From:	MCGRADY, TRACY M.
To:	ProvostNotes
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Good morning!

It was an absolutely gorgeous weekend in the Ozarks. I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy it.

As the semester rolls on (we're *already* five weeks in!), here are a few things happening at Ozarks Tech:

Faculty Listening Session
As part of ongoing faculty support efforts, I will be hosting two listening sessions this fall. The first session is scheduled for **Thursday, October 10 at 3 p.m.** in the Board Room on the Springfield campus. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences. If you prefer, you can also reach out to me by phone, email, or schedule a one-on-one meeting.

PTK Awareness Week
A quick reminder that PTK Awareness Week is next week, **September 23–27**. Show your support by wearing a PTK t-shirt. If you don't have one, email ptk@otc.edu or visit ICE 354 on the Springfield campus.

Change in Academic Standing
Over the summer, the college made a change to how we communicate with students regarding their academic standing. Previously, students were placed on "academic probation" if their GPA fell below 2.0. However, research highlighted over the summer in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has **prompted the college to change this term to "academic notice."** Turns out, words matter. To summarize the research findings, the term "academic probation" has significant negative impacts by instilling fear and shame, which can hinder academic progress and lower graduation rates. In contrast, many students perceive "academic notice" more positively and see it as a supportive measure rather than a punitive one. Institutions that have adopted this term report improved student persistence and retention rates. By framing academic challenges as opportunities for improvement, "academic notice" sends a more encouraging message, ultimately supporting better academic outcomes and aligning with our goal of enhancing student success. Along with being notified of their "academic notice" status, our students will also receive invitations to engage with our many academic support

services. Read more about the research on the impact of these terms in the article linked above.

I will be out of the office early next week, so *Provost's Notes* will return on **September 30**.

Have a splendid week!

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