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**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
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Good morning!

After a whirlwind week of a holiday, Innovation Celebration, and a winter storm, I think OTC is finally back to full operations. It's hard to believe it's already the last day of February.

Just a few announcements to share:

***I Am Gen Z:*** A screening of the documentary, *I Am Gen Z*, will be held in Lincoln Hall 211 on Tuesday, March 8 at 4 p.m. One of our own students is featured in the documentary, which explores how social media has been designed, monetized and developed to manipulate its users, and the negative consequences that have been especially problematic for the generation who now sit in our classes. After the screening, there will be a panel discussion led by OTC students and staff which is intended to generate ideas for how OTC can create positive changes on our campuses to promote inclusion and connectedness. Many thanks to Richard Turner, English department chair, for his role in bringing this documentary to the OTC community. The event is free and open to the public. The trailer for the documentary can be seen [here](#). Please help promote this event to your students.

**Innovation Celebration:** What do a jazz band, lactation rooms, and a student lounge have in common? These were all winners of Game Changer grants at last week's [Innovation Celebration](#)! It's always inspiring to see so many great ideas for making OTC a better place for our students. Congratulations to all the winners!

**MCCA Webinar Series - My Favorite Lecture:** As OTC's population of students with autism has grown, many of you have sought to educate yourselves about how to better serve them. On March 8 at 2 p.m., MCCA is offering an opportunity for everyone in the state to learn more about this topic from one of OTC's own exceptional faculty members. Dr. Susan Inman, associate of science in nursing faculty member, will be delivering her favorite lecture as part of MCCA's webinar series. In this lecture, Dr. Inman will share valuable insights into autism and higher education. The challenges today's students with autism face have evolved with the times, so how can we as educators evolve to help address them? This will be a constructive look at who these students are, our assumptions, the barriers they face, and most importantly, how to help them be successful in college. The event is free, and you may register [here](#).

**Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE):** This semester, OTC will join community colleges across the nation in administering the [Community College Survey of Student Engagement \(CCSSE\)](#). Launched in 2001 through The University of Texas at Austin, CCSSE provides nationally normed benchmarks regarding institutional practices and student behaviors found to correlate highly with student learning and retention. Instructors whose sections will be randomly selected to administer the in-class, paper-pencil survey will be contacted via email in the near future with more detailed information. Thank you, in advance, for your participation!

**Ukraine:** As Dr. Higdon acknowledged in his *Notes* yesterday, the invasion of Ukraine is weighing heavily on everyone's mind. I know this is causing many of us to feel additional stress and worry, which is only heightened by feelings of helplessness to do anything about it. It has been inspiring to watch Ukrainian President Zelenskyy refuse to leave his people behind. Many of you have likely seen reports of his refusal of the United States' offer to evacuate him. In response, Zelenskyy said, "The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride." Though the comparison of Zelenskyy's situation to ours may seem silly, I think most of us can relate: We don't need someone to rescue us, but rather someone to help us fight.

I'm grateful to have such a community at OTC. Many of us are privileged to have trusted colleagues nearby who we can count on for support. Mister Rogers always told us to "look for the helpers," but at some point, the helpers need help, too. The past two years have been brutal, and I'm proud of the way we have been "the helpers" to our students and one another. Through it all, I hope you have known that you are not alone. That remains true today. If I can do anything to support you, please reach out. My door is always open, and you are always welcome.

Wishing you a good week!

**Tracy M. McGrady, Ed.D**

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