

From: [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)
To: [ProvostNotes](#)
Subject: Provost's Notes: 12/5/2022
Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:57:18 AM
Attachments: [WinterJoyPrgrmPg1.jpg](#)

Good morning!

We had a great time in St. Louis last week at the MCCA annual convention. I was pleased to see so many OTC colleagues there, presenting to our community college colleagues around the state. OTC was well represented.

The busy time of the fall semester has officially arrived. We've got one more week of classes, then we're off to the races with finals. Here are some events of interest coming up, including a few "lasts":

- **Student Art Exhibit:** Come visit the Jared Family Atrium on the Springfield campus on **Wednesday, December 7 between noon and 2 p.m.** to view some of the fabulous art created by students this semester. And if that isn't enough fun...
- **FUN:** Our last "Faculty Unplug and Network" will be held on **Wednesday, 12/7 from noon to 1 p.m. in PMC 216D** on the Springfield campus. Maybe it feels like taking time out to connect with colleagues at this busy time is the last thing you need. Then again, it's *exactly* what you need! Come on over, grab a snack, and sit a spell. RSVP at facdev@otc.edu.
- **Faculty Senate:** I'll be joining the final Fall 2022 Faculty Senate meeting on **Thursday, 12/8 at 3 p.m.** to talk more about the Live Virtual Learning (LVL) modality.
- **Holiday Peace Table :** The traditional Scallions Holiday Buffet is the culmination of a semester's worth of enjoyable dining. The Peace Table will be held from **noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 8**. The Scallions menu this semester has been <chef's kiss>. Experience it while you still can! Reservations can be made by emailing scallions@otc.edu or calling 447-8281.
- **Winter Concert:** Make plans now to attend the **OTC Choir and Jazz Band Winter Concert at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13** at Drury Stone Chapel. This will be our Jazz Band's premier concert! Please see the attached flyer for more details.

OTC Cares: I recently learned about a student who disclosed to a couple of his instructors that he was having suicidal thoughts. His instructors both submitted OTC Cares report, and our Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) at OTC was able to reach out and ensure the student was safe and had a connection to helpful resources. Unfortunately, this type of report is common, and we've become somewhat numb to them.

But take a step back and see what is really happening here:

Two instructors created a space welcoming enough that a student felt safe being vulnerable with them. That's big. As I frequently say, the subject matter is important, but relationships matter more. Learning happens best when these two things co-exist.

- Two instructors cared enough to act on this information and reach out for support by filing OTC Cares reports.
- Our BIT collaborated and connected to ensure the student was safe. If nothing else, this student knows that there are people in the world who care about him.

At MCCA, I attended the presentation by political science instructor Andrew Crocker, and physics instructor Jared Durden, the hosts of the "Oh, That's Cool!" podcast. In their session, they explained that their podcast is a way to connect OTC and build community. They have accomplished these goals in spades. Their presentation emphasized that we work *best* when we work *together*. We are most effective when we demonstrate care. When we collaborate. When we support one another. I am grateful that is the type of community we have built here for our students and for each other.

Wishing you 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