

March 7, 2014

Facilities Update:



The dorm modernization is a two phase project which began in fall 2013. Phase 1 constitutes 70% of the project and phase 2 constituting the remaining 30% of the total project.

As of March 1, Phase 1 is about 50% complete with an estimated completion date of May 30th. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin June 1st and be completed by end of September.

Student Services Updates:

Priority Registration Starts May 5th!

Priority registration for summer and fall will begin on Monday, May 5th along with the implementation of the new enrollment priorities. Students will be required to complete an admissions update prior to registration. Registration dates and times for each student will be automatically assigned by the system approximately 2 weeks before registration. The system will compute registration dates and times based upon variables associated with point values, and then will sort by student ID number. Registration dates and times will be distributed over the number of days allotted for a particular group with priority assigned from the highest points down to the lowest. No priority group or student will be assigned a registration date or time in which the college is closed (i.e., after 4:00 p.m. or on weekends). Students can view their registration date and time via Cougar Tracks. Students may enter the registration system anytime beginning on or after their assigned registration date and time. If students miss their date and time, they may simply log into their student account via Cougar Tracks and register thereafter.

Taft College Alumni awarded Student Athletic Achievement Award by CCCAA

The California Community Colleges Academic Advisors/Counselors for Athletes (3C4A) annually sponsors two Student Athlete Achievement Awards. The awards are presented at the California Community College Athletic Association Spring Convention. Our very own Tony Thompson is the Vice-President of the North section of the 3C4A.



The criteria for the Student Athlete Achievement Award includes, but is not limited to, athletes who have overcome some significant obstacle(s) that made going to college and participating in athletics very difficult, and yet they did so. In conjunction with her Volleyball coach, Kanoe Bandy, Athletic Advisor Tony Thompson nominated Onolina Taotofi to the selection committee, which reviews the nominations and makes their selections. Onolina played volleyball at Taft College from 2011-2013 before transferring to Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. She overcame great adversity in high school on the island of Oahu before entering Taft College as a member of the Women's Volleyball team. During her time here, Onolina demonstrated her determination to succeed on the court and in the classroom. Geoff Dyer was instrumental in encouraging Onolina to pursue her dreams. Through the support of Tony, Kanoe, and Geoff, Onolina has become a role model to many who face challenges in high school before realizing their dreams in college.

Launch of Student Success Committee:



Earlier this year, the Governance Council recognized the need for a Student Success Committee which will analyze the services we currently have once students are attending Taft College, and examine the umbrella for Student Success initiatives and strategies.

The Governance Council asked a small group of volunteers under the leadership of Vice President of Student Services Darcy Bogle to create a recommended Charter and membership structure for the newly formed committee. Our goal is to agree upon the Charter before the end of the term and to move forward with this committee as quickly as possible. Look for more news to come!

ASB Events:

Following the celebration of Black History Month in February, the Associated Student Body will be celebrating Women's History Month during the month of March. Instead of recognizing the women of the past, the Taft College ASB has decided to recognize the Taft College Women who are helping students create a better future. Last year, the TC ASB recognized, Patty Bench, Wendy Berry, Debbie Hegeman, and Dena Maloney. Look for displays in the quad as well as pictures in the Cafeteria for each honoree during the week that they are honored.

On March 13 at 12:15 p.m. in the Cougar Room, Officer K. Altenhofel will speak to Taft College Drug Awareness. He will speak on the most common drugs used in the college scene and the repercussions associated with illegal drug use. All Taft College employees and students are welcome to attend.

Numerous other ASB events are scheduled in the month of March. Check the Taft College calendar for the latest updates and news regarding upcoming activities.

Instruction Updates:

Scholarly Research on TIL Program is Published!



Congratulations to Jeff Ross, Jamia Marcell and Paula Williams, along with Dawn Carlson from the Virginia Commonwealth University, for their recent article published in the Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability,

Volume 26 (4), Winter 2013. This special issue of the Journal focused on postsecondary education for students' intellectual disability. The article reported the study on employment and independent living outcomes of 125 graduates from the Taft College Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program. The study findings suggest that graduates of the TIL program enjoy employment and independent living outcomes which exceed the rates observed in the general population of person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (see Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability, Volume 26 (4), Winter 2013, page 337). To read the full article, go to www.ahead.org/publications/jped and scroll down to **Archived Issues**.

