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To: ProvostNotes
Subject: Provost Notes

I want to highlight a few important updates for the weeks ahead and some events from last week.

Construction Noise in the ICE Building

Many of you have noticed the noise coming from construction in the ICE building. Administrative Services has asked that contractors begin working earlier in the mornings so that louder tasks can be completed before the bulk of classes start. I've been rounding through the building during the day to monitor sound levels and they appear to be lower. We apologize for the disruption while this project is completed. Thank you for your patience and understanding. If there are any problems with sound levels, please contact me anytime.

Thank You to Tech Ed

I am thankful to the Technical Education division for inviting me to their department chair meeting last week. We had a great conversation about important topics including finding and hiring adjuncts, offering evening options sequenced so students could complete a certificate entirely in evening courses, hybrid options, and classroom sizes. I greatly appreciated the chance to engage in these discussions and to hear directly from the chairs.

Shout Out to Facilities

A big thank you to our facilities team at Richwood Valley and Gold Mechanical. After a water pipe broke outside the building last week, they worked through the evening and into the night to ensure classes could continue the next day. Their dedication is a great example of the teamwork that keeps our college moving forward.

Red Alert Drill

On Wednesday, September 24 at 9 a.m., all campuses and centers will participate in a Red Alert drill. The drill should last approximately 10–15 minutes. Please take a moment to review the recent email from Stacy Parton, our College Director of Safety and Security, for specific guidance on what to expect and how to prepare to make sure your class is impacted as little as possible.

Library Research Skills Workshops for Students - <https://academics.otc.edu/library/one-on-one/>

The Ozarks Tech Library will host Research Skills Workshops for students on September 29–October 3 and again October 8–10. Two options are available:

In person: Hamra Library, 12–1 p.m.

Online: Microsoft Teams, 6–7 p.m. (email libraryref@otc.edu to receive the link)

Workshops will cover:

1. Research organization techniques
2. Database navigation and search strategies
3. Source evaluation methods
4. Effective use of library resources

Please encourage your students to take advantage of these sessions. Strong research skills are an important part of academic success.

Artificial Intelligence Discussion this Week

As we continue thinking about innovation and the future of teaching and learning at Ozarks Tech, I want to share a [Blog from the University of San Diego](#) that highlights the growing role of artificial intelligence in education. The article discusses Artificial intelligence as increasingly shaping education in ways that directly impact teaching and student success. From intelligent tutoring systems that provide personalized support, to adaptive learning platforms, AI is helping us rethink how we deliver instruction. It also supports student services through chatbots, accessibility tools like real-time captioning, administrative support, and predictive analytics that identify students at risk earlier. As these tools evolve, they hold great potential to strengthen how we teach, support, and retain students. **What opportunities do you see for AI to enhance your teaching or support your students' success, and what cautions should we keep in mind as we adopt these tools?**

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