

**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
**Subject:** Provost's Notes: 12/4/2023  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:24:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [HIA Delivered Items 2023.jpg](#)

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Good morning!

Only one more week of classes before finals begin. Here are a few things happening this week:

**Therapy Dogs are Back** - It's the most wonderful time of the (academic) year: therapy dogs! [Therapy dogs from Pet Therapy of the Ozarks will be back in the Hamra Library TODAY, December 4 from 11am-12:30pm.](#) And for those at the Richwood Valley Campus, therapy dogs will be in **RVC's Academic Learning Center on Tuesday, December 5 from 9:30am-11:30am.** All are welcome to stop by and pet these very good dogs, whether you are *pawsitively* worn out from exams, having a *ruff* day, or just need a furry hand warmer. Questions can be directed to Sarah Mabee ([mabees@otc.edu](mailto:mabees@otc.edu)) for the Hamra Library event or Trixie Braden ([bradent@otc.edu](mailto:bradent@otc.edu)) for the RVC event.

**OTC-PTK Honors in Action Project** – As if you needed one, here's yet another reason to be proud of our students: Every year, our PTK chapter participates in PTK's Honors in Action project. This is a service- and research-based project that aims to help the local community in some way. This year our PTK students chose to research how play can be used to heal from trauma and social anxiety. On Thursday this week, our OTC-PTK chapter **will deliver items totaling almost \$3,000 to the Behavior Intervention Team at Pipkin Middle School** to help their students with dysregulation, defined as difficulty managing emotional responses. Strategies for coping with dysregulation include breathing techniques and full body engagement, including exercise and play. Our chapter researched items that would help students suffering from dysregulation. You can see the items they will deliver in the photo attached. I could not possibly be prouder of this group, led by Todd Yerby and Cassidy Bright.

**Integrated Planning Thanks** – On Friday at Strategic Planning Council, Marcia Wheeler and Misty Tollett presented on the outcomes of our new Integrated Planning process. They discussed the positives that had come from the process, but also some of the lessons learned and ways the process will be tweaked. As I listened to them, it became even more clear to me how massive of an undertaking it was to combine several disparate planning processes into one and then get this initiative launched system wide. I'm so proud of the way that our Strategic Planning and Academic Support offices have worked together to create and launch such a meaningful and robust activity. As we discussed Integrated Planning, there was also conversation about how impressed we all have been with the peer reviewers, who came to each review session prepared with excellent questions and observations. It was clear they had done their homework! A huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of this new process – and a special shout-out to Misty and Marcia for their leadership.

Have a great week!

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