

September 12, 2013

Facilities News:

The Ash Street dorm modernization project has been approved by the Board and the construction is set to begin in mid to late September. The project will be completed in two phases with the total project time anticipated for completion toward the beginning of the fourth quarter 2014.

Construction documents are in process for the new Student Center building. The building will be located on the current T-Dorm site. The building will house student areas, new bookstore and cafeteria. Planning is underway for a STEM facility to include lab space, office space, meeting room, classrooms and restrooms.



Student Services Updates:

Enrollment

Overall fall enrollment is up 2.9% compared to last year, with an enrollment daily total of 3,187 students. Our on-campus average daily attendance of 1,279 students is also higher compared to last year. We have a total of 486 class offerings for fall, and of our class offerings, nearly 50% of our sections had waitlists on the first day of school, with a total of 1,560 students on the waitlist on the first day of school. Our median class size as of the first day is 22. This would not be possible without the support of dedicated faculty and staff working together to add additionally requested sections and meeting staffing needs for these sections each semester. Thank you all for your commitment and dedication!

Unit Breakdown	8/31/2012	9/6/2013	Actual Difference	Percent Difference
0 Units	55	59	4	7.3%
0.5 - 5.5	809	849	40	4.9%
6.0 - 11.5	912	964	52	5.7%
12.0 +	1321	1315	-6	-0.5%
Total	3097	3187	90	2.9%

ASB Events

On September 11, the ASB invited the entire campus to share a moment of silence to remember the heroes and victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Participants were able to share thoughts on the 12th anniversary of the attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Other events planned for September include Constitution Day on September 17 from 9-12 in the Cafeteria. The ASB will decorate the Quad with our nation's colors and will be providing a quiz with questions on the constitution. Those who receive 100% will receive a small prize. The week of September 16-20 is Pollution Prevention Week and the ASB has all sorts of activities planned to celebrate including activities on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Quad from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Come on out and enjoy the fun!

Athletics

The spring 2013 athletic season ended with 12 Academic All Conference Qualifiers in men's baseball, and 7 qualifiers in women's softball. Congratulations to our scholar athletes! This academic year, we have a record high of 127 athletes; 65 females and 62 males. Our fall sports teams are on the move, and TC looks forward to a successful 2013-2014 season both academically and competitively! Go Cougars!

Instruction Updates:

The beginning of the term has been busy right from the start of our traditional Fall In-Service Week. It was great seeing everyone at the Welcome Breakfast, held at the Old Fort. With so many either in new roles or new to the college, it's hard to remember everyone – here's the list:

Adam Bledsoe - Associate Professor of Business
Aldrin Luben - Integrated Technology Support
Dan Hall - Instructional Technologist
Danielle Harris - Associate Professor of English
Danielle Krause - Curriculum Technician
Elizabeth Saldana - TPSID Accommodation Spec.
Hailey Cook - TPSID Accommodation Specialist
Joy Reynolds - Associate Professor of Math
Kristi Richards - Career Exploration Pathway Adv.
Paul Blake – Assoc. Prof. of Engineering/ Energy
Robin Sigel - Assistant to VP Instruction
Steve Lytle - Associate Professor of Life Sciences
Terri Smith - Research and Instruction Librarian
Tori Furman - Career Development Counselor
Kenny Schuyler (pronounced "Skyler") - TPSID
Accommodation Specialist
Jennifer Woodward - Science Lab Technician



The Office of Instruction team is almost complete after a long period of transition. We have two new employees - Robin Sigel is now the assistant to the vice president and Danielle Krause is the new curriculum technician, and we hope to have our new **Dean of Instruction – Grants** with us shortly. Priya Sharma (right) also joined the office as our new TPSID student worker!

The Office of Instruction team has designed new reports in the areas of enrollment, personnel and career technical education with more to come on the way. To everyone's relief, the first week of the semester was a success with no class or room conflicts, even accommodating last minute schedule, faculty and room changes! Our use of Facebook and Twitter continues to help students obtain advance notice before their commute - we currently have 270 students who have signed up for notices!



The Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program staff moved into their beautiful new building in July. They had a short time to get ready before students arrived! One of the new and important features of the Center for Independent Living is the addition of cubicles. The third year students work closely with their Accommodation Specialists and now the AC's have their own space, making that work even more convenient! They also utilize both meeting rooms and the fully functional computer lab.

Budget News:

California State Budget Update

AB 110 was signed by the Governor June 27, 2013 marking the 3rd consecutive year the budget was passed on time. The statewide general fund expenditures equal \$96.3 billion including a reserve of \$1.1 billion. With passage of Proposition 30 bringing in additional revenue and better than anticipated revenues in FY 2012-13, the State budget is legitimately balanced for the first time since 2002. Compared to prior years, the proposed 2013-14 state budget faces considerably less risk. Unlike the 2012-13 budget, the proposed budget is not dependent on voter approval of a major tax initiative or an unrealistic revenue projection. As such, trigger cuts do not appear to be a threat as in previous years. The Department of Finance projects state revenues to move in a positive trend upward over the next 4 years with estimated revenues reaching \$116 billion in FY 2016-17.

