

February 1, 2013

Construction News

The Facilities Master Plan for 2012-2017 has been completed and is available on the Taft College Intranet under *Facilities* or you can contact Debbie Hegeman at 7727.

The Transition to Independent Living facility is about 80 percent complete as of 1-22-13. We will plan a Ribbon Cutting event for the campus community prior to the end of the Spring Semester, with a dedication of the building planned for the start of the fall 2013 term.



Phase 3 of the parking lot project was completed less full completion of planter areas over the winter break. It is now in full use for the spring term. The entire TIL project remains on schedule to be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2013.

Enrollment Update:

Enrollment numbers for spring 2013 are strong as we compare the 4th day of spring classes from 2013 to 2012. Part-time student numbers are up 5% while full-time students are up 13%. Overall we show an 8% increase from spring 2012.

What is the Student Success Act (SB1143)?

With a great focus on accountability and student success, there are many changes afoot in the community college system. One of the recommendations by the Student Success Task Force is to develop and administer a standardized statewide assessment/placement test. West Hills College received a grant to spearhead this project. Joe'll Chaidez (Testing Coordinator/ Assessment Specialist) has been participating in the project. There is an open invitation to all ESL, English, and Mathematic faculty who would like to participate.

The idea of the standardized assessment is to have the same exam used throughout the community college system. By doing this, a student's scores can be transferred to any community college. In addition to facilitating student access across the system, colleges will benefit from a standardized assessment as well through lower costs for purchasing and administering the assessment test.

West Hills College and the regional common assessment team is working with the McCain Group, a consulting firm who has been retained to customize the assessment exam for the state of California. The goal of the regional common assessment team is to have a test in place to present to the Chancellor's office later on this year. If accepted, the new exam may be ready for use as early as Fall 2014.

Human Resources and Administrative Services Update – Payroll Go Live Project:

From the beginning days of Taft College, payroll has been processed utilizing the Kern County Superintendent of Schools’ (County) Payroll System. Since the purchase of Banner approximately 6 years ago, the overall goal has been to utilize Banner for all District database needs and therefore operate more efficiently.

For over a year, a team from the Human Resources, Business Services and Information Technology departments has been planning the District’s migration from the County Payroll System to processing payroll in Banner. This team is nearing the final stage of the “Payroll Go Live” project.

Payroll will be processed in both systems for the next few months as we prepare to “go live” with our own Banner-based payroll system. Parallel payrolls are necessary to make sure that the new system is running smoothly prior to fully separating from the County System. Once the HR Department, the Business Office and Information Services are comfortable with separating from the County System, we will start processing in Banner alone. Our goal is to start complete Banner processing on April 1, 2013.

Not only will processing payroll in Banner reduce duplication of effort in the areas of recruitment, employee demographic and payroll information, it will also give you, as the employee an opportunity to review your employee demographic and payroll information via Banner Self Service as often as you’d like. Watch for announcements regarding Banner Payroll Go Live during the month of March.

Information Technology – New Servers on the Way:

The IBM Blade Server system has been in operation since 2006 and is no longer able to effectively handle the processing demands of Banner and increased technology use through the internet and on campus. As part of the Technology Master Plan, the Information Technology Department has proposed



replacing the current IBM Blade Servers with a new system of servers powered by Intel chips with increased memory capabilities; the storage area network will provide 40 terabytes of disk storage and the new tape library will be 3 times more efficient than the current system. This new design will allow for the virtualization of 20 or more individual servers into 4 very large servers which will save both energy use and reduce the heat factor of the server room.

The new system will provide a noticeable improvement in Banner response time and overall system performance. The

Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) received an overview of the new system at its January meeting and provided input on the optimal implementation schedule to minimize impact to campus operations. We hope to install the new system in March 2013.

In addition, the Information Technology Services has been uploading newly enrolled students from the Banner system into the ID card system, the campus Wi-Fi and email systems. If you have any students that experience a problem logging onto the college Wi-Fi or email, please have them contact ITS at extension #7737 for assistance.

Instructional Program Updates:

The spring semester is underway with most core general education classes full and faculty juggling and trying to add as many students as they can. Although enrollment in some developmental classes such as Learning Skills and English as a Second Language are lower, student needs are being met through a combination of classes, changes in times, and a rotation plan being created to offer classes every other semester in certain areas. Overall, faculty and staff are geared up for a strong spring semester underway with everyone working hard to ensure student success.

New Instructional Staff:



Daniel Hall is Taft College's new Educational Technologist. His duties include working to identify and evaluate new and emerging technology that can be used in teaching and learning, and consulting with faculty to identify technology that will assist them in meeting their individual instructional goals. Dan's career in education began as a teacher with the Lamont School District, where he taught first grade, sixth grade, and seventh & eighth grade math. Dan then took on the role of teaching the district teachers how to use technology. Dan then moved into higher education when he joined Point Loma Nazarene University teaching courses in their Teacher Credentialing Program and their Masters of Education Program. Dan is currently working on his doctoral degree in Educational Technology at Pepperdine University. Dan and his wife are recent "empty nesters" after raising their three children in Kern County over the past 23 years.



