

November 25, 2014

Student Services Updates:

Fall Enrollment:

Fall 2014 enrollment has steadily increased throughout the semester. When daily enrollment totals for fall 2014 are compared to fall 2013, we notice an increase in nearly all unit categories, as shown below.

TAFT COLLEGE ENROLLMENT COMPARISONS FALL 2014						
DAY	DATE	UNITS				ENROLL.
		0	0.5- 5.5	6- 11.5	12- 25	DAILY TOTAL
Fri	11/21/2014	243	2402	983	1044	4672
Fri	11/22/2013	86	1978	989	986	4039

Daily Enrollment Report as of the Week of Nov 17th:

Unit Breakdown	11/22/2013	11/21/2014	Actual Difference	Percent Difference
0 Units	86	243	157	182.6%
0.5 - 5.5	1978	2402	424	21.4%
6.0 - 11.5	989	983	-6	-0.6%
12.0 +	986	1044	58	5.9%
Total	4039	4672	633	15.7%

Student Success and Support Program Plan:

The increased Student Success funding this year more than doubles funding from last year, and is a substantial increase compared to allocations received over the past five years. The Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) was originally allocated \$506,046 for the 2014-2015 academic year, but is expected to receive a total allocation of \$1,067,406. The increased allocation was made known to colleges in mid-September, and the SSSP plan and corresponding budget were then submitted to the state on October 17, 2014 to reflect how funds will be used to carry out core services, including those services specifically outlined below.

The purpose of the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) Plan (Credit Students) is for the college to plan and document how SSSP services will be provided to credit students. The goal of the Student Success and Support Program is to increase student access and success by providing students with core SSSP services, including (1) orientation, (2) assessment and placement, and (3) counseling, advising, and other education planning services, and the support services necessary to assist them in achieving their educational goal and declared course of study.

More specifically, colleges are to:

- Provide at least an abbreviated SEP to all entering students with a priority focus on students who enroll to earn degrees, career technical certificates, transfer preparation, or career advancement.
- Provide orientation, assessment and placement, counseling, advising, and other education planning services to all first-time students.
- Provide students with any assistance needed to define their course of study and develop a comprehensive SEP by the end of the third term but no later than completion of 15 units.
- Provide follow-up services, especially to students identified as at-risk (students enrolled in basic skills courses, students who have not identified an education goal and course of study, or students on academic or progress probation.
- The program plan is now required on an annual basis due to new SSSP requirements focusing funding on core services, changes related to priority enrollment, mandatory core services, and the significant increases in funding. As implementation and funding stabilizes, this requirement may be revisited. Further information can be found on the Chancellor's Office website at <http://extranet.ccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/Matriculation/Resources.aspx>

Spring Registration Update:

Priority registration is in full swing! Registration began Wednesday, November 12th, and will continue throughout early December. Over 400 students enrolled during the first few weeks of priority enrollment, which gives priority to special populations including veterans, foster youth, EOPS, DSPS, athletes, PTK, TRIO, and ASB students. New and continuing matriculated students will begin registering the week of November 24th, followed by returning students, students on academic difficulty, and non-matriculated students. For further information on the new enrollment priorities, please visit <http://www.taftcollege.edu/tcwp/esfa/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Priority-Registration.pdf>

SPRING 2015						
DAY	DATE	UNITS				ENROLL. DAILY TOTAL
		0	0.5- 5.5	6- 11.5	12- 25	
Mon	11/24/2014	1	40	85	310	436

Instruction Updates:

The North Star: Navigating Teaching and Learning Conference



The College of Reading and Learning Association recently held their 47th annual conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. The theme of this year's conference was *The North Star: Navigating Teaching and Learning*, which "encourages us [educators] to seek a constant source as a guide for navigating changing times and polices in order to improve student academic success." Jessica Grimes and Kamala Carlson were selected to present at the conference. Their session, *Illuminating Reading and Writing Through Metacognition*, discussed and demonstrated academic reading and writing strategies for transitional students

and provided examples by showing real student work. Grimes and Carlson modeled how these strategies transfer across disciplines and provide students with a plethora of tools from which to select and utilize in their content courses leading to success. Danielle Kerr attended her first professional conference and noted: "Professional development, especially attending a content-area specific conference, allows professors the opportunity to make invaluable connections with other teachers from across the country. Often times, these new relationships not only solidify teaching methods, but diversify and widen the scope of professors' thinking." Overall, this open forum provided many useful resources and techniques as well as informative presentations from leading keynote experts in higher education.

TC STEM Activities



TC STEM has hosted two high school STEM related activities on our campus this month. On November 14th approximately 60 students from Independence High School Energy & Utility Academic participated in two learning workshops focused on Engineering and Career Pathways. On the 21st between 160-180 high school seniors from Taft Union High, Maricopa High, and Buena Vista High were on campus. The students participated in classroom presentations with faculty from Math & Science, Life Science, Physical Science and Math, & Engineering.

The purpose of both activities provided opportunities for:

- students to meet and connect with some of the Taft College faculty & staff.
- students to learn more about program/course offerings in STEM at Taft College.
- assist those students who have not yet decided on college to consider Taft College as a viable option.

Star Party

On Friday, November 7, 2014, the Taft College STEM Program hosted a Star Party for the entire community of Taft. One hundred twenty three people signed in for the event, but it's possible the number of attendees was much higher. This event occurred due to the efforts and interest of Dave Reynolds, Taft College Professor of Physical Sciences. Mr. Reynolds has a passion for astronomy and teaching others about the universe. The day of the event, Dave set up several telescopes for people to view the night sky. The moon was almost full, and several stars could be seen as well.