Taft College Budget Update

The FY 2013-14 adopted budget was presented to the Board of Trustees on September 11. The budget reflects additional funds in areas such as Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment. For the first time since 2007-08, the state has included a Cost of Living Adjustment of 1.57%. The total budget represents \$28,227,535 of which \$21,336,815 is unrestricted funds and \$6,890,720 is restricted funds. The budget has been built to maintain base funding of 2,540 FTES. The current outlook for the West Kern Community College District calls for stable enrollment requiring effective enrollment management practices.

Foundation and Other News



The Taft College Foundation, with the support of a Chevron Economic Development grant, is hosting the West Kern Petroleum Summit on October 18th at the Taft College campus. Featuring energy experts, policy makers, academic and regional leaders, the Summit will discuss current and newly developed petroleum and natural gas technologies and their impact on both local and regional economic development. In addition, the workforce needs of the petroleum industry will be discussed, as oil industry leaders share their view on the future of their businesses regarding technology, partnerships and expansion. For more information, visit the Summit website at <http://www.wkpsummit.com/>

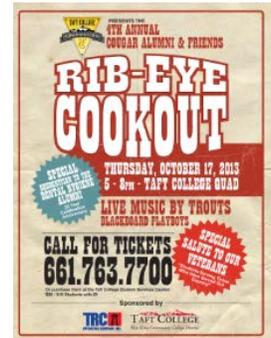


Casino Night

The Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program is offering its fifth annual Casino Night event on September 28th at the Dignity Health Event Center in Bakersfield. The event is always a fun way to support the TIL Program. For details, contact the Jeff Ross at ext. 7776.

Rib-Eye Cookout

The 4th Annual Rib-Eye Cookout is scheduled for Thursday, October 17th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the TC Quad. The evening salutes Veterans with the theme “Students Serving Those Who Have Served Our Country,” and will also include a special recognition to the Dental Hygiene Alumni on the 20th Anniversary of the Program at Taft College. Tickets (\$20 and \$10 with a student ID) are available by contacting the switchboard at 661-763-7700.



Center for Independent Living Dedication



The new Center for Independent Living will be take center stage on October 11 when Taft College hosts the dedication ceremony for the new building. The event will include remarks from campus leaders as well as a luncheon in the Center’s beautiful courtyard. Festivities will commence at 11:00 am. For more information, contact Shelley Klein at ext. 7711.

Street Name Change

At the August 20, 2013 City Council meeting, the Taft City Council unanimously approved the request to rename Emmons Park Drive to Cougar Court. The name change is the result of a College “street renaming contest” last spring in which over 50 names were suggested by faculty, staff and students. The Board of Trustees selected Cougar Court as the proposed new name, and the City of Taft agreed.



The College is working with the City of Taft on the design and installation of new street signs at Wildcat Way and 6th Street. The City has notified other public agencies of the name change and the post office will continue to deliver mail addressed to the Emmons Park address for a period of time. We will notify vendors and others who do business with the College about the name change but you should also talk to those in your circle of contacts with a need to know about the change. We will also update the College website with the new address once the street signs are installed. Please exhaust your current supply of letterhead and business cards as there is no rush to replace these items.

Trustee Carolyn Hosking Honored for 25 Years of Service

West Kern Community College District Board member Carolyn Hosking was honored for her 25 years of service as a member of the Board of Trustees. Carolyn was first elected to the Board in 1988. During the past 25 years, the District has undergone tremendous change. Carolyn’s vision, focus on student success, fiscal stability and forward thinking policies have contributed greatly to the success of the District.

Congratulations to Carolyn for all of her contributions to the West Kern Community College District over the past quarter century!



Upcoming Events for September.

Men’s Soccer:

Date	College	Location	Time
Sept. 15, 2013	Mt. SAC Tournament (vs. San Francisco)	Walnut	11:00 a.m.
Sept. 24, 2013	Cerritos College	Taft College	3:00 p.m.
Sept. 27, 2013	West Hills College	Taft College	3:00 p.m.

Women’ Soccer:

Sept. 17, 2013	College of the Canyons	Santa Clarita	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 20, 2013	El Camino College	Taft College	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 24, 2013	Cuesta College	San Luis Obispo	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 27, 2013	Rio Hondo College	Taft College	1:00 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball:

Sept. 18, 2013	Allan Hancock College & Cerro Coso College	Santa Maria	3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 21, 2013	San Diego City College Tournament	San Diego	TBA
Sept. 25, 2013	Columbia College	Taft College	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 27, 2013	Shasta College	Santa Rosa	3:00 p.m.
Sept. 27, 2013	Santa Rosa Jr. College	Santa Rosa	5:00 p.m.

Casino Night:

Saturday, September 28, 2013 at the Dignity Health Event Center in Bakersfield, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
For ticket information call 763-7961.

