
From: LIGHT, AARON E.
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 10:36 AM
To: ProvostNotes
Subject: Provost Notes 8/25/25
Attachments: LDA ADMIN WITHDRAW AND ROSTER CLEANUP.pdf

Good morning, faculty and staf—welcome to week two of the fall semester!

It has been energizing to see our campuses and centers come alive again with students filling classrooms, study spaces, and gathering areas. Walking through the Atrium last week felt a bit like being on a cruise ship. Our very own cruise entertainment director, Dave Smith, was leading a lively Bingo event one day, and the next he was keeping the energy up while students connected with campus resources. I know the events planned at Richwood Valley, Table Rock campuses and the centers this week will be just as good.

Celebrating Excellence in Technology

I am proud to share that Dr. Tiffany Ford and Jackson Lewis-Hite have been named finalists for the [2025 Excellence in Technology Awards](#) by the Springfield Tech Council. This recognition highlights not only their individual talents and dedication but also the strong culture of innovation we are building here at Ozarks Tech. Please join me in congratulating them on this well-deserved honor!

Exploring AI in Education

As I mentioned earlier, 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. I encourage you to read a thought-provoking piece from *Inside Higher Ed* on this topic: [Adjusting to Generative AI in Education Means Getting to the Roots](#). It explores the opportunities and challenges of AI and makes the case for approaching it thoughtfully rather than reactively.

My take-home message of the article was:

This requires us to step back and ask ourselves what we actually value when it comes to learning in our disciplines. There are two key questions which can help us:

What do I want students to know?

What do I want students to be able to do?

According to a survey of campus CTOs, 50% of institutions do not grant students institutional access to generative AI tools [Inside Higher Ed](#). Only 36% of community colleges stated that students have access to generative AI. Institutions that do offer access leverage it to prepare students for AI literacy.

Questions for Reflection:

- What was your take-home message, or your ah ha moment with AI in academia so far?
- How does Ozarks Tech's approach to student AI access compare with this national trend?
- Could institutional access, paired with training, improve equity and preparedness for students at Ozarks Tech?

Leave Your Mark at Ozarks Tech

Reminder that you can reserve a personalized, engraved brick that will be permanently installed at the David and Stacey O'Reilly | O'Reilly Auto Parts Plaza, surrounding the Judy and Mike Breeding Clock Tower. You might honor a loved one or celebrate your own time at Ozarks Tech. All proceeds go directly toward advancing the growth and success of our students. [Reserve your paver here](#)

Roster Clean-Up Reminder

A quick reminder that **roster clean-up is happening this week**. Please see attached PDF for instructions to assist with this process.

A Personal Note

Finally, I have to admit I'm excited that college football kicked off this past weekend and the NFL season starts next week. If you're like me, that also means it's time to get your fantasy football teams in order. So, consider this your friendly nudge to prep for your draft, if you have not already drafted your winning team's roster!

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