Kristi Lopez-Richards (Career Pathways Exploration Advisor)

Kristi is a Bakersfield native. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in June 2012. She is currently working on a Master's degree in School Counseling at California State University, Bakersfield. Her passion for education and desire to help others brought her to Taft College. Kristi's goal is to help students establish a career pathway so they too can obtain their dream career!

Paul Blake has been an adjunct instructor for the business area for the past 6 months teaching business communications and management. In addition, he has worked with Sam Aunai as a consultant promoting and assisting with the development of the Energy Technology Program. Paul recently moved to Bakersfield from Minneapolis, Minnesota to be close to family and enjoy the California sunshine. Before coming to our area, he worked as an automation engineer, engineering manager and product manager for many years in the Aerospace and 3D printing industries. He holds two college degrees – a BS in Engineering Technology from Brigham Young University and an MBA from University of Dallas. He and his wife have five children and one dog. He enjoys reading, doing volunteer work, going to the beach and spending time with his family. When asked what he thinks about Taft College, he said, "I am very impressed with Taft College, its people, programs and most of all - the feeling of family. It is small enough so you work with people, not numbers, and large enough that the college atmosphere is wonderful."





Randy Adams is an adjunct instructor in our Energy Technology Program. Randy retired in October 2011 from the State of California's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources. His 31 year career began as a Field Inspector in the division's Northern California district and concluded as the Deputy Supervisor for the Bakersfield field office, the largest and busiest in the state. Randy is currently a consultant in the petroleum industry on permitting and government issues. Randy was drawn to Taft College through the Energy Technology Program. He was involved in the initial planning and development of the Energy Technology Program based on his experience in oil & gas laws, permitting, and regulations.

Christopher (Chris) Angelo will also be teaching in the Energy Technology Program. Chris is a project manager for ProGauge Technologies, Inc. and Ramsgate Engineering, Inc. He has 13 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, mainly focused on thermal EOR projects. His specialties are: Production Engineering, Facility Engineering, and Data Analysis. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. He started his career as a petroleum engineer for Texaco, Inc., continuing as both petroleum and facilities engineer for successor companies ChevronTexaco and Chevron in both California and International thermal EOR projects.



Norman Fox has joined our team to teach in the Industrial Health & Safety Program. Norman is a graduate of CSU Bakersfield with nearly 30 years of professional experience in industrial safety; and 14 years of independent risk and safety consulting supporting clients ranging from start-up to Fortune 500. He is a Board member with American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Bakersfield Chapter for 12 years. When asked why he wanted to join the instructional team, he stated "... teach a man to fish and you will always have a friend in the boat!"

Other News:

The **Art Gallery** is hosting a unique exhibit organized by the Arts Council of Kern and partially funded by a grant from the Black Rock Arts Foundation. The exhibit opened on January 14th and will run through February 8, 2013. The works will appeal to all ages, but blind and visually impaired community members might especially enjoy the exhibit as it is designed to be touched. Visually impaired individuals will also be able to listen to an audio recording of artists' statements to enhance their enjoyment of the exhibit. Thus far more than 200 K-12 students and about 50 Taft College students have experienced the Art in Touch exhibit.

The **Foundation and the Transition for Independent Living Program** are re-activating the "Raising the Barn" campaign with a parent meeting at the home of Clarence and Nancy Hall in southern California. Parents of TIL students from the area are invited to the event to learn more about the TIL facility and the capital campaign. In other news, the Casino Night Committee is already hard at work planning the 2013 Casino Night event. Last year's event raised over \$100,000 for the TIL Program and the facility's needs. The event will be held on September 28, 2013 so mark your calendars now!

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

- ❖ *Street Naming Contest:* Working with the City of Taft, the College has initiated the process to rename Emmons Park Drive to a name more closely reflective of the College. With the redesign of the parking lot and campus entrance, and the creation of the traffic circle at the western end of Emmons Park Drive, we have an interest in creating a street name that reflects the College. The ASB will be leading the street naming contest, with the winning new street name to be determined by the Board of Trustees. The City of Taft must approve the new name, which we hope will be in place for fall 2013.

- ❖ *Strengthening our Campus Safety Plans:* The District is working quickly to improve our campus safety plans. Much progress has already been made over the past three weeks. We are inspecting locks and doors, updating and establishing written procedures, coordinating our plans with the City of Taft Police Department, implementing emergency text messaging as well as a radio communication system, and developing a training plan and emergency drill exercises. Updates on our progress will be sent out on a regular basis throughout the semester - look for more information soon.