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To: ProvostNotes
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Good morning, faculty and staf, welcome back!

As we kick off the Fall 2025 semester at Ozarks Tech, I want to extend an excited welcome back to each of you. Whether you're returning from a restful break or diving in for the first time this year, I'm thrilled to begin a semester of meaningful, impact-driven work with you. I hope to see some 1st day of school pictures of you all 🍌

Fall Enrollment Numbers (Thank you Matt Simpson)

The college is up 5% in full time equivalent (FTE) credit hour enrollment, we are also up 7% in unduplicated headcount enrollment (an increase of 699 students over last year).

Other unduplicated headcount enrollment trend highlights:

- Up 17% in Health Sciences unduplicated enrollment
- Up 6% in Arts, Science, and Business unduplicated enrollment
- Up 5% in Technical Education unduplicated enrollment
- Up 8% in Online unduplicated enrollment
- Up 18% in High School programs unduplicated enrollment

These numbers tell an important story. More students are choosing Ozarks Tech and our role in the community continues to grow. They also demonstrate the trust people place in us to open doors to higher education. That's something we should be proud of and it's also a responsibility we need to embrace.

New Programs Launching This Fall

This fall, we are excited to debut three brand-new programs:

- Radiography
- Sonography
- Airframe & Powerplant

All three programs have reached capacity! Interest far exceeded available spots, underscoring the strong demand and enthusiasm for these fields. Thank you to everyone involved from faculty, staf, admissions, and advisors for the supportive, swift coordination that helped make these launches such a success. Additionally, our new Direct Entry ASN program has successfully filled its first cohort of thirty students. This evening and weekend hybrid format was created with working adults and parents in mind. It's designed for those who have daytime jobs or childcare commitments that make a traditional schedule challenging, if not impossible.

Provost's Notes: Maybe a Video Version?

As discussed last Friday, I'm thinking about shaking things up a bit. What if we occasionally delivered Provost's Notes in video format? Think *Outdoor Man*, but... with a bit less rage and a lot more good vibes. Let me know what you think. Would you appreciate that occasional visual check-in and college highlights?

Administrative Withdrawal & Roster Cleanup Reminder

As we settle into the semester, a housekeeping reminder: Administrative Withdrawal deadlines and roster clean up are crucial. I encourage you to use your **my.otc roster** rather than the Canvas roster for reviewing withdrawals and attendance-related clean-up timelines.

Looking Ahead: AI

As I briefly mentioned on Friday, one of my goals this year is to explore AI's impact on education and how we can thoughtfully integrate it into our work. AI is here and it's important that we acknowledge this reality. Over the years education has adapted to many advancements: calculators in math classes, electronic resources in libraries, online learning platforms that opened new modalities, and simulators that enhanced hands-on learning, to name a few. AI is simply the next step in our evolution.

Below are some resources that are already available to you as faculty and I thought they might be helpful as we begin this conversation together. Throughout this year, we will continue to assess AI's impacts and explore how we can best support both you and our students in understanding its benefits as well as its challenges.

- If you are not already enrolled as a student, there is a [Teaching with AI](#) Canvas course. Please search for it and ask to join or send Philip Arnold a message about adding you.
- [Teaching and learning with generative AI](#)

Thank you for everything you do.

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