


**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
**Subject:** Provost's Notes: 5/2/2022  
**Date:** Monday, May 2, 2022 8:13:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

Good morning!

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! If you get a chance, swing by the whiteboard just outside the Academic Services suite entrance (ICE 234). Marcia Wheeler does a great job each week coming up with creative writing prompts for students. This week's is one of my favorites: "It's Teacher Appreciation Week! Who would you like to give a shout out to?" As the week goes on, it's fun to see the board fill up with faculty names. I'll share a picture on the OTC Faculty Facebook page a little later this week.

As a reminder, the Center for Academic Innovation has several celebrations planned this week at all OTC locations (see the graphic below). I hope you can stop by the kick-off event today in IC 104G on the Springfield campus between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



The graphic is a blue rectangular poster for Teacher Appreciation Week at OTC. At the top, it says "Teacher Appreciation Week at OTC" in white serif font. Below that, "May 2-6" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Underneath, "A week of celebrating faculty" is written in a smaller white sans-serif font. On the left and right sides of the text, there are illustrations of a man and a woman, respectively, both wearing white lab coats and holding red folders. Below the main text, there is a section titled "Monday, May 2 11:00AM-1:00PM - Springfield, IC 104G. Drop in, share your experiences, join Dr. McGrady, and enjoy cake to kick-off the week!". This is followed by a section titled "Week-long Celebrations" with three bullet points: "Faculty Cookies - Starting Monday, available at every OTC location while they last.", "Celebration Stations - Available at every OTC location and online, students will have the opportunity to share their appreciation for faculty through individual postcard messages, general message whiteboards/easel pads, and a virtual Canvas message space.", and "CAI Open House - Enjoy conversation, snacks, and coffee at your Center for Academic Innovation (Springfield Campus, IC 104). Drop in anytime or join us for a brown bag lunch!"

As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, it's fitting that I share an excerpt from an email that Dr. Rob Griffith, president of OTC Table Rock, received last week. The email was sent by a father of a student who is autistic and who is being served by Pan Porter, director of Academic Services at Table Rock. He writes:

*[My son] is high-functioning Autistic and while he is exceptionally bright and excels in his*

*studies (primarily because of his work ethics), when it comes to navigating through the process of signing up for classes and applying for his grants, he does not have the knowledge to accomplish this. As it has been over 40 years since I graduated from College, I am entirely clueless, although I am gradually learning the process, thanks to Pan. From Day One, Pan has helped us every step of the way and has always made herself available to guide us or answer any questions we may have, no matter how trivial they may seem. Having someone like Pan as a resource provides a tremendous comfort level for us.*

*As a former Division Chief for a major Florida sheriff's office with over 100 people under my command, one of my greatest pleasures was to receive positive feedback pertaining to one of my people. That pleasure was only exceeded by having the privilege of recognizing them for their performance and providing accolades in some fashion, be it public recognition, letters of commendation, etc. I would have been thrilled to have someone as dedicated and committed as Pan under my command. I can only hope the OTC Table Rock Campus recognizes what a valuable asset they have in Pan Porter. She truly is a credit to her position and is an exemplary staff member who makes OTC shine!*

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Phi Theta Kappa Student Awards event at Stephens College in Columbia. One of the speakers shared a poem about success that is widely – albeit inaccurately – attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson. The poem ends with this bit of wisdom:

*...to know that one life has breathed easier because you lived here. This is to have succeeded.*

I believe that's true. And as I read it, I think of all the many lives that have breathed easier because of Pan – and because of all of you. The pace of the end of the semester is frenetic at times, but as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, and as we end another academic year, I hope you'll take some time to reflect on those lives that breathe easier because you lived here.

Enjoy the week!

Tracy M. McGrady, Ed.D.  
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Ozarks Technical Community College  
1001 E. Chestnut Expressway  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417.447.8152