

November 22, 2013

Facilities News:



The Dorm Modernization project is now underway! The project includes updating and modernizing the Ash Street dorms with new bathroom tile and fixtures, improvement in external landscaping and other improvements. Currently, one-half of the Ash Street dorms are under modernization, while the other half of the dorms remains occupied. Once the current work is done, students will move into the completed dormitory rooms so that the remaining half of the Ash Street dorms can be modernized. All work is expected to be complete within the next 12 – 15 months.

Student Services Updates:

Enrollment

Overall fall enrollment is up 23.4% compared to the twelfth week of classes in 2012-13. The largest gain at this point in time is in the category of .5 to 5.5 units, which saw an increase of 55.8%. This gain reflects enrollments through WESTEC:

Unit Breakdown	11/9/2012	11/15/2013	Actual Difference	Percent Difference
0 Units	62	86	24	38.7%
0.5 - 5.5	1087	1694	607	55.8%
6.0 - 11.5	927	984	57	6.1%
12.0 +	968	992	24	2.5%
Total	3044	3756	712	23.4%

Priority registration for the Spring 2014 term began on November 12th. Initial enrollment numbers are strong and indicate continuing demand for access to higher education in the West Kern Community College District. Spring classes begin January 21, 2014.



Darcy Bogle, new Vice President of Student Services

At its meeting on November 13, 2013 the Board of Trustees approved the selection of Ms. Darcy Bogle as the next Vice President of Student Services. Darcy is a product of Taft College, having attended TC before transferring to CSU Bakersfield to earn a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She has a Master's degree in Psychology as well. Darcy's experience includes teaching and counseling at both Bakersfield College and Taft College. At Bakersfield College, she served as the DSPS Counselor, Work Experience Coordinator, EOPS Counselor, Transfer Center Coordinator/Counselor, and the Title V Learning

Support Services Counselor. At Taft College, Darcy's responsibilities have included serving as an adjunct instructor in Psychology and Student Success, and Coordinator of Counseling and Matriculation.

Darcy has been one of our in-house experts on the new Student Success Act initiative and has led the effort to prepare for the changes this legislation brings. Since assuming the role of Interim Vice President of Student Services, she has established a new Campus Safety Committee and strengthened her understanding of the regulations governing collegiate athletic program. She is adept at the Banner system, Degree Works and has a passion for student success at Taft College.



ASB Events and Athletics

The ASB held a Fall Sport Rally on November 14th to show support for the Taft College men's and women's soccer teams and women's volleyball. All three teams are in the playoffs! Regional final playoffs are scheduled for the week of November 23 (Men/Women's Soccer; Women's Volleyball). State Championship games will take place the weekend of December 6-8.

Women's Basketball began their pre-conference play on November 8th.

Halloween Contest:

The ASB hosted a Halloween costume contest for students, faculty and staff on October 31st. This year, the theme was Infamous Couples. Members of the ASB leadership team served as judges for the contest. The winning team was the Student Services team dressed as the characters from Despicable Me (right).



Annual Food Drive:

Earlier this month the ASB launched its annual food drive. ASB officers competed to bring home the canned food drive championship. The ASB goal was to gather enough canned foods, turkeys, and other products for 8 Thanksgiving baskets to be given out to Taft College Families. The remaining cans will be distributed to local businesses chosen by the team leaders. Many departments joined in the fun including Athletics and Early Childhood Education. In fact, a canned food item was admission to the final conference league games for volley ball, and soccer.

Leading the ASB teams were **Wendy Berry** (Jose Barrera, ASB President and Amber Gonzales, ASB Director); **Geoff Dunham** (Leilani Ponce, ASB Vice President and Celia Rangel, ASB Student Trustee); **Susan Wells** (Yeraldin Bacerra, ASB Director and Daisy Guitron, ASB Secretary/Treasurer); **Dena Maloney** (Joanna Espinoza, ASB Activity Coordinator and Rebecca Vasquez, ASB Director); and **Jim Nicholas** (Mylasia Smith, ASB Interclub Commissioner and Crystallyn Faletoi, ASB Director)

A total of 1,929 cans were collected – a true sign of the Cougar spirit during the holidays!

