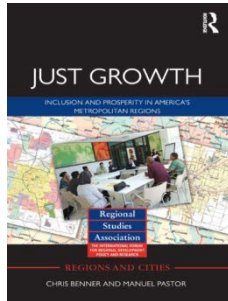


March 13, 2015

Instruction Update:



Noted sociologist, USC faculty member, and co-author of *Just Growth*, **Dr. Manuel Pastor**, will be on campus March 20th. Dr. Pastor will speak to the campus and conduct workshops on equity, demographics and decision-making. His presentation will include understanding our demographics, putting them in context and helping make meaning of them; how to make effective use of demographics to inform planning; and how to become knowledgeable individually and institutionally about demographic issues. Dr. Pastor will speak in the Cougar Room at 10:30 a.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend!

Pi Week was the second annual celebration of Pi Day (March 14 or 3-14) on campus. From Monday, March 9th to Thursday, March 12th, students had the opportunity to complete hands-on STEM activities in order to earn raffle tickets for a drawing for an Apple iPad Mini. The lucky winner was Lizbeth Figueroa! Some of these activities include marshmallow tower building, Sudoku, and circuit building. All activities take place from 11 am to 1 pm in ConnExpo. This event is brought to Taft College by grants from the U.S. Department of Education, the Taft College Foundation, and donations from the STEM Corporate Circle Sponsors, Chevron, Oxy, Sempra Energy, Synagro, and Wells Fargo.

Happy π Day!

Celebrate 3.14 all week!

3.14592653589793238462643383279512884197169399375105820874944592307816

March 9 — 12, 2015

11am to 1pm

ConnExpo

You could win an iPad Mini!

Earn raffle entries EVERYDAY by completing activities!
Drawing on March 12th at 12:55pm!



Like the Taft College STEM Program on Facebook!

Student Services Update:

Kanoe Bandy CCCAA/Tony Thompson Recognition CCCAAA

Kanoe Bandy was nominated by her peers, and then selected by a committee of sport coaches' association presidents to be one of the two 2015 California Community College Coaches Association honorees of the Coaching Achievement Award. This award is much more than a "Coach of the Year" award and recognizes the service, commitment, and contributions the honorees have given to California community colleges, their local institutions, athletes, and community.

Kanoe will be sharing the stage this year at the spring athletic convention with Tony Thompson, who was nominated and selected to be the California Community College Advisors Academic Association for Athletes (3C4A) recipient for the "Honoring Our Own" award. Part of the criteria for this nomination includes nominating a student for the Student Athlete Achievement Award. Not only has Tony nominated our local athletes for this award in the past, but he has been very successful, having three students win this extremely competitive award. Tony is the 3C4A President, and as with Kanoe, also serves on various committees at the state level.

Both Kanoe and Tony will be honored at the “Honoring Our Own” luncheon held on April 2nd at the CCCAA Convention in Ontario. Congratulations, Kanoe Bandy and Tony Thompson, for the great honor of being recognized by your peers for your leadership and achievement! Your dedication and service to the field of athletics is admirable and appreciated by all.

Hall of Fame

TC is seeking Hall of Fame nominations!

Taft College has established a Hall of Fame to recognize individuals who have had a major impact on the College. The Hall of Fame categories are:

- [Distinguished Administrator](#)
- [Distinguished Alumni](#)
- [Distinguished Classified/ Management](#)
- [Distinguished Faculty](#)
- [Extraordinary Service Award](#)
- [Outstanding Coach](#)
- [Outstanding Female Athletic Achievement](#)
- [Outstanding Male Athletic Achievement](#)
- [Outstanding Team Achievement](#)



Persons who want to nominate candidates for the Taft College Hall of Fame may do so by filling out the nomination form and sending it, along with supportive materials, to: Melissa Blanco, Taft College Office of Student Services, 29 Cougar Ct., Taft, CA 93268. Please contact 661.763.7854 for further information and details on nomination eligibility.

Nomination forms are available online at www.taftcollege.edu or by contacting mblanco@taftcollege.edu. The committee will be pleased to correspond with persons nominating a candidate and answer questions they might have. ***DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS*** to the 2015 Class is Friday, May 1st, 2015. Nominations must be received in the Office of Student Services by the close of business that day.

We look forward to nominations for all categories and from every decade of the 20th Century. Think about your classmates, fellow colleagues, and outstanding athletes, their lives and their accomplishments, and let us hear from you!

Administrative Services Update:

Facilities Master Plan

To address future space needs identified in the 2014-2024 Educational Master Plan, the College and the Facilities Committee have been working with AP Architects to develop an updated Facilities Master Plan to meet the needs of the Taft community well into the future. The plan will consider future space needs such as classroom space, laboratory space, office space, parking, pedestrian and traffic flow. The first step is to develop a site plan that utilizes current space and recognizes future space needs well into the future. Drafts of the site plan have been presented and reviewed by the Facilities Committee and Governance Council. The plan is scheduled to be completed by July 2015.

