

From: [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)
To: [ProvostNotes](#)
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Good morning!

For those of you who live in the Ozarks, I hope you enjoyed another glorious fall weekend. The end of the fall 2022 is on the horizon, and I can't believe how quickly the semester has flown by. It must be due in part to a sense of normalcy returning on the heels of such an odd couple of years. We finally have things to do and talk about that have nothing to do with Covid. And speaking of things that have nothing to do with Covid, here are a few of them:

I and You: [Get your tickets now](#) for OTC's return to the stage next week as Theatre instructor Jon Herbert directs *I and You*, a story that focuses on the relationship between two high school students from very different worlds. The play runs November 17-20 in Lincoln Hall 211 on the Springfield campus. The event is FREE and open to the public.

Vision Screenings: Thanks for your help in getting the word out about free vision screenings hosted at OTC. I'm told that at the first event last Friday, 23 people received screenings! Upcoming vision clinics will be:

- **Today** from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Richwood Valley in LSC 123
- **Friday, November 11** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Springfield campus in NKM 120.
- Other OTC locations will host vision clinics (more info forthcoming)

As a reminder, all OTC students and employees, along with their family members ages 6 months and up, are eligible for a free screening. Those identified as having vision deficiencies who do not have their own eye doctor will be referred to Vision Rehab Center of the Ozarks for further evaluation. The Vision Rehab Center accepts many forms of insurance, but also offers sliding scale payment options. This is such a tremendous service to our students and their families who may not have access to vision care.

Trailblazer Awards: Look around you. See some cool, innovative colleagues? *I know you do!* The deadline to [nominate a full-time colleague](#) for a Trailblazer Award is **Friday, November 18**. Six full-time employees will be recognized at February's Innovation Celebration.

OTC Cares: Some of you may have opened your mailbox last week to a familiar face. The [November issue of Biz 417](#) features the Person of the Year for 2022, OTC's chancellor, Dr. Hal Higdon. Because *Biz 417* is a business publication, they naturally focused on Dr. Higdon's approach to transforming and growing the college—and all that is notable, of course. But in my mind, the thing that makes Dr. Higdon truly unique and "Person of the Year"-worthy is his commitment to OTC's culture of care. On more times than I can count, I have sat in his office pitching some (possibly nutty) idea, and he has challenged me by asking, "Does it meet [the four pillars](#)?" He walks the talk. How fortunate we are to have a leader who possesses that rare combination of shrewd business acumen, as well as an enormous heart.

Have a great week!

Tracy M. McGrady, Ed.D

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Ozarks Technical Community College

1001 E Chestnut Expressway

Springfield, MO 65802

417.447.8152