

From: [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)
To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 3/7/2022
Date: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:41:45 PM

Good afternoon!

Whew! There's *a lot* going on right now. Here are a few updates to share:

First Bachelor's Degree Coming Soon! The Higher Learning Commission notified us last week of final approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy! OTC is the first community college in the state to receive approval to offer a bachelor's degree. The degree will be offered in Springfield and at the Waynesville Education Center. The first cohort is set to begin in Spring 2023. Big congratulations to Dr. Aaron Light, Brandon Burk, and all of our stellar Respiratory Therapy faculty for offering a high-quality, nationally-recognized program. The site visitors were very impressed with the program and our students.

OTC is an Amazon Career Choice Partner: By now, you've likely seen the news that OTC and MSU were selected by Amazon to serve as Career Choice partners. If you know any Amazon employees who are interested in pursuing their education, please direct them to the [OTC & Amazon website](#).

SkillsUSA Winners: Our Technical Education students continue to make us proud! Our students brought home a total of 63 medals from the district SkillsUSA competition, and 52 students qualified for the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference next month. Congratulations to these students and their instructors!

Phi Theta Kappa Awards: In keeping with our winning tradition, OTC's Alpha Psi Tau chapter received several regional awards at the PTK Missouri Region Conference this past weekend. Among them: Most Distinguished Chapter, Distinguished Chapter Officer, College Project Award, Honors in Action Award, and Hall of Honor Chapter Officer Award. Congratulations to Todd Yerby, Director of Honors, and to our PTK students who were recognized.

New Degree Audit Launched: After a year of implementation, the Registrar's office and IT launched the new uAchieve Degree audit for our students on March 1. In the first few days, several thousand students, faculty and staff have already accessed the new degree audit system in myOTC and are enjoying the following added benefits:

- An updated, easy to use look that is much more concise
- Automated credit hour cascading, which will allow students to use excess credits toward graduation. This feature alone will save our students credit hours and reduce the average number of hours to graduate.
- Highly customizable interface, allowing us to provide students with clearer requirements
- Ability to hide courses to reduce the need for substitutions
- Expanded encoding capabilities that allow us to better accommodate curriculum

The new degree planner is currently available for faculty/staff use, and will be available to students

very soon. You can learn more about the new degree audit and degree planner, including one-page information sheets and tutorials on the [OTC Degree Audit website](#). For questions regarding the degree audit and degree planner or if you would like training, please contact [Amy Payne](#) in the Registrar's office.

Spring Book Club: If you are an instructor, you may have heard about a grading practice called "ungrading." Sound interesting? If you want to learn more about this practice, sign up now for the Spring Book Club. The book selection is (you guessed it), *Ungrading* by Susan Blum. Physical copies of the book should be available this week, and digital copies are available now. To register, visit [the Book Club website](#) for more information and details.

OTC Cares: The college just completed the first calling campaign of the semester, and while it's gratifying to connect with students who need help in some way, it's also nice to hear positive comments from students. Dr. Rob Griffith, president of the OTC Table Rock campus, told me that the Table Rock calling team received a lot of great feedback from students. One student told Dr. Griffith that he is about to graduate from Missouri S&T with an Engineering degree and that the instruction he received at OTC was better than any he's received from MSU or S&T. In addition to that, several Table Rock Practical Nursing students repeatedly said how much they enjoyed and appreciated their instructors (shout out to program director Kristall Fears and her faculty). Providing our students with a quality instructional experience is certainly important, but it's just as important to reassure them that we really do care. These comments from the calling campaign – and the calling campaign itself – demonstrate that culture of caring.

Wishing you all a great week!

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