Credit Rating

Taft College's general obligation bonds and certificates of participation have been recently reviewed through Standard & Poor's three-year review cycle. Standard & Poor's rating services affirmed the 'A+' long term rating and underlying rating (SPUR) of the West Kern Community College District California general obligation (GO) bonds. At the same time, Standard & Poor's affirmed its 'A' rating of the District's certificates of participation (COPs). The accompanying report to the rating indicates that the outlook is stable.

STEM Project

At the March, 11th Board meeting agreements to begin construction of the STEM project were approved. The STEM facility will be located between the Ash Street Dorms and the Child Development Center. This project will include two STEM flexible classrooms/labs designed to be configured and changed for lecture or lab activities, storage for equipment, student innovation and/or study area, multi-use conference/tutor room as well as five offices. Also included on site will be renovated parking and new bathroom facilities.

ASB Developments and Plans:

The ASB is currently working on updating its constitution. A concern has been addressed regarding the unit requirements for students to be involved in ASB. It has been determined that in order to encourage diversity and to satisfy the culture of Taft College, it would be best to lower the unit requirement to be an ASB committee member and/or an ASB executive board member. The constitution committee consists of the ASB president, vice president, student trustee, and advisor. All the changes to the constitution will be in alignment with the overall mission of the College and will be up-to-date with state regulations. All changes must be approved by the ASB executive board before the changes are made official.



The ASB president and vice president attended the Region 6 student government meeting in February at Santa Barbara City College, reengaging Taft College with the regional organization. They are planning on working with other student government leaders to help determine how the TC ASB constitution should be adjusted and to share ideas as to how to make the TC student government even better. The TC ASB president also joined the Region 6 activities committee during the February meeting. To encourage annual involvement in the regional student government meetings, the ASB will adjust the roll of the president making it mandatory for the future Taft College ASB presidents to attend the monthly regional meetings held every 3rd Friday of the month. Our goal is to host one of the Region 6 meetings during the 2015-16 academic year. The next Region 6 meeting will be March 20th at Oxnard College.

The ASB is proud and excited to have a student member attending all the campus meetings. The students are now able to have a better understanding of the processes of the College. The goal for the next academic year is to have other students, outside the Student Trustee, sit on committees to allow more involvement and to hear different perspectives.

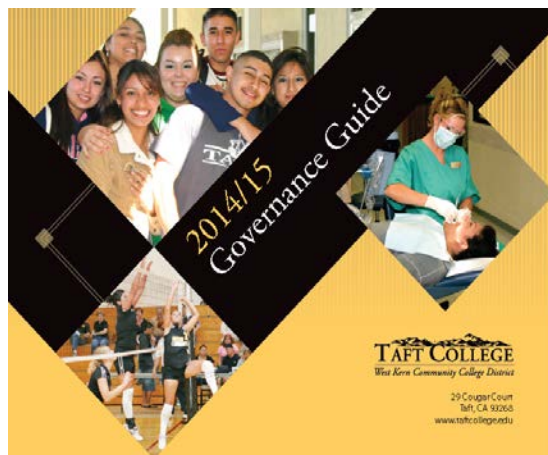
The ASB has also looked into increasing the price of the ASB stickers from \$15 a year to \$30 a year. The Executive Board researched ten California community colleges and found that all but one charges more for their ASB sticker. Not one college receives the amount of benefits that comes with purchasing a student government sticker at TC when comparing the prices. The book rental program surpasses the benefits of each institution researched. The ASB board members compared the actual cost of books to the amount that was paid under the book rental program and found that their savings outweighed the benefits provided at other institutions. All the ASB board and committee members agreed that this can be beneficial to the campus. The ASB has also begun to reconnect with the community to see if local businesses will provide discounts to students with an ASB sticker.

Currently, there are nine active clubs at Taft College. Three more clubs will possibly be approved by the fall of 2015. One of the major goals for the upcoming year is to have all the student leaders of the clubs (presidents and executive board members) attend a leadership seminar or webinar to allow them to become better prepared to run a club. Each student member will also have to understand the goals/SLO's under the student activities program to ensure that activities held on campus are geared toward the student learning outcomes. Club presidents (and board members if they are available) will meet with the ASB advisor at the beginning of each semester to go over the ASB constitution to make sure each club is in compliance when hosting future events and fundraisers.

Superintendent/President Update:

Governance Guide is Now Online

During the Fall 2014 term, a taskforce was convened to develop a Taft College Governance Guide which details the participatory governance process at Taft College. The taskforce consisted of representatives from faculty, classified staff, classified and educational administrators, and students. The guide was reviewed by all participatory governance groups and the Governance Council before being finalized.



