

**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Provost's Notes: 3/21/2022  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022 11:50:33 AM

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Corrected link for the volunteer sign up for Dress for Success:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050948acab29a2fd0-dress>

Sorry about that!

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**From:** MCGRADY, TRACY M.  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** ProvostNotes <ProvostNotes@otc.edu>  
**Subject:** Provost's Notes: 3/21/2022

Good morning!

The semester is flying by, folks. Here we are staring down the barrel of the last 8 weeks of Spring 2022. Hard to believe. Here are this week's announcements:

**Direct-Entry Associate of Science in Nursing Approved:** We received the good news that OTC's new direct-entry ASN program has been approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing. Students interested in becoming RNs can move straight into this program without first having to be an LPN. Additionally, the program is offered in a hybrid format, which provides flexibility for students. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this program, please direct them to the [ASN Direct Entry Program website](#). Congratulations to Dr. Tena Wheeler, Charlotte Choate, and the rest of the ASN faculty who worked so hard to develop this program.

**Jazz Ensemble News:** At the Innovation Celebration in February, you may recall that Phil Forrester, Lead Instructor of Music, was a [Game Changer Grant winner](#) with his proposal to start an OTC Jazz Band. Well, Phil is already hard at work and asked me to share his update and request for your help:

*I want to thank all of you for your outpouring of support for the jazz ensemble coming to OTC this fall. I have already been in contact with local music partner, Palen Music, for quotes on instruments and with my trip to Hillcrest HS on Wednesday, I will have made two recruitment trips in the last 3 weeks. I still need all the help I can get! My vision for this program is to not only cater to incoming students, but to also be as inclusive as possible for our existing students **and our faculty**. In order to get information out to everyone that is interested, I would humbly ask that you share this link: <https://forms.gle/9qjWnKmA4jj4A6yG7> with all of your students. It will take them to an open jazz ensemble interest Google form with a few questions so that I can start to compile a contact list. And if you wanna play? Fill out the form yourself! This form will also be available soon on the Fine Arts home page ([academics.otc.edu/finearts](http://academics.otc.edu/finearts)) so students can search for it on their own as well. I appreciate all of you!*

I am so looking forward to seeing our Jazz Ensemble make its debut this fall! A huge thank you to Phil for sharing his passion with our students.

**Dress for Success:** Career Employment Services is hosting a Dress for Success event for students on April 8. If you are interested in volunteering, you may [sign up here](#). Also, they will continue to accept gently-used business clothing until 3/25. This is a great opportunity to help our students who are seeking jobs to feel their most confident during interviews.

**OTC Cares:** To me, one of the most rewarding moments as an educator is when students start to make connections between different subject areas. Kat Allie, chair of Fine Arts and Humanities, recently shared an email that she received from a student in one of her art classes. The student, a lover of math, had an *a-ha* moment while working on homework for Kat's class: She realized how much of a connection there is between math and the visual arts. She wrote: *"Tonight, doing my homework, I realized how amazing and interesting art is...I wouldn't have discovered this if it wasn't for this class. Thank you!"*

The General Education experience is in many ways the unsung hero of higher education. These courses are often seen as simply boxes to be checked to get to the "good stuff": courses that count toward a major. But as this student's experience illustrates, courses taken as part of general education can open a whole new world for students. They find interests in places they never thought to look. They learn research and reasoning skills that establish a solid foundation for lifelong learning. They come to realize how all the pieces of the world can fit together.

Our technical and health sciences programs get a lot of attention – and rightly so. At the end of them, ideally the student emerges with a licensure or job (or both!) in-hand. At the end of a general education program, however, students typically emerge with a grouping of courses and the need for at least two more years of study, which isn't a particularly sexy deliverable. Still, I guarantee that every student who emerges from a general education program is changed for the better. They are a more informed citizen. A better spouse, parent, or friend. More appreciative of life in all its forms. In short, they are a better human – and *that* is worth celebrating, too.

Hope you had a great Spring Break!

**Tracy M. McGrady, Ed.D**

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