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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
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Good morning!

What a gorgeous weekend! I hope everyone was able to get outside for a healthy dose of vitamin D – just what we needed to get us through this last week before Spring Break.

A few announcements to start your week:

Puppies!: Today is the day! If you or your students need a little pick-me-up, [from 11am-1pm, Hamra Library will have therapy dogs from Pet Therapy of the Ozarks](#). Stop by the library to **pet some good dogs and lower your blood pressure**. Contact Sarah Mabee at mabees@otc.edu if you have any questions.

SLIM? LVL? Live Online! As our live Zoom classes have grown in number and popularity, so has our understanding of how best to deliver – and promote – these courses to students. As such, how we refer to these courses has changed as well. Based on student feedback, we have learned that they **better understand what to expect in a class that is labeled “live online,”** so that’s the direction the college will go. By the time registration goes live in a few weeks, all courses taught synchronously online will be labeled as Live Online classes.

Winning!: Congrats to **14 Graphic Design Technology students who won a total of 25 awards** at the 2023 Addy Awards! Also, congratulations to our **Alpha Psi Tau PTK chapter which picked up 14 awards** at last weekend’s Heartland Region conference. Awards included several student recognitions as well as a 1st Place Paragon Award for New Advisors to Cassidy Bright. Cassidy was also the Horizon Advisor Award Winner, and she and Todd Yerby placed second as Distinguished Advisor Team. Huge congratulations to all!

Evening Support for Students: Remind your students that the **Hamra Library and the Speckman Tutoring & Learning Center have joined forces to create a one-stop shop** by providing tutoring and library services into the evening hours in the Hamra Library (IC 100). These extended hours run from 5-8 pm, Monday through Thursday for the rest of the semester. With computers loaded with all the programs our students need, ample study areas, comfortable seating, and a wide selection of books, students have access to library services AND expert tutors who specialize in a variety of subjects, including math, computers, and more, *completely free* to your students.

Zoom to Teams Transition: A reminder to send your “teaching with Teams” questions to CAI as they develop faculty training sessions to prepare for the full Teams implementation this fall. Fill out [this survey](#) and shoot any questions you have their way.

OTC Cares: I was able to escape my office and visit both the Table Rock and Richwood

Valley campuses last week. Thanks to everyone who came out to say hello! It's always informative to hear what our faculty and staff are experiencing at the non-Springfield locations. While I was at the Table Rock campus, Community Resource Specialist Amy Munier shared that she has seen an increasing number of students who lack healthy family support. Maybe some of you are seeing the same phenomenon. It is sad that so many of our students are struggling to meet basic needs, but in addition to that, live in unhealthy or abusive homes. As we all know, the need for mental health services has skyrocketed and access remains lacking. This is a complicated issue, because as attention to mental health has led to it being destigmatized, the increased conversation can lead to a diminished ability to distinguish what is truly poor mental health that needs intervention, versus simply emotional distress - a normal part of the human experience. Still, either of these can be difficult to manage, and it can be hard for us to know how to help students. The [OTC Counseling Services page](#) has helpful information that we can share with students who are struggling. "Additional Resources" at the bottom of the page has screening tools, assessments, and links to external resources to address concerns like addiction, suicide prevention, anxiety and depression, and many others.

As I've said many times, our students need us to show up for them. For many of them, OTC may be the softest place they have to land. As the old saying goes, sometimes the ones who are the most unlovable need the most love. Let's never lose sight of, or become numb to, that awesome responsibility.

Have a great week!

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