schreiber, OTC's Director of Student Recruitment. Jordan has developed strong relationships with the OCC staff and students, and has truly gone above and beyond to ensure a good experience for the students there, traveling back and forth to Fordland (sometimes making two trips a day). She has also kept the project moving along internally as well. You may recall that Jordan and her team were awarded one of the first Game Changer Grants in 2020 – a former felon support initiative. She is a passionate advocate for this population of students, and we are fortunate

to have her quiet and steady competence leading this effort.

Share Your Thoughts with the Student Learning Experience Task Force: The SLE Task Force is underway examining how can we improve the student learning experience at OTC. You will receive an email from SLE@otc.edu this week, providing you with additional task force information and ways you can provide your input.

Are You an A/OER User? Share your experiences at the virtual [Missouri Affordable and Open Educational Resources Conference](#) in March! The call for proposals is attached, with a deadline of February 1.

And finally...thanks to CAI: Many thanks to our colleagues in the Center for Academic Innovation for their hard work – both in developing and offering the *Care-full Teaching* class over Winter Break, and for their work during Faculty Development Days. These events are always a heavy lift, and in addition to that, the CAI staff can always be counted on to offer strong, creative, and nearly immediate support to faculty and students all year long.

I hope your semester is off to a good start!

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