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To: ProvostNotes
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Good morning!

With the short week, this edition of *Provost's Notes* will be brief. We're entering that point in the semester where we balance enjoying time off with gearing up for the final sprint to the finish line. For faculty, final grades are due in just three weeks—hard to believe how quickly the semester is wrapping up.

In his *Notes*, Dr. Higdon shared about visiting Philip Arnold's OTC 101 class. Recently, I had the privilege of visiting several sections of this class myself, and I want to thank Angie Miller, Kerri Huff, and Lisa Marks for the warm invitations. These visits were truly a highlight.

The students—primarily first-semester, traditional-age learners—asked such thoughtful and engaging questions. It was fascinating to hear their perspectives on everything from personal goals to artificial intelligence and, of course, OTC parking. When I asked one class what they thought was the best thing about OTC, many pointed to the incredible support they receive from faculty and navigators—a sentiment we hear time and again. Every conversation with students is a reminder of how much they have to share and how important it is to listen to their voices.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm reminded of the Native American saying: "Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way." There's something so hopeful about that sentiment. Yet while I'm optimistic for all the good things to come, I'm deeply grateful in the present moment that I have the opportunity to work alongside all of you.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!

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