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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 8/29/22
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Good morning!

I hope everyone had a fantastic first week of the semester. Here we go on to Week 2!

Classroom Audiovisual Upgrades: Our IT team is in the process of upgrading classrooms at all campuses and locations – some 250 rooms. The next phase of their project will involve installation of cameras, speakers, microphones, and remote control connectivity. IT will be working throughout the semester, as schedules permit. **Please be patient and accommodating if that work is being done in your classroom(s).** The team attempts to work around class schedules, but having that many rooms to upgrade and only so many hours in the day makes it impossible to avoid at least some disruption. The IT team reports that most instructors have been really nice about the disruptions, so please continue showing them grace as they finish the project. You may see exposed cables, etc. for a while, but in the end, it will result in a better student experience and more flexibility for all of us.

Hamra Library Director Change: Many of you are aware that Sarah Fancher has vacated her position as College Director for a great new opportunity. Sarah has left OTC much better than she found it. She expanded library services, facilitated the growth in courses utilizing Open Educational Resources (OER), managed the EagleTech lending program, and created the Family Study Room. These are just a few of Sarah's many accomplishments, and we will miss her. In the interim, another familiar face will be filling Sarah's vacant position. **Sarah Mabee** has moved into the College Director position on an interim basis, effective today. The "two Sarah's" worked expertly together, and I know that Sarah M. will ensure a smooth transition for staff and students.

Keep Learning: When I spoke to the full-time faculty a couple of weeks ago, I challenged them to make continual growth and improvement a priority. On the heels of that, **Dr. Tena Wheeler**, Department Chair of the Associate of Science in Nursing program, sent me what she wrote to her new class of students to start the semester on a positive note. I asked permission to share it because as I read it, I realized that if you swap out a few words, these words can apply to anyone – especially teachers:

- *Make a friend. This friend can be a classmate or someone that you trust to support you in this journey. Someone that will listen when you need to vent, but will re-direct you back to your goal and remind you why you are here!*
- *Practice the clean slate policy. You will not be perfect in this journey. You will make mistakes. Life will happen and your plans will not go the way you want them to. You will not do as well on a test as you thought you would. When this happens, acknowledge it, then wipe the slate clean. Start again. You are in this program for a reason. Give yourself grace, and don't dwell on these things. Clean slate!*
- *Pursue progress, not perfection. So many nurses have a Type A personality that tells us that we have to be perfect. You are not perfect, nor am I. We all make mistakes. Consistency matters more than perfection. Strive for progress!*
- *Shrink the challenge. While you can't change assignment deadlines, clinical days or test*

dates, you can change your plan. If you are not consistently getting things done, or you plan to do everything in one day, you need to change your plan. If you aren't getting things done, you have set goals and made plans that are bigger than the time and energy that you have. Change (shrink the challenge) the plan until you are 90% certain that you can do it.

- *Keep going even if the progress is hard to see. Small changes over a long period of time, leads to big progress. Listen to your instructors and your clinical instructors. Sometimes when you can't see the progress, they do and can!*
- *Plan for a lifetime of learning. This is step one toward a lifetime of learning as a registered nurse. I have been a nurse for 35 years and I still learn. Sometimes those lessons are learned from students! Keep an open mind. Realize that you still have something to learn and remember the knowledge previously gained as it will provide the basis for what you will learn about the RN role in this program.*

Wishing you a week full of progress, not perfection.

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