The Guide will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure that it remains current and serves as a resource for the College community. The Guide is available online at the Institutional Research website under the *Planning* tab.

Classified Appreciation Week is Just Around the Corner!

The third annual Classified Appreciation Week will be celebrated March 23-27, 2015. Statewide, the CSEA Classified Appreciation recognition takes place the third week of May, which conflicts with our final schedule and year-end activities. As in past years, we are celebrating our classified staff in March with a variety of activities. The Classified Appreciation Week Committee consists of Amber Anderson, Barbara Amerio, Geoff Dunham, Bill Norris and Susan Wells. Plans include an Ice Cream Social on Friday, March 27th. Look for more details to come!

District Service Luncheon

This April launches a new tradition at Taft College! The District will be hosting an Annual Service Recognition luncheon for all employees with 15 or more years of service with the District. The luncheon will be on April 28th in the Quad and will feature a buffet lunch and special entertainment.

All employees – faculty, classified, management - with 15 or more years of service at the College will be recognized and appreciated at the luncheon. Supported by the Taft College Foundation, the luncheon is a way to say “Thank You” for many years of service to our students, our community, and one another. Invitations will be mailed out soon.

Accreditation Update

It is official! The College was notified that our Accreditation External Evaluation Team visit will be Monday, September 28 – Thursday, October 1, 2015. The purpose of the visit will be to conduct an onsite peer review of the college against the ACCJC accreditation standards. The four standards are:

- I. Institutional Mission and Effectiveness
- II. Student Learning Programs and Services
- III. Resources
- IV. Leadership and Governance



Over the past three semesters, the College has been preparing the comprehensive Self Study, a written document which details the College’s processes against the accreditation standards. Writing teams were formed and the first draft was prepared and submitted to the office of Institutional Assessment, Research and Planning in December 2014. The document is being edited and will be posted for campus-wide comment in mid-April. Additional editing will be completed in May. The document must be approved by the Board of Trustees and submitted to ACCJC in July 2015.

Welcome New Employees (9/1/14 – 3/2/15)

New Classified Employees:

Name	Department	Position Title
Krystal Allikas	Student Services	P/T CalWORKS Technician I
Rosa Cazares	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Assistant Teacher
Rebecca Fernandez	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Assistant Teacher
Maria Garcia de Leon	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Assistant Teacher
Joshua Garrison	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Groundskeeper
Jorge Gutierrez	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Assistant Teacher
Jonas Guzman-Rodriguez	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Assistant Teacher
Lorena Hernandez	Children’s Center	P/T Children’s Center Assistant Teacher
Nancy Landreth	Student Services	P/T TRIO-SSS Technician I

New Classified Employees (continued):

Name	Department	Position Title
Careli Leyva	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Assistant Teacher
Starlee McKown	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Custodian
Martha Melendrez	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Assistant Teacher
Lisa Osburn	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Custodian
Warren Owens	TIL Program	P/T TIL Life Skills Aide
Ramon Perales	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Custodian
Blanca Quintero	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Assistant Teacher
Ricardo Quintero	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Custodian
Jennifer Ramirez	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Assistant Teacher
Daniel Rodela	Student Services	F/T Counseling Center Technician II
Jeanette Rubio	TIL Program	P/T TIL Life Skills Aide
Alba Ruiz	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Assistant Teacher
Cindy Ruiz	Children's Center	P/T Children's Center Assistant Teacher
Kristi Shafer	TIL Program	P/T TIL Life Skills Aide
Stefanie Spencer	TIL Program	P/T TIL Life Skills Aide
Cliff Watts	Business Services	F/T Accountant

Recent Internal Position Changes:

Nicole Avina	EOPS/CARE Sr. Secretary to Integrated Technology Support Tech.
John Dodson	TIL Vocational Coordinator to Direct Support Facilitator
Velda Pena	Accounting Services Technician to Research Analyst
Kenny Schuyler	TPSID Accommodation Specialist to Evening Custodian
Lee Schryver	TIL Assistant Direct Support Facilitator to Vocational Specialist
Vicky Waugh	TIL Assistant to SSS Coordinator to TIL Intake Technician

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Date	Event	Location
March 9 – 15	Art Exhibit – The works of Maggie Blackwell & Jovanne Ayala	Art Gallery
March 20	Presentation by Dr. Manuel Pastor on Equity, Demographics, and Decision-making (10:30 am – noon)	Cougar Room
March 26	Reception for Artists Maggie Blackwell & Jovanne Ayala (3:00 pm)	Art Gallery
March 30 – April 3	Spring Break – No classes!	
May 15	End of Year Dinner	OT's Cookhouse
May 22	Graduation	TUHS Stadium
May 23	Dental Hygiene Graduation Ceremony	OT's Cookhouse