Instruction Updates:

Following the very successful West Kern Petroleum Summit, representatives from Taft College and Taft Union High School made a quick trip to Midland, Texas to see model programs in engineering and energy technology. The group visited four programs:

- University of Texas of the Permian Basin
 - Center for Energy and Economic Diversification
 - Main Campus – Petroleum Engineering Program
- Midland Community College
 - Petroleum Professional Development Center
 - Advanced Technology Center

Six people participated on the trip:

Bernie Valenzuela – Principal, Taft High School

Agnes Eguaras – Dean, Instruction – Grants

Sam Aunai – Director, CTE

Paul Blake, Associate Professor, Engineering/Energy Tech

Mark Williams, VP of Instruction

Dena Maloney, Superintendent/President



While in Texas, the group met with faculty and staff in the engineering and energy technology programs at both schools. Tours of the labs and instructional facilities were especially interesting. The information gathered during the trip will be helpful in planning for the future at both Taft High School and Taft College.

Accreditation Update:

On November 8th a team of 8 Taft College faculty, staff and administrators participated in an ACCJC Accreditation Workshop at Antelope Valley College. The workshop was offered to Taft College and Santa Barbara City College as both schools in preparation for their respective reaccreditation site visits in 2015. During the workshop, participants learned more about changes to the accreditation standards planned for 2014.

Our accreditation self-evaluation is well underway with eleven writing teams meeting regularly to engage in dialogue, discussion and evaluation of Taft College against the ACCJC standards. The Accreditation Steering Committee meets monthly to monitor our progress and discuss strategies in developing the self-evaluation document. The draft Self Evaluation will be completed by Fall 2014 providing opportunity for review and discussion prior to submission to the ACCJC in Summer 2015.

Educational Master Plan:

With the assistance of the Collaborative Brain Trust (CBT), a California community college consulting firm, Taft College is developing a comprehensive Educational Master Plan that will set the course for Taft College for the next ten years. The project was reviewed and supported by the Governance Council in September and is now under way. The project includes collecting input from across the college in several ways -- through a college-wide online survey conducted earlier this month, as well as on-campus interviews in early December.

An Educational Master Plan Committee has been formed to oversee the project. Serving on the Committee are:

Sonja Swenson
Vicki Herder
Dr. Eric Bérubé
Elizabeth McKnight
Jill Brown
Sam Aunai

Angelo Cutrona
Brock McMurray
Darcy Bogle
Mark Williams
Dr. Dena Maloney

The Educational Master Plan is expected to be completed and presented to the Board of Trustees in June 2014. The Governance Council will review the draft plan in late spring prior to finalizing the plan.

Northern Edge of the World Exhibit:

The Art Gallery is featuring an exhibit entitled “Northern Edge of the World: Recent Photographs by Greta Lydecker.” The exhibit is Lydecker’s photographic record of what she saw and experienced with a small group of fellow passengers on the M/S Stockholm as it negotiated the fjords and icebergs of Svalbard, Norway.

Several images capture polar bears at work and at play, plus other mammals and birds of that arctic world. Some images capture the flow of ice chunks and icebergs. A pleasant contrast is the burst of color from lichen and flowers blooming in spite of the adverse conditions.



Lydecker is trained as a geologist, but learned the art of photography from her father who was a professional photographer. Her photographs are “straight” photography following the aesthetic favored by The West Coast Photographic Movement. Greta Lydecker’s love of nature and her skill as a photographer have allowed the Kern County residents to “visit” the Arctic Circle through the viewfinder of her camera. The Taft College Art Gallery is open Monday through Friday 9 to 4 and the exhibit is available through January 24, 2014.

Foundation and Other News



October and November were very good months for the Taft College Foundation. The West Kern Petroleum Summit on October 18th was very well attended with over 300 business, government and community leaders on our campus. More than 2000 other individuals from

as far away as Japan viewed the conference via the live-stream provided by the *Bakersfield Californian*.

On October 29th, the Foundation received a \$104,000 donation from Taft College alumni Mr. Harry Smith in honor of his aunt Opal Smith's 104th birthday. Miss Opal Smith passed away in May 2013. Taft College was one of Opal Smith's most cherished organizations in Taft. A portion of the funds will support Phi Theta Kappa, the Taft College Library, and the Dental Hygiene Program.



On November 6th, the Foundation was presented with a \$10,000 donation from Wells Fargo in support of the STEM K-Career Outreach (left). This follows a \$25,000 donation received on October 17th from Synagro, to support K-Career Outreach, the Child Care Center, and Energy Technology Program.

Upcoming Events:

Campus Thanksgiving Celebration

November 26th @ 3:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria Banquet Room

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27-28th

Women's Basketball Pre-Conference Tournaments

Ventura College Tournament November 29-December 1

San Diego College Tournament December 13-15

2nd Annual Holiday Potluck and Bunco Party

December 13th in the Cafeteria

Last Day of the Fall Term

December 20th