

**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
**Subject:** Provost's Notes: 11/27/2023  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:14:02 AM

---

Good morning!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break. Hard to believe, but we only have two more weeks of classes, then finals, then Winter Break will be here.

Because of the short week, I don't have much to report; however, here are a few things on the agenda for this week:

**Alliance for Healthcare Education Update** – Work continues on the addition to and expansion of our Health Sciences programs through the Alliance for Healthcare Education (AHE). We'll be expanding our Associate of Science in Nursing program and adding associate degrees in Radiography and Diagnostic Imaging because of Cox College's planned closure. MSU will pick up bachelor's and beyond degrees currently offered by Cox College. I want to thank all of those who are working diligently on this project: Dr. Tiffany Brunner continues to work with Springfield Public Schools on the planned Middle College expansion with a dedicated healthcare track; Dr. Aaron Light is doing the heavy lifting with regard to Health Sciences programs and accreditation; and Marcia Wheeler is keeping us in HLC's good graces. You'll hear more about the AHE as we progress.

**First Friday Art Walk** – A reminder that 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.

---

I've been thinking about the new Strategic Plan's focus on developing and sharing teaching best practices. I am excited to see what comes from the work of the task forces that are working on this aspect of *Dream. Plan. Build.* During my visit to Richwood Valley a few weeks ago, I shared an assignment that Dr. Matt Hudson told me he uses in his CIS 101 courses. Around midterm, Matt asks his students to submit a Flip video that is moderated (meaning that no one can see it but him and the student). He asks his students to answer one simple question, "How are you?" Matt says that he is always surprised by what (and how much) they share. This assignment accomplishes several things: 1) it helps Matt's students know that he cares; 2) it allows them an outlet to express their feelings; and 3) if Matt has concerns about any of his students, this allows him to provide appropriate intervention and connect them with OTC resources.

Among the group at Richwood Valley was Dr. Gary Buzbee. Some of you may know that Dr. Buzbee is a successful, mostly retired dentist who helps out in OTC's dental clinic. However, since returning to OTC and earning an Associate of Arts in Agriculture last year, he has also taught in our Agriculture program. Dr. Buzbee sent an email a few weeks ago sharing that he had decided to try a variation of Dr. Hudson's assignment. His prompt was, "Answer this question in more than 25 words: 'How are

you?' Life, School, Work? Anything I can do to help?" Dr. Buzbee wrote, *"I was stunned by the responses. First of all, I was surprised by how much time they took to answer. No crises, but lots of stories that they seemed way too eager to tell. Every one of them thanked me for asking and appreciated the offer of help. Rest assured I will use this in any class I am fortunate enough to lead."*

There is so much magic happening all across OTC, and I'm excited to discover more ways to share it.

Have a great 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