

October 3, 2014

## ***Student Services Updates:***

### ***Student Success Scorecard:***

The scorecard is a performance measurement system that tracks student success at all 112 community colleges. The data will demonstrate how well colleges are doing in remedial instruction, job training programs, retention of students and graduation and completion rates. Data is reported by gender, age and ethnicity. The purpose is to provide stakeholders with clear and concise information on key student progress and success metrics in order to improve performance. It is available on the Chancellor's website and on the TC website under 'About Us'. For more information visit [scorecard.cccco.edu](http://scorecard.cccco.edu)



The scorecard includes first time students, starting for the first time in 2007-08 and tracked for six years through 2012-13 on various metrics. Metrics include *momentum* points related to remedial coursework, persistence, and completion of 30 units, along with *completion outcomes* related to degree/certificate/transfer attainment and workforce preparation. Three groups of students are compared for each metric: college prepared, unprepared and overall percentages.

We all play a role in student success on campus! There are six factors students should experience to successfully achieve their goals:

- 1) *Directed: Have a goal and know how to achieve it*
- 2) *Focused: Stay on track—keep an eye on the prize*
- 3) *Nurtured: Feel somebody wants to help them succeed*
- 4) *Engaged: Actively participate in class and extracurricular activities*
- 5) *Connected: Feel like they are part of the college community*
- 6) *Valued: Skills, talents, abilities, and experiences are recognized; they have opportunities to contribute on campus and feel their contributions are appreciated*

**We all make a difference to provide the environment to direct, focus, and nurture students, as well as to connect them to the college community!**

## ***Instruction Updates:***

### ***One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Revisits Taft:***

*One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern* is a county-wide project aimed at bringing the community together and supporting literacy during the shared experience of reading one book. Through works of literature, *OBOBOK* focuses on crossing cultural divides and enhancing the knowledge of Kern's diversity through the reading of one book.

This year's book, *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario, is an account of young Enrique, a Honduran boy who makes a perilous journey to America in 2000, after eight failed attempts, in order to reunite with his mother who is living in the U.S. The 2006 book is based on journalist Nazario's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Los Angeles Times* articles on children migrating to the U.S. atop trains from Central America.

Professor Kamala Carlson and Associate Professor Danielle Kerr have developed a wide range of curricula, which includes thought provoking essay topics that cover many aspects of the hot-button issue of immigration. For this year's book for their sections of Interactive English 1000, they have shared their work with others who are also using the text: Professor Jessica Grimes, Julie Paulsen, Tara Rojas and Christina Touchstone.

In the spirit of *OBOBOK's* mission, Taft College students, staff and faculty, in collaboration with Kathy Orrin and the Taft Chamber of Commerce, are holding a Community Symposium exploring ethical issues in Taft and surrounding communities to give English 1000 students an opportunity to interact and hear informed and varying opinions from respected community members, on the many ethical issues discussed in *Enrique's Journey*. To accompany the debate, Central American food will be served which will be generously donated by the TC Foundation. The event will be held October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Cougar Room. Seating is limited and copies of *Enrique's Journey* are available at the Taft College Bookstore. A culminating event involving *Enrique's Journey* will be an evening with the author Sonia Nazario on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at CSUB's Icardo Center.

#### **STEM Update:**

From January to July of 2014, Taft College STEM had 851 students involved in the program. During the 2014-2015 school year, there is hope to have even more students participating in TC STEM events, programs, and activities.



On September 17th, Taft College STEM launched the brand new on-campus Exploratorium, ConnExpo. ConnExpo is a hands-on learning and exploration area for students to discover new ideas in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This project is the result of the hard work and efforts of Dr. Greg Golling, Dave Reynolds, and several other Math and Science faculty. The overarching mission of this new area is to show how certain concepts are connected throughout STEM disciplines. ConnExpo is open for all students to study, learn, and explore. It is located in the Cafeteria Banquet Room and open any time the cafeteria is open.

Taft College STEM has also continued its efforts in off-campus outreach with K-12 schools within WKCCD. The Young Innovators Club, an afterschool STEM club at several area schools, has re-launched at Lincoln Junior High School and Taft Union High School. TC STEM sponsored robotics programs are continuing at Maricopa High School. TC STEM is piloting a new program branch, TC GEMS (Taft College Girls Enjoying Math and Science), aimed to encourage girls within WKCCD to pursue STEM career pathways. The first GEMS event is a luncheon on October 17th for 45+ 9th and 10th grade girls to hear from female STEM professionals.

