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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
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Good morning!

After a busy week of picnics at every OTC location, we're settling back in this week before we gear up for a long weekend and College Development Day. As you know, we'll meet next Tuesday, October 3 (is it really almost October?!) at the White River Conference Center.

A few things to share:

AI Advisory Group – Before the fall semester began, I sent an email to faculty regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and its intersection with academic integrity. At that time, I mentioned that the college would be convening a group to study AI and its use at OTC. That group is ready to begin its work and is seeking faculty *and* staff to serve on **OTC's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Advisory Group**. The group will meet periodically to discuss the opportunities, practices, ethics, and challenges of AI as it relates to higher education, workforce, and the mission of the college. This group is being led by Dr. Julie Coltharp, Dean of Online and Faculty Development, and Eric Kyle, Chief Technology Officer. Whether you've already tried out generative AI, such as ChatGPT, Bing, or DALL-E, or are an interested newcomer, we encourage your participation. Email facdev@otc.edu by October 30, 2023, if you are interested in participating this group.

Reminders:

It's PTK Awareness Week – A reminder that the Alpha Psi Tau chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at OTC invites faculty, staff, and students to participate in **PTK Awareness Week** this week. Wear your PTK t-shirt to support the approximately 1,000 PTK students enrolled at OTC. If you don't have a PTK t-shirt, please contact honors@otc.edu or stop by ICE 354 on the Springfield campus to receive one free of charge. Students who see faculty and staff support for PTK are more likely to have interest in getting involved in PTK at OTC. Membership comes with a wide range of benefits including scholarship opportunities, activities/events, educational experiences, and much more. Best of all, PTK membership is free to all qualifying OTC students.

Student Organization Fair – Please encourage your students to attend the **Student Club and Organization Fair** sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement. The fair will be in the Plaster Manufacturing Center from 10 a.m. to noon. As I explained last week, we consistently hear from students that connecting with others is something they want, so the college continues to invest more in providing engagement opportunities – and students who are more connected with each other have better academic outcomes.

3 Good Things:

1. **Great Colleges to Work For** – In case you missed it, OTC secured a spot on the [2023 Great](#)

[Colleges to Work For](#) list. We were also the only college in Missouri, and one of just 42 nationwide, to make the Honor Roll.

2. **Picnics** - A huge thank you to all the staff and faculty who made our picnics at every location a success. Even the iffy weather on Friday that caused the Springfield picnic to be moved indoors didn't ruin the fun. We all love a fall picnic outdoors on a beautiful September day, but students were still dancing and enjoying themselves despite the sudden shift in plans. It takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers to pull off these events, so thanks to all of you who spent your time making them special for our students.

3. **National Simulation Week** – Last week was National Simulation Week, and I want to recognize our incredible Center of Excellence for Medical Simulation (CEMS) team. This group serves not only our own Health Sciences programs at every campus and center, but also provides simulation training to medical professionals and first responders throughout the region. Medical simulation provides the opportunity for students to learn and professionals to hone their patient care skills in a safe but realistic environment. Our CEMS is second to none throughout the state, and our team is BUSY. They are on track to deliver nearly 8,000 simulations for 2023. Their work has undoubtedly impacted you or a loved one. Whitney Grieshaber, director of the CEMS, relays this story of one of our OTC colleagues who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at his home last month:

“He and I were discussing the event recently, and he informed me the only thing he knows about those who saved his life was that they work for Cox. That particular crew has entered the doors of the Sim Center on numerous occasions, many of which were for education on cardiac arrest management. Now they are slated to enter our doors to meet the man whose life they saved. I’ve had the opportunity of seeing this twice in my time here. Two people have walked through our doors, who wouldn’t have otherwise been here. There are people in our community, even right here at OTC, who were quite literally saved by the learners we are collectively training. That will never be lost on me.”

Enjoy your week and the upcoming long weekend.

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