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**To:** ProvostNotes
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Good morning – Welcome to Spring 2025!

Dr. Higdon touched on the hectic start to the semester in his recent *Notes*, referencing the winter weather and last week's water main break in Information Commons East on the Springfield campus. This incident required several classes to be relocated to other buildings and some offices to move temporarily.

I cannot say enough about the incredible teamwork displayed across the college to ensure we were ready for today. From IT, Facilities, Security, and Communications & Marketing, to faculty and staff in Fine Arts, Career Services, Disability Support Services, Testing, and the Tutoring & Learning Center—everyone pitched in. Despite significant disruptions, our teams adapted quickly, restored services, and kept smiles on their faces throughout. Thank you all for your extraordinary efforts!

## Tutoring Services Update

Speaking of relocated services in Springfield, the Tutoring & Learning Center (TLC) is now housed in the Turner Student Study Lounge (ICW-115). Director Jacob Lewellen encourages you to bring your classes by during the first few weeks of the semester to help students familiarize themselves with this important resource.

Turner will serve as the TLC's temporary home until Fall 2026, when the center moves to its new location. Below is a summary of tutoring services currently offered on the Springfield campus:

- **Turner (ICW-115):** Math, Accounting, Business, CIS, and Academic Coaching (helping students develop skills for any subject!)
- **Carol Jones Writing Center/Speech Center (IC-200):** Writing or speech assistance for any class.
- **Science Resource Suite (NKM-235):** Support for science courses.

If you have any questions, contact Jacob Lewellen.

## Trailblazer Awards

Voting for the Trailblazer Awards opened on Friday and will remain open through January 20. Be sure to cast your vote! Winners will be announced at Eagle Summit next month.

## Eagle Expo

The Eagle Expo will be held Wednesday, January 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Jared Family Atrium on the Springfield campus. This event connects students with essential OTC resources, from academic and career support to health and wellness services. Please encourage your students to attend—it's an excellent opportunity to ensure they have the tools they need to succeed.

## Retirement Announcement

As if a snowstorm and a wrecked building weren't enough excitement last week, I also announced my retirement, effective July 1. I've been deeply moved by the kind messages, emails, and texts I've received—it has been truly humbling. If I'd known retiring came with so many compliments, I might have done it sooner!

The search for my successor is underway, with plans to have the new Provost announced by the end of April.

Ozarks Tech has been my professional home for nearly 25 years, and there's so much I'll miss. The biggest hole in my heart will come from missing the people – all of you I admire so much for how you pour into our students and make the Ozarks a better place for everyone.

There will be plenty of time to reflect as July approaches. For now, we have a semester to get going. Let's make it the best one yet!

Tracy

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