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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 3/27/2023
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 8:10:14 AM

Good morning!

A few quick items to share:

Chronicle of Higher Education Great Colleges to Work for Survey: Several of you were randomly selected to participate in this survey and will have received it via email. If you received the survey, please take a few minutes to complete it prior to March 31. This is an anonymous way for you to share your feedback about your experience working at OTC.

Springfield Votes: Our very own phenomenal student organization, Politically Active, hosted a forum featuring all Springfield candidates on the April 4 ballot. Students conducted interviews with each candidate which can all be found [here](#). If you live in Springfield or the Springfield Public Schools district, this is a great way to become more informed prior to election day.

OTC Cares: I want to share (with permission) part of an email I received from a student last week. I had emailed to thank him for nominating me as a PTK mentor, and below is an excerpt of what I received in return:

To be specific, ma'am, I feel as though OTC took the middle-aged me, and renewed me. I hesitate to share the true strength of it all, for fear that you may think I'm exaggerating, but OTC has, in many ways, saved me. I don't know how much you'd care to hear, and I don't want to take up more of your time than is necessary to let you know how what you've done has made me a better person, but...here a glimpse. The structure you've built fed me when I was hungry, provides free bottomless coffee when I'm thirsty, and I, a complete stranger to OTC, was taken in as if I were one of their own...which I am now. When I needed clothes, you provided, when I was sick with how much I'd taken on and crushing under the weight, not only have you not added pressure to an already over-stressed situation, but you have provided support and offered a helping hand. Through your free counseling program I was able to get a referral to Burrell, was diagnosed with clinical depression, and am now treated. There is literally not a way to put into words the transformation that followed, but I'll try. It was as though I had been living in twilight all my life, an eternal undercurrent of darkness and demotivation, and then the darkness was taken away. I had no idea everyone wasn't going through what I was going through - I was just always very impressed with people who had motivation. Now, here in the sunlight, I can not only see more clearly, but I have energy to DO things. Nearly 50 years, and for the first time, I'm alive. OTC referred me to MSU Care for my medical treatment, and I had a minor surgery performed for not one dime on my part. I was running out of money and having to choose between eating or gas money, and then OTC provided emergency financial aid so I didn't have to

suffer. And fed me every morning. And offered me the mobile food pantry. And helped cover my gas and my bills. You gave me friends when I had none. (The environment in your honors lounge is delightful.) I needed new shoes, and suddenly, there they were - a donation, and the boots are very nice. I could go on (like, seriously, I could go on,) but I just wanted to give you a glimpse into the world of the people you're reaching, and really and truly say thank you.

I thought this student so eloquently expressed the power of what we have all worked together to build and how transformational it can be. I hope it makes you proud.

Have a great week!

Tracy

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