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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
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Good morning, and Happy Halloween!

Halloween may be filled with all kinds of frightening things, but one thing that *isn't* scary is OTC's strong collaboration with MSU. We have another exciting partnership event coming up this week, and we could use your help in getting the word out to students:

MSU Vision Screening Program: An initiative of AmeriCorps, MSU's Vision Screening Program has screened more than 84,000 individuals in Southwest Missouri since Fall 2013 *free of charge*. Now, they are bringing that service to OTC. The Vision Screening Program will be on the Springfield campus on **Friday, November 4 in NKM 120 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** to provide **FREE** vision screenings to OTC students and employees, along with their family members ages 6 months and up. This event will occur every Friday through December 16.

The screening takes approximately 90 seconds and uses a high-tech, non-invasive camera to take an internal picture of the eye which identifies a host of potential vision problems – from nearsightedness to astigmatism and beyond. Those identified as having vision deficiencies who do not have their own eye doctor will be referred to Vision Rehab Center of the Ozarks for further evaluation. The Vision Rehab Center accepts many forms of insurance, but also offers sliding scale payment options.

Screenings are being planned at other OTC locations, so stay tuned for more details. Until then, **please help spread the word to your students**, many of whom may not have access to vision care. Special thanks to faculty members Richard Turner and Kerri Huff for bringing this service to OTC.

Trailblazer Awards: As a college community, we've been focusing on being more intentional with our OTC Cares culture. We've identified example after example of how faculty and staff adapt, adopt and innovate in order to help students have a better shot at success. From the personal level to the institutional level, we've been doing it well. As excitement builds around the upcoming Innovation Celebration, it's link to OTC Cares is clear. At the event in February, Trailblazer Awards will be handed out to six full-time employees who have been innovative at the college. Think of the folks who have embodied the OTC Cares culture and have created new supports for students and [nominate them](#). The Friday, November 18 is quickly approaching!

FUN: If you missed the FUN (Faculty Unplug & Network) on Wednesday, we'll have one more before the semester ends. Mark your calendars now for **Wednesday, December 7 at noon**. More details forthcoming.

I had a great time visiting Waynesville and Lebanon last week. I got to learn even more about the Education Centers' LVL (live virtual learning) instruction model and hear from faculty about all the ways that students have benefited. One faculty member shared about a student who had two young sons who had to be hospitalized a couple of weeks apart, but the student never had to miss a class.

She was able to participate in class from the hospital and never leave her children's bedside. How great is that?

Enjoy your Halloween and have a great week!

Tracy

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