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To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 4/25/2022
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 11:24:39 AM
Attachments: [2022 Commencement.msg](#)

Good morning!

Here we are just a month away from the end of the Spring 2022 semester. In some ways, it's been one of the most challenging ever; but in other ways, it's been nothing short of fantastic. We saw the end of masking at OTC after enduring nearly 2 years of it, and we're getting ready to enjoy a return to a normal Commencement. I am so looking forward to it!

Speaking of Commencement: You all received an email on Friday regarding Commencement protocols this year (attached). Please note the earlier start time! Those marching in the processional will need to be at Hammons Student Center (south entrance) by 4:15 p.m., and lined up and ready to go by 4:40 p.m.

Ceremonies This Week: We'll hold two special ceremonies this week, and all are invited to attend.

- On Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Gillioz, we'll induct nearly 70 students into **Phi Theta Kappa**. Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, president of PTK International, will be our special guest and keynote speaker.
- On Thursday at 6 p.m., again at the Gillioz, we'll hold our **High School Equivalency Graduation**, which is always one of my favorites.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Over the past couple of weeks, I've had the pleasure of visiting with some of our newest faculty members. I continue to be so pleased at the impressive people who are drawn to serve our students at OTC. These are some of the finest folks around, and they have such big hearts for students. Several of the faculty I visited with mentioned OTC Cares and how they use it in their work. I asked them what the college could do to support them better and got some good suggestions. As I told them, words are inadequate to express how deeply I appreciate our faculty, so I'm always interested in hearing tangible ideas of how the college can feasibly support them better. Words can ring hollow at times.

Next week (May 2-6) is Teacher Appreciation Week. The Center for Academic Innovation has several fun events planned at all OTC locations, so watch your email for more details. The week-long celebration will begin on Monday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with cake. I'll be there to celebrate, too. (Did I mention there will be cake?) As I wrote above, words ring hollow, but the work of our faculty – *and everyone who works within Academic Affairs* – is so incredibly consequential and life-changing. And while I struggle to meaningfully communicate my gratitude and what an honor it is to work with you, I'll try. With cake.

Have a fantastic week!

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