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To: ProvostNotes
Subject: Provost"s Notes: 8/26/2024
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Good morning!

Congratulations – we've officially made it through the first week of the semester!

I hope the chaos of a new semester and the usual first-week jitters have settled down and that this week you'll find your rhythm. With week one behind us, it's time to hit our stride and embrace the flow of the semester.

With the semester officially underway, here are a few things happening at Ozarks Tech:

- **Eagle Expo:** Please remind your students about the college's first **Eagle Expo on the Springfield campus on Wednesday, 8/28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Jared Family Atrium**. The Eagle Expo will showcase all the internal resources available to students, from academic support to career services, health and wellness, and more. It's a one-stop opportunity for students to discover everything OTC has to offer to help them succeed. EVERY campus resource will be there.

- **Eagle Summit:** Ozarks Tech is replacing the February Innovation Celebration with the inaugural Eagle Summit, a mini-conference for full-time faculty and staff. This event will include the Program Showcase and professional development sessions focused on collaboration, innovation, and best practices. The 2025 theme, *Learn. Grow. Soar.*, highlights our commitment to continuous learning and educational excellence. Full-time employees are encouraged to submit session proposals to share their expertise. More details, along with the proposal submission link, are available on the Eagle Summit website.

- **Intruder Drill:** In case you missed it, Safety and Security is planning an intruder drill on **Wednesday, September 25.** The drills will last 15-20 minutes. Times for each campus and center are:
  - 9 a.m. – Springfield Campus
  - 9:30 a.m. – Republic Education Center, Richwood Valley Campus, and Table Rock Campus
  - 10:00 a.m. – Lebanon Education Center and Waynesville Education Center

As we plan for next month's drill, I'm so grateful for the Safety and Security presence we have at all our locations. Late last week, Dr. Drew Aberle and I were meeting in my office

when he looked out the window and saw someone with a backpack walking on top of the Plaster Manufacturing Center. From our distance, we couldn't make out any other details. I immediately called Mark Schindler, our director of Safety and Security, and within seconds they had security cameras activated and the person in view. Mark followed up with me about a minute later to let me know all was well and that the person we saw was merely someone inspecting the roof.

It's comforting to know we have the people and tools in place to keep us safe. However, we know that bad things do happen all too frequently on college and university campuses. We are all responsible for keeping Ozarks Tech safe. That incident was a good reminder of "if you see something, say something." Before the semester began, many of you heard about the app being tested by Safety and Security. Once it goes live (expected within the next few weeks), that will be yet another security tool we have in place. Until then, If you see something that doesn't look quite right, call Safety and Security (417-447-6911).

Thank you for your continued dedication and the positive energy you bring. We're off to a great start, and I'm excited to see all the amazing things that will unfold this semester.

Here's to a fantastic week ahead!

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