Educational Master Plan Update:

Last fall, the District launched the development of an Educational Master Plan which will guide and inform the District over the next 10 years. An Educational Master Plan Committee was formed representing faculty, classified staff, managers and educational administrators. This team has worked closely with consultants John Spevak and Dan Rosenberg from the College Brain Trust in developing the plan. In November, the campus community participated in a campus-wide survey to gather data about matters of importance to the District. In December, on-campus interviews were conducted with a wide variety of faculty and staff. Throughout this period, the Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning department prepared an extensive report reflecting internal and external conditions facing the District. And in February, the EMP Committee participated in a day-long retreat to draft planning assumptions and preliminary goals --- key components of the final plan.

Until March 21st, you have the opportunity to comment on the work to date. Go to <http://planning.taftcollege.edu/content/forms.php?do=form&fid=27> to see the external and internal data scans, campus survey data, interview data, planning assumptions, and preliminary goals. Broad based participation from the entire campus community will help ensure the success of the plan. Please go online and contribute your ideas - your input is important!

Accreditation Update:

About this time last year, we began developing our plans for the 2015 Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Self-Evaluation and Comprehensive Site Visit. Accreditation is a college-wide effort and provides an opportunity to examine our institutional effectiveness with the goal of continual improvement. We formed our Self-Study teams and Accreditation Steering Committee. At the start of this academic year, the teams got to work – first developing an outline for their assigned standard and then beginning to write their portion of the Self-Evaluation.

We are making good progress and anticipate each team will have a rough draft of their standard by the end of this academic year. Next year we will review, refine and finalize our draft. The final copy of the Self-Evaluation will be mailed to the Commission in Summer 2015. The visiting team will visit the campus sometime in October 2015.



Dr. John Eigenauer Presentation at the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)

Dr. John Eigenauer, recipient of the NISOD Teaching Excellence Award in 2007, will be presenting at the 2014 NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Austin, Texas. The title of Dr. Eigenauer's presentation is *"Teaching Students to BE Critical Thinkers."* NISOD is a consortium of community and technical colleges that share a philosophical commitment to support excellence in teaching, learning and leadership. NISOD draws thousands of attendees to its conferences.

Closer to home, Dr. Eigenauer will also be speaking the CSUB Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies March Colloquium on March 7 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on the CSUB campus. His presentation is entitled *"Computational Complexity and the Death of Thought."* For more information on this presentation, contact Dr. Eigenauer.

Children's Center Director Genoveve Garcia Honored by Soroptimist Club



The Taft Soroptimist Club honored Children's Center Director Genoveve Garcia with its Ruby Award on March 3, 2014. The Soroptimist Ruby Award honors women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls through their professional and/or volunteer work. A \$250 donation is made to the charity of the recipient's choice. Genoveve chose the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Genoveve started her career working with children as a teacher for the KCEOC Head Start Program in 1984 and continued until 1991 at which time she became a Master Teacher and Site Supervisor for the TC Children's Center. In 2005 she was named Director. The Center serves 180 children with 58 employees. In recent years adverse economic times been challenging for the Center but Genoveve, inspired by the struggles that parents and children are confronted with daily, has worked hard to keep the Center open. Many parents in our community depend on the Children's Center and Genoveve and her staff! Thank you Genoveve for your commitment to the College!

Human Resources News:

Reminder - SISC Dependent Eligibility Audit Responses due March 31, 2014:

The SISC eligibility audit is being conducted by consulting firm Moss Adams, and addresses documentation of eligible dependents. The materials for this phase were sent to households beginning the week of January 20, 2014. The materials specify what information is needed to verify eligibility of dependents and must be submitted back to Moss Adams no later than March 31, 2014. If full-time employees have questions regarding the dependent eligibility process, they may contact the SISC Dependent Eligibility Assistance Center at 1-855-508-7782 or email dependenteligibility@sischealth.com.

Upcoming Events:

There are a lot of activities planned over the next month! Please check the College Calendar on the website for all the upcoming events. Here are some highlights:

Petroleum Roundtable (Taft College Foundation)	March 20 th
All College Meetings in the Cougar Room	March 11 2:00 – 4:00pm
	March 19 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Campus Survey on Institutional Effectiveness	Campus-wide in April

Woman's Softball- March Home Games

March 6 at 1:00 and 3:00 pm against Porterville College (Double Header)
March 11 at 2:00 pm against Reedley College
March 13 at 1:00 and 3:00 pm against College of the Sequoias (Double Header)
March 20 at 1:00 and 3:00 pm against West Hills College (Double Header)
March 27 at 1:00 and 3:00 pm against Merced College (Double Header)

Men's Baseball – March Home Games

March 6 at 2:00 pm against Fresno City College
March 18 at 2:00 pm against Porterville College
March 27 at 2:00 pm against Reedley College