From: MCGRADY, TRACY M.
To: ProvostNotes
Subject: Provost"s Notes: 8/19/2024
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 7:31:05 AM

Good morning!

Welcome back as we embark on another exciting academic year at Ozarks Tech!

As we gather again, I want to take a moment to express my deep admiration for the incredible work you do. Your dedication and commitment to our students and all the communities in our region inspire me each and every day.

At our faculty meetings last week, I highlighted some of the work that occurred over the summer designed to provide greater support for our faculty who are encountering an increasing number of difficult student behaviors. As you meet with students this week, please use the new syllabus language as an opportunity to establish your expectations and the type of learning environment you hope to create. In an email later this week, I will detail the main themes of the faculty feedback received at the end of the spring semester and the ways the college is addressing those concerns.

Speaking of the faculty meetings last week, I want to send a big thank you to Dr. Julie Coltharp and Erin Dooley in our Professional Development Institute, Philip Arnold and our Instructional Support staff, and everyone who helped coordinate our Adjunct Educators' Conference and Faculty Development Days. These events are so well done and run so smoothly, but it's a lot of planning and hard work. I'm so grateful for all of them.

Despite the challenges of our jobs, we are lucky. As this new academic year begins, we have the opportunity to continue pouring into our students, nurturing their dreams, and creating a positive impact that resonates far beyond our classrooms. The challenges we face are real, but so are the possibilities. Together, we have created a space that is not only academically rich, but one that supports and empowers as well, and I am so proud of that.

I hope we'll embrace the year ahead with open hearts and open minds. We will have many opportunities to innovate, collaborate, and inspire one another. Every lecture, every discussion, and every interaction is a chance to make a difference. And I have no doubt that, as always, you will rise to the occasion with the compassion and enthusiasm that define the Ozarks Tech faculty.

Thank you for all that you do, and for the countless lives you touch through your work. As always, I am here to support you in that work, so please let me know how I can help. I am excited to see what we will achieve together this year.

Wishing you a fantastic start to the semester!

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