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Good morning – and welcome to a short work week!

You know how it goes...after Thanksgiving, it's a busy time with end-of-the-semester activities and a mad dash toward the holidays. Thanks to our Arts, Design, & Humanities department, which seemingly never sleeps, here are two events you'll want to get on your calendars now:

First Friday Art Walk – OTC will host **First Friday Art Walk on December 1 from 4-6 p.m.** with students' art on display in Information Commons and the Norman K. Myers building on the Springfield campus. In addition to art, there will be holiday treats and a hot chocolate bar in the Jared Family Atrium.

A Winter's Night – On **Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. the OTC Choirs and Jazz Band will hold their winter concert** at Drury's Spangler Concert Hall. The performance is free.

As we enter Thanksgiving week, let me say again how grateful I am for each of you. The impact you have on students lasts well beyond the end of the semester. Dr. Tiffany Brunner, College Director of High School Programs, shared with me recently that her son, who earned an associate degree from OTC and is now a student at Missouri S&T, recently commented that he really misses his teachers at OTC. When she asked him why, he responded by saying that OTC instructors were really interested in teaching and wanted to make sure the students in their classes really understood the material. He said he felt like they enjoyed their jobs and liked their students. In contrast, the message he hears from some of his teachers now is that their classes are "weed out" classes, and if you don't make it, you won't make it at S&T. As Dr. Brunner said, "the lack of support for student success is evident." She added that her son will be fine because of all the family support he has, but "it makes me sad for the students who may not have the support he does, and how deflating and demoralizing the sink-or-swim-attitude is."

I'm grateful for who we are here, and equally grateful for who we are not. Enjoy this short week and have a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

Tracy

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