

**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
**Subject:** Provost's Notes: 2/27/2023  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2023 8:35:24 AM

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Good morning!

As Dr. Higdon said in his *Notes*, I think it's safe to say that we enjoyed being back together in person for the Innovation Celebration last week. I was so proud of all the winners, many of whom are under the Academic Affairs division of the college. We heard some fantastic Game Changer grant proposals, and in true OTC fashion, we're already rallying around some of those that didn't win to figure out how to make these great ideas come to life.

Here are a few items of note:

**Zoom to Teams Transition:** As you may have heard, the college will be **transitioning away from Zoom to exclusively Teams** for video conferencing over the next few months, with the goal to be **full Teams implementation by the start of the fall 2023 semester**. The Center for Academic Innovation is developing "Teams for Teaching" training sessions to be offered in the next few weeks and continuing through the summer. Fill out [this survey](#) and shoot any questions you have their way. They will use your questions to shape the trainings.

**Therapy Dogs in the Library:** The mid-semester point can sometimes seem insurmountable for students *and* for faculty. If you or your students need a little pick-me-up, [on Monday March 6 from 11am-1pm, Hamra Library will have therapy dogs from Pet Therapy of the Ozarks](#). Stop by the library to **pet some good dogs and lower your blood pressure**; a little break can sometimes provide the boost needed to tackle that next exam or write that next paper. Contact Sarah Mabee at [mabees@otc.edu](mailto:mabees@otc.edu) if you have any questions.

**Evening Support for Students:** Beginning tonight, evenings on the Springfield campus will be a whole lot brighter! The **Hamra Library and the Speckman Tutoring & Learning Center are joining forces to create a one-stop shop** by providing tutoring and library services into the evening hours in the Hamra Library (IC 100). These extended hours will run from 5-8 pm, Monday through Thursday for the rest of the semester. With computers loaded with all the programs our students need, ample study areas, comfortable seating, and a wide selection of books, students can have access to library services AND expert tutors who specialize in a variety of subjects, including math, computers, and more, *completely free* to your students.

**OTC/MSU Academic Leadership:** This afternoon, OTC is hosting Missouri State University department chairs, deans, advisors, and administrators for the OTC/MSU Academic Leadership meeting. This typically annual event has been waylaid by Covid for the last few years, so this will be our first gathering since early 2020. This event allows our department chairs, programs directors, and deans the opportunity to meet with their MSU counterparts and discuss ways to smooth transfer pathways for students. It will be nice to see our MSU friends and kick-start these important conversations again.

Have a great week, everyone!

Tracy

**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