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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
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Good morning!

We finally had some real fall weather over the weekend, and I loved every minute of it. I was able to stay inside most of the weekend, curled up on the couch binging *Gilmore Girls* – 10 out of 10 would recommend. I hope you were able to enjoy some coziness, too.

The big news this week is that it's **Spirit Week**. This is our week to celebrate the success of the OTC Foundation. Scrounge around in your closet and join the fun. Today's the day to wear your LEAGUE t-shirt or your favorite superhero gear, but here's the rundown for the rest of the week:

- Tuesday: Break out your best (work-appropriate) **Halloween** costume.
- Wednesday: It's **Safari Day**, and you know you've got some camo or khaki in that closet somewhere. We're in the Ozarks, after all.
- Thursday: **Mismatch Day** is the one day you can get dressed in the dark and feel no shame.
- Friday: Who's your favorite sports team? Prove it on **Fandom Day**.

Campus Visits – A big thank you to colleagues at the Richwood Valley and Table Rock campuses for your hospitality during my visits last week. Stepping inside the Table Rock campus always gives me a warm, “welcome mat” vibe, and pulling on to the Richwood Valley campus still makes me feel like I've come home, even though I've been away for nearly eight years now. In the rush of working primarily on the Springfield campus, it's easy to overlook the exceptional work being done on behalf of students at our other locations, but it's no less important or impactful. If you can, make time to go visit. I promise you'll be met with a warm welcome (and pro tip: during your visit at Table Rock, don't miss Danita Frazier's themed coffee bar; trust me, she goes all out).

Every week in *Provost's Notes*, I give a good bit of real estate to passing along stories about how we've helped students. To some, it may seem repetitive. But full-time employees will recall that Board of Trustees chair Paul Sundy spoke on College Development Day about helping students find their *why*. I'm lucky to have found *my why* (doing all I can to support students as they move toward a better life) years ago, but in the day-to-day work, sometimes I have trouble keeping it at the forefront of my mind. Perhaps it's selfish, but these stories serve as a powerful reminder for me. I think many of you feel the same. In that spirit, as we celebrate the OTC Foundation with Spirit Week, and as I've personally been witnessing and reflecting on the great work happening at other OTC locations, I'd like to share an email I received earlier this month from Kristall Fears, director of the Table Rock Practical Nursing program:

I just wanted to let you know that our efforts to help [student], who graduated in July 2023 is truly going to change her life.

As a recap, [student] was kicked out of her house by her mother with 16 weeks left in the program, with only the clothes on her back.

She was living in her car, but with the help from the OTC Foundation, [Community Resource Specialist] Amy Donovan Munier, the PN Program, her peers, and her Employer, she was able to complete the program and she told me last night that she has PASSED her NCLEX-PN. This is going to really be life changing for her as she can now make LPN wages, save up, and eventually complete her dream of becoming an RN.

Without the foundation and Amy Donovan Munier's support, I'm not sure that [student] would have been able to finish the program.

I am so proud to be working at OTC as I truly believe that we are encouraged to invest so much into our students to help them out of poverty.

Keep being amazing and have a great week!

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