From: MCGRADY, TRACY M.
To: ProvostNotes
Subject: Provost"s Notes: 3/10/2025
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 7:24:37 AM

Good morning!

We are officially at the halfway point of the semester, with Spring Break only a week away! A reminder: **Final grades** for 8-week classes and **midterm grades** for 16-week classes are **due today at 10 a.m.** Please submit them on time.

I'm pleased to share several exciting updates:

PTK Success at Heartland Regional Convention
Ozarks Tech's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) team had a fantastic trip to the Heartland Regional Convention in Omaha, Nebraska last weekend. The Alpha Psi Tau chapter brought home 17 awards, including a first-place finish for Honors Coordinator **Dee Lancaster** in the Paragon New Advisor category, and **Ashley Rowan**, Assistant Director of the Tutoring and Learning Center, as the sole regional honoree in the Alumni Hall of Honors. Congratulations to Dee and Ashley! The Heartland Region includes approximately 65 chapters from Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, making these achievements even more remarkable. I'm incredibly proud of all the hard work that went into earning these awards and recognitions.

Nursing Program Expansion
Last week, we received great news: the Missouri State Board of Nursing has approved our request to expand the **Associate of Science in Nursing – Direct Entry** program. This expansion **more than doubles** our student capacity—from 120 to 276 students. This milestone is a testament to the trust the Board of Nursing has in our outstanding nursing faculty and their established track record of shaping our students into some of the best healthcare providers in the state. A big congratulations to ASN department chair, Dr. Tena Wheeler, and her team who worked so hard to make this expansion possible.

Public Speaking Showcase Thursday
The Ozarks Tech Department of Communication and World Languages, in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa (Alpha Psi Tau), is hosting the upcoming **Public Speaking Showcase** on **Thursday, March 13, at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Plaster Manufacturing Center (Rooms 103 A/B)** on the Springfield Campus. Seven student finalists will present their 3-5 minute speeches on the topic, "Why Ozarks Tech was a smart choice for me." Finalists will compete for $1,000 in prizes. This event is **free** and open to all OTC students,

faculty, staff, and guests. If you have one of these students in class, please congratulate them on their selection as a finalist.

- Esther Hawkins
- Laney Enyart
- Mitchell Eddings
- Tia Garrott
- Lesa Voss
- Melody Alvarado
- Emily Gold

Wishing you a terrific week!

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