From:	MCGRADY, TRACY M.
To:	ProvostNotes
Subject:	Provost"s Notes: 3/3/2025
Date:	Monday, March 3, 2025 7:35:03 AM
Attachments:	2501SS011_CommunityHelpHub_Flyer_Half.pdf

Good morning!

Aside from the warmer weather, one sure sign of spring is that things get busy around the college. Here are a few happenings:

Eagle Summit

Although Eagle Summit was canceled due to weather, you won't miss out on the great sessions that were planned. Rescheduled sessions will be listed in the Eagle Summit series on the Professional Development Calendar and will be marked with the Eagle Summit logo on the printable calendar. If you have any thoughts or feedback about Eagle Summit, the Professional Development Institute would love to hear from you. Email them at pd@otc.edu.

Here are a few of the sessions that have been rescheduled thus far:

- **Emergency Response 101** with Mark Schindler– March 11
- **Voyage into the World of Disability Support Services** with Pan Porter – March 11
- **Introduction to Trauma-Informed Pedagogy for a Neurodiverse Student Population** with Dr. Courtney Smith Nelson – March 28 *(in-person only at the Richwood Valley campus, limited to 30 attendees. **Lunch provided** for those who RSVP by March 24)*
- **Quiet Leadership: How Introverts Can Thrive in Leadership Roles** with yours truly – April 4 or April 11

OTC Cares Community Health Hub

The **Community Help Hub** (formerly the Community Resource Fair) will be held on **Wednesday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Jared Family Atrium on the Springfield campus. This event connects students with more than 20 community resources and organizations that offer services supporting health, well-being, and basic needs. Please help spread the word to our students. See the attached flyer for more details.

FBLA State Conference Judges Needed

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference will take place at the Springfield Expo Center on April 13-14. This event hosts over 6,000 high school students

competing in areas such as accounting, marketing, management, interviews, and public speaking. Conference organizers are seeking **Ozarks Tech faculty and staff to serve as volunteer judges.** If you're interested, you can watch a short judging overview video here.

There are two ways to volunteer:

1. In-Person Judging at the Conference:
    - **Sunday, April 13 | 12:30 PM – 6 PM** (*Snacks provided*)
    - **Monday, April 14 | 7:30 AM – 1 PM** (*Breakfast & snacks provided*)
    - A judge orientation will be held at the start of each session.
2. Remote Prejudging in Late March:
    - Evaluate **projects** from home to determine top qualifiers for state.
    - Select the **prejudged option** when signing up.

If you'd like to volunteer, click here for the Judge Sign Up link.

ADDY Award Winners

A **big** congratulations to all the Ozarks Tech faculty, staff, and students who shined at the American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards event on Saturday evening. Several of our Graphic Design Technology students went home with silver and gold awards, and our Marketing and Communications team won big for the college's new ad campaign. These wins are a testament not only to the creativity of our staff and students, but also to the outstanding mentorship and expertise of our GDT faculty. We are so proud of the incredible talent we have here at Ozarks Tech!

Faculty Senate

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Faculty Senate last week to discuss concerns about teaching in light of recent federal and state executive orders and proposed legislation related to higher education. As I shared in the meeting, **nothing at Ozarks Tech has changed.** We will continue to welcome, serve, respect, and support ALL students who walk through our doors, just as we have done every day since opening our doors 34 years ago. As has always been true, it's important that we focus our teaching on content that aligns with our course objectives, not on ideological advocacy. Our classrooms should be a place for dialogue, not dogma. By maintaining these principles, faculty can be assured of the college's support should any concerns arise.

Have a terrific week!

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