The STEM Tours are expanding this year to include high schools. The first STEM Tour is on November 14th with Independence High School. STEMvitational is coming back this fall on November 21st to give seniors the opportunity to pursue STEM at Taft College. With the assistance of Dave Reynolds, Star Parties are coming to TC and the Taft community. Dates for Star Parties are to be announced in the near future. There are lots of great things happening in STEM at Taft College! If you would like to know more about the events occurring with STEM Outreach, please feel free to contact Rachel Belden at 763-7912 or [rbelden@taftcollege.edu](mailto:rbelden@taftcollege.edu).

## **Facilities Updates:**



The first phase of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Program Relocatable Building Project, which will be located between the Ash Street Dorms and the Children's Center, is well underway. The project is being built utilizing the lease-leaseback method of construction that provides the District more flexibility during the construction process. The pre-construction services agreement was awarded to Seward L. Schreder Construction

Company. The project will provide space for engineering and energy technology courses and consists of four prefabricated relocatable structures, related site work, site area finishes and utility services. The buildings will include two classrooms/lab spaces, a student study/innovation space, conference room, offices and restroom facilities. (The photo provides an example of what the finished classrooms will look like.) The project is in final design and the target completion date is May 2015. The cost of the project is approximately \$1.5 million and is funded by the CEED and Pathway Grants.



## **TC Foundation Petroleum Partners Luncheon:**

On Thursday, September 25, 2014, the Taft College Foundation hosted the first Petroleum Partners President's Luncheon. The Petroleum Partners is a college support group formed by the Taft College Foundation following the highly successful West Kern Petroleum Summit in October 2013. One of the member benefits is participation in the Petroleum Partner's Luncheon program. Nearly fifty executives from the Petroleum Partners member organizations and sponsors of the Taft College Foundation enjoyed lunch and speakers from industry. Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Dena Maloney opened with a presentation on the economic impact of Taft College to the community, and Taft College's commitment to workforce development.

An Industry update was provided by Bob Barnes, Executive Vice President of North Operations for California Resources Corporation, formerly Occidental of Elk Hills. Trent Rosenlieb, Asset Manager for LINN Energy spoke to the group about the merger between Berry Petroleum and LINN Energy and the positive impact it has brought to the community and its workforce. At the conclusion of the luncheon, a check was presented to the Taft College Foundation for \$15,000 to benefit the Energy Technology and STEM K-12 Outreach programs at Taft College.

## **Sports Update:**

The fall TC sports have completed their pre-season games and are in the beginning of their conference games. Men's and women's soccer teams are both off to a great start! The men's record is current 8 wins, 0 losses, 2 ties (note: both ties were 0-0, one of them was against Mt. San Antonio College – the state champions from 2013). The women's soccer team record is 7 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie. Women's Volleyball is off to a slow start with an overall record of 4 wins and 10 losses. They play their next 4 matches at home. Come out and support them!



## ***Rib-Eye Cookout:***

The **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rib-Eye Cookout** is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Taft College Quad. The evening will continue its traditional salute to Veterans with recognition of one of the City of Taft's greatest community icon and WWII veteran (to be announced soon!). Fruit Tramp, a Bakersfield-based band, will be the featured entertainment at the event. Tickets (\$20 and \$10 with student identification) are available by contacting the switchboard at ext. 7700.



## **2014 Upcoming Events**

### **October:**

- 8 Board Legislative Workshop @ 4:00 p.m. (Cougar Room)
- 8 Monthly Board Meeting – Closed Session @ 5:00 p.m. – Open Session @ 6:00 p.m. (Cougar Room)
- 6-10 ASB Breast Cancer Awareness Week
- 16 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundation Rib-Eye Cookout – 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (TC Quad)

### **November:**

- 10 Veteran's Day Holiday
- 12 Board Meeting – Closed Session @ 5:00 p.m. – Open Session @ 6:00 p.m. (Cougar Room)
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday

### **December:**

- 9 Taft College Bookstore Open House 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (515 Finley Dr.)
- 10 Board Meeting – Closed Session @ 5:00 p.m. – Open Session @ 6:00 p.m. (Cougar Room)
- 19 End of Fall Semester