While stargazing was the main attraction of the event, Lincoln Junior High School teacher, Ken Arnold, and some members of the TC STEM-sponsored LJHS Young Innovators Club showcased the Lego Mindstorms robots. Maricopa High School teacher, Al Allen, showcased some of the combat robots his students build as well as a Tesla coil. Paul Blake, Taft College Associate Professor of Engineering, was on hand with 3D printing demonstrations. ASB held a snack bar to raise funds for TC Athletics. Events like these help bring awareness and greater understanding of STEM to attendees while also offering a fun, free event for the community. We hope to continue this event in the future.

Planning and Accreditation Update:

Last year, Taft College developed the **2014-24 Educational Master Plan**, which will guide the college over the next ten years. The plan is the foundation for other important planning documents and can be found on the college website under **About Us: General Information**.

This year, the college is updating its **Mission, Vision and Values** statements. The Strategic Planning Committee of the Governance Council has led this effort. In November, the campus community had the opportunity to review the revised statements, and final modifications were made in response to suggestions from across the campus. The Governance Council finalized the new statements on November 11th. The new Mission, Vision and Values statements will be presented to the Board of Trustees at its December meeting.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee has been working on a new three-year **Strategic Plan**, which takes the broad recommendations from the Educational Master Plan and puts these recommendations into actions. The new Strategic Plan will be reviewed by the Governance Council in January before being presented to the Board of Trustees.

Lastly, the Accreditation Steering Committee is finishing up the **Accreditation Self Evaluation** in preparation for the comprehensive accreditation site visit in fall 2015. During the spring semester, the document will be available for campus feedback, and final editing.

Facilities Updates:

The Ash Street Dorm Modernization is 99% complete with only minimal touch up work remaining. Phase I has been occupied by students since the beginning of the fall semester while arrangements are underway for the transition of students to Phase II. The scope of the project included the modernization of 20 student living units, a dorm supervisor unit as well as extensive site work to meet new access and safety standards. Enhanced electrical and lighting along with new cabinet and bathroom designs make significant improvements to the interior of the dorm units while the interior courtyard has been renovated to more modern standards.

An updated Facilities Master Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2015. Gathering data in conjunction with past identified projects and with the needs identified by the 2014-2024 Educational Master Plan is well underway. The facilities committee is working in conjunction with AP Architects on the new plan to meet the projected campus needs identified through the Education Master Plan. The plan will include future projected campus improvements such as buildings, parking and space needs.

TC Foundation Update:

The right partnerships can make lasting impacts -- just take a look at the accomplishments and relationship building taking place at Taft College. Taft College has been paving the way for open dialogue and industry unity with its newly established Petroleum Partners membership group. The group is comprised of nearly forty executives from the Energy and Petroleum industry, many of which are current sponsors of the Taft College Foundation. The influential group was formed by the Taft College Foundation following the highly successful West Kern Petroleum Summit, hosted in October 2013.



The vision was to unite like-minded individuals in the petroleum industry under one roof to share best practices, areas of growth and industry updates with peers and partners. On September 25th an inaugural luncheon was held that accomplished just that. An Industry update was provided by Bob Barnes, Executive Vice President of North Operations for California Resources Corporation, formerly Occidental of Elk Hills which was followed by an uplifting presentation from Trent Rosenlieb, Asset Manager for LINN Energy.

Rosenlieb discussed the recent merger between Berry Petroleum and LINN Energy and the positive impact it has brought to the community and the petroleum industry workforce. To the surprise of the room, 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. The Petroleum Partners' support is vital to the College's efforts to develop a skilled workforce and support regional economic development. Taft College plans to continue and strengthen its close work with industry leaders through more roundtable lectures, luncheons and encompassing West Kern Petroleum Summits.

Rib-Eye Cookout:



The 2014 Foundation Rib-Eye Cookout was an outstanding success! Over 400 rib-eye steaks were served thanks to the grilling talents of City Councilman Orchel Krier! Seventy five Veterans received a complimentary dinner, courtesy of TRC Operating Company, owned by TC alumni Tracy Rodgers and Charlie Comfort. Many alumni were in attendance with the oldest grad from the Class of 1939. Assemblymember Shannon Grove, and Assessor candidate Jon Lifquist both presented resolutions honoring John and Betty Miller who received the first annual Community Spirit Award. Betty (pictured above left) accepted the award on behalf of the couple announcing, "This is one of the most amazing nights of my life." John was not able to attend due to illness. The evening was even more gratifying when a donation of \$25,000 was presented to the Foundation from Synagro of Taft. Thanks to the Foundation staff for a wonderful event!

Sports Update:

Congratulations to Men's Soccer!!!

The men's soccer team won the 2nd round regional playoff game vs. Hartnell College Tuesday (November 26) in overtime 1-0! They now move on to the regional final game this Saturday (November 28th) which will be played at 2:00 p.m. in Taft at the TUHS soccer field where they will take on the Fresno City College Rams. Admission prices are slightly higher (as mandated by the CCCAAA): \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and children under 7.



Women's Fall Sports

Women's Volleyball ended their season with an overall record of 11 wins/16 losses, bumping them out of the playoffs. Coach Bandy relates that the team improved greatly over the season and, with many players returning, looks forward to a great year in 2015.

Women's Soccer had a great season (13 wins/8 losses/1 tie) going all the way to the 2nd round of playoffs where they had a disappointing loss to Consumnes River College. Congratulations on a great season!

The women's basketball team just began their season with a slow start at 0 wins/4 losses. They are looking to break the losing streak this weekend Friday through Sunday at the Ventura College Tournament. Go Cougars!

2014 Upcoming Events

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
- 22 – 1/7 Winter Break

January:

- 8 – 16 Spring Inservice
- 19 Martin Luther King Holiday
- 20 Spring Semester Begins