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To:	ProvostNotes
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Good morning!

It's Finals Week – let the grading begin! We're at the end of the semester, but this week will be a busy one for all of us. Good luck, and I look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday at Commencement. And while we're on the subject of Commencement, in addition to printed copies of the program, this year the college is providing it online. Visit this link to view it.

The Eagle is 30

Here's something fun: As ***The Eagle***, the Ozarks Tech student newspaper, makes its comeback, Library director Doug Goans sifted through the library archives and found the very first edition of *The Eagle* from April 27, 1995 – almost exactly 30 years ago. It's quite a walk down memory lane!

Respiratory Therapy Program Recognition

We learned last week that the Ozarks Tech Respiratory Therapy program has won its 16th consecutive **Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award** from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). Only **three out of 450 programs** have ever achieved this status, and Ozarks Tech is the **only community college** to do so. Congratulations to program director Brandon Burk, and RST faculty Sarah Hough, Nathan Pounds, Tristen Goldammer, and Rachel Jenkins.

Trailblazer Awards

Don't miss the **Ozarks Tech Trailblazer Award Ceremony and Reception**, from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13 in Lincoln Hall 211 on the Springfield campus.

Retirement Thanks

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who attended one of my retirement parties, either at Richwood Valley last month or in Springfield last week. You all make it hard for a girl to leave! Most of you know that I'm not much for the spotlight, but it warmed my heart nonetheless to see so many smiling faces and hear so many kind words and well wishes. I am still sifting through all the cards left behind. A big thank you to Joanna Kramer, Kayla Porter, and Rachel DeMoro for their hand in planning all the festivities.

And finally…
This is my last *Provost's Notes*.

I'm embarking on this next part of my life with excitement and gratitude, but in the same hand, I hold the sadness of knowing that I'm leaving behind a place – and people – I love so deeply. This has been not just a job, but a calling. I've been so fortunate to have spent my professional life doing such meaningful and consequential work – helping people grow in confidence, discover who they are and their passions, build skills that enable them to provide for their families. We position them to positively impact the world around us. That is the reason I love Commencement: The fruits of our labor are on full display in the most tangible way. Students will graduate on Thursday who struggled to make it there and who surely could not have done so without us.

But it is time. In the poem "In Blackwater Woods" Mary Oliver writes:

> *To live in this world*
>
> *you must be able*
> *to do three things:*
> *to love what is mortal;*
> *to hold it*
>
> *against your bones knowing*
> *your own life depends on it;*
> *and, when the time comes to let it go,*
> *to let it go.*

Continue the great work. Though I am moving on, I will carry each of you with me – continually inspired by who you are and all you do, and so very proud of what we've built together.

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