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

I've heard many others comment similarly, but January felt like the longest 31 days I've experienced in quite some time. With the winter weather, the damage to the Information Commons East building, and the rush of the start of the semester, January definitely had its challenging moments. But now, on to February! This week, I'm looking forward to our first Academic Council meeting of the semester on Thursday, Strategic Planning Council on Friday, and *of course*, the Super Bowl on Sunday (go Chiefs!).

Here are a few other things happening at Ozarks Tech:

Blood Drive – February 11

Student Engagement is hosting a blood drive on **Tuesday, February 11** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in the Jared Family Atrium. Thanks to our generous donors, Ozarks Tech was recently ranked **#4 among college blood donors** for the Community Blood Center—just 20 donations behind the University of Arkansas! With your help, we can move up to #3 while saving lives in the Ozarks. Donating takes about an hour, and every donation makes a difference. Plus, as a thank you, you'll receive a free sweatshirt and snacks! Click here to schedule your donation.

Website Redesign

Several of you participated in meetings last week with Stamats, our website redesign partner. Thanks for taking time out of your schedules to engage in these conversations. I know many of you still have questions, so rest assured that more information and guidance is forthcoming.

A+ Tutoring Pilot Program

Last week, some of our Springfield campus Tutoring & Learning Center team traveled to Fordland to conduct A+ tutor training for Fordland High School students (see photo below). As you probably know, Missouri's A+ Program offers eligible high school students a free, two-year education at any public community college. One of the program's requirements is tutoring, but many students lack training on how to be effective tutors**.** That's where our team stepped in. They provided hands-on training to ensure these students are prepared to succeed as tutors. This initiative not only helps students fulfill their A+ requirements but also encourages them to attend Ozarks Tech

and become tutors with us. The team hopes to expand this program to other school districts in the future.

PTK Induction Ceremony at Ozark Correctional Center

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned that our Ozarks Tech Phi Theta Kappa chapter was hosting a special induction ceremony for students at the Ozark Correctional Center. I want to share a few messages that Jarah Green, Prison Education Coordinator, received from some of the students who attended the ceremony:

> "...made me tear up thinking that could be me next time. I can't wait! I am grateful for this opportunity."
> "...our future is scary without help, and it's good for us to see that people do care and are willing to help us."
> "I have never really amounted to much in my life, and I never really thought I would be doing this at 47 years old."

I'm leaving you with a picture of our newest PTK inductees. We are so proud of them.

Have a great week!

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