
From: LIGHT, AARON E.
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 1:09 PM
To: ProvostNotes
Subject: Provost Notes

Hello everyone,

I hope your week gets off to a great start and that you're staying warm in this recent cold weather blast!

Government Shutdown

Food insecurity continues to be a real concern for many of our students, though we may finally have some good news ahead. It looks like a deal may be coming together to reopen the government. Even so, this process will take time and many people are still without SNAP benefits or paychecks if they work for the federal government. Please remind your teams, students, and others that we'll host our final two food pantries of the year on November 20 and December 9. Thank you for helping spread the word and for continuing to support our students during this time.

Conferences

This week is the MCCA Conference and I'm really looking forward to hearing from some great speakers, connecting with community college colleagues from across the state and celebrating our own Ozarks Tech faculty and staff who are up for recognition. Fingers crossed for our team!

Some of our STEM students also made us incredibly proud at the Space Vision Conference in Seattle, Washington. They took first place in the Space Development Competition with a proposal to build a planetary sunshade using lunar and asteroid materials! Billy Rice won his policy debate event and Emily Zimmerman tied for third place in the business pitch competition (right behind MIT and the University of Michigan). As part of their top finish, the team received a check and an actual piece of regolith. Regolith is a real space rock, SO COOL!

A special thanks goes to Chelsea Cozort, mathematics instructor, and Ashley Rowan, Assistant Director of the TLC, for their guidance and support throughout the trip. This group represented Ozarks Tech with excellence, creativity, and professionalism, we couldn't be prouder of them.

Reminders

1. Canvas Alignment Updates - All full-time faculty should complete the required Canvas alignment changes by Spring 2026. If you need assistance, please reach out to the Center for Academic Innovation for support.
2. Annual Training- Don't forget to complete your annual sexual harassment prevention training by December 3.
3. Spring 2026 Course Sections- Spring 2026 course sections are now available in Canvas. To request a course copy, visit https://faculty.otc.edu/center/course_copy/ or email online@otc.edu for assistance.

Library Collection Transition

As we prepare for the library's move to the new Academic Resource Center in the U in August 2026, the library team has begun a comprehensive review of the physical collection. The new space will have about one-quarter of the current shelving capacity, so the staff is assessing materials carefully to ensure our collection remains current, relevant, and aligned with OTC's academic programs.

This process, called weeding or deselection, follows the college's approved Library Collection Policy and national library standards. Outdated, damaged, or unused materials will be removed, while the majority of the collection will be stored in closed stacks on campus and available upon request. The new library will feature a curated selection of high-use, up-to-date materials and an expanded array of digital resources accessible 24/7.

A common question during this process is why the removed books can't simply be donated. Unfortunately, most charitable or educational organizations cannot accept materials that are outdated, damaged, or no longer relevant to current curricula. Passing along unusable books often creates a disposal burden for those organizations. The library applies the same high standards to donations that it uses for its own collection, ensuring that only materials in good condition and with current, accurate information are shared with others.

As always, thank you for all you do to support our students, programs, and each other.

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