Good morning!

A few announcements to start the week:

Administrative Withdrawal and Last Date of Attendance (LDA) Reporting – I appreciate all of you being diligent with navigating new (and seemingly ever-changing!) processes for roster clean-up/administrative withdrawal and LDA reporting. Please hang with us as we work out the kinks of the new system. The new process helps our IT colleagues by removing the need for them to customize and maintain this part of our student information system. The Academic Affairs office continues to work with IT to make this process as smooth for faculty as possible. In the meantime, please monitor your OTC email for updates from Dr. Gavin O'Connor, and if you encounter any problems, please contact him at <u>oconnorg@otc.edu</u>.

College Development Day – On October 3, all full-time employees will gather at White River Conference Center for College Development Day. Be sure to show up for the employee group photo at 1 p.m. on the Springfield campus plaza.

Alliance for Healthcare Education – On August 29, we announced our partnership with Springfield Public Schools, CoxHealth, and Missouri State, which forms the Alliance for Healthcare Education. Over the next few years, Cox College will teach out its current students and OTC and MSU will slowly assume programs, pending accreditation approval. Fall 2024 will see an expansion of Middle College on the Springfield campus with the creation of a dedicated pathway for high school juniors and seniors who plan to become health professionals.

One thing is for sure: OTC would not have been invited to table were it not for our excellent reputation as a premier health sciences educator. Our licensure pass rates and the quality of our graduates is a testament to our Health Sciences educators. The short story is how OTC Health Sciences will grow because of this partnership, but the longer and more important story is how all of us will benefit. This partnership will lead to more and better-prepared healthcare providers, which has a direct impact on the quality of life for you, your family, and our communities. This has been many months in works, and I'd like to thank Dr. Aaron Light for helping represent OTC at the table. In case you missed the news coverage, I've linked a couple of articles:

<u>New health education alliance will absorb Springfield's Cox College (news-leader.com)</u> <u>Cox College to close and transition operations to new healthcare education alliance | Higher Ed Dive</u>

Enjoy the cooler weather this week!

Tracy

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