

August 28, 2015

Instruction Update:

Summer 2015—Literacy Jump-Start

Many community colleges across California have begun to take an active role in adult literacy. Taft College is no exception. Danielle Kerr, who is the AB 86 English representative, has been working with Joe'll Chaidez throughout the semester to assess and meet the needs of an underserved population of adult learners who are pre-literate, who may potentially have an (un)diagnosed learning disability, and who may have unconscious negative non-cognitive factors that undermine their ability to perform at the college level. The result of Danielle and Joe'll's discussions to improve adult students' readiness for collegiate-level work was to pilot an adult literacy course this summer.

Along with Danielle Kerr, Kamala Carlson piloted a four day Literacy Jump-Start. The primary goal was to accelerate students so that they would be able to improve on Accuplacer once completing the course. In this way, students could potentially bypass one or more basic skills courses. In order to facilitate this process, Danielle and Kamala focused on basic grammar and writing instruction while teaching basic technology awareness. MyFoundationsLab was used to enhance grammar, and the development of writing skills were facilitated through the use of Grammar Cards and Increasing Metacognitive Active Learning Strategies.

On day three of the Literacy Jump-Start, students had the opportunity to meet Dick Snyder, a Taft Union High School graduate, retired professor, and now author of Boomerang. Prior to Snyder's visit, students read excerpts from his book. Using these short stories Danielle and Kamala developed writing prompts from which students were able to practice and improve their writing—all in preparation for the writing prompts students would encounter on Accuplacer. Overall, the students had an enjoyable and productive learning experience.



TC Baby and Toddler Donation/Exchange Center



Throughout last year, many mommies and friends donated baby and toddler items to Dr. Jennifer Altenhofel to give to Taft College families. Well, that exploded over the summer and we now have a Donation/Exchange Center for baby and toddler items for Taft College students housed at the Taft College Children's Center. We'd like this to be a donation/exchange center where you can leave a donation, and pick up what you need. Presently we have lots of baby toys, a few toddler toys and baby appliances (bouncers, etc.). We also have blankets, bedding, clothes and more clothes for children up to 6T.

Please consider donating your new or gently used items and spread the word to Taft College students. You can bring them to Dr. Jennifer Altenhofel's office (T6F) or leave them at the Children's Center with Genoveve Garcia or Alma Barajas.

Student Services Update:

Night Administration Coverage



This fall, we have strengthened night duty coverage by expanding the number of administrators trained to be on the rotation for night duty. Night duty coverage begins at 5:00 pm and concludes at 8:00 pm, providing administrative coverage during peak evening hours. Campus security remains in place to provide additional support to the campus and is not impacted by the expansion of the night duty roster.

As part of this overall enhancement to night duty coverage, the College has posted in each classroom the Night Duty cell phone number as well as the Campus Security phone numbers. Each night duty administrator carries the cell phone during their assigned shift, along with the radio and Night Duty Manual. Shelley Klein in the President's Office maintains the master schedule for Night Administrator Duty.

Kudos to the new administrators now a part of the night duty rotation! Please give them your thanks when you see them on campus: Adrian Agundez; Barbara Amerio; Amber Anderson; Debbie Hegeman; Shelley Klein; Fernando Lara; Robert Meteau; and Jim Nicholas. Mark Williams, Darcy Bogle, and Brock McMurray are also part of the night duty administrator program.

TC Student Voice at State Level

TC will host the Student Senate of California Communities Colleges monthly regional meeting on Friday, Sept 18th from 10:00-2:00. Shoshanna Kukuliev is serving on the state senate as a Governance and Internal Policy (GIP) senator. We are excited to have a TC student be represented at the state level. Shoshanna served as TC Associated Student Body President during the 2014/15 academic year. She decided she was ready for a new challenge and ran for state senate. Her election consisted of opening statements and answering a series of questions in front of a panel. Of the four candidates running, Shoshanna won with a unanimous vote in May, and she will serve as the incumbent for the 15/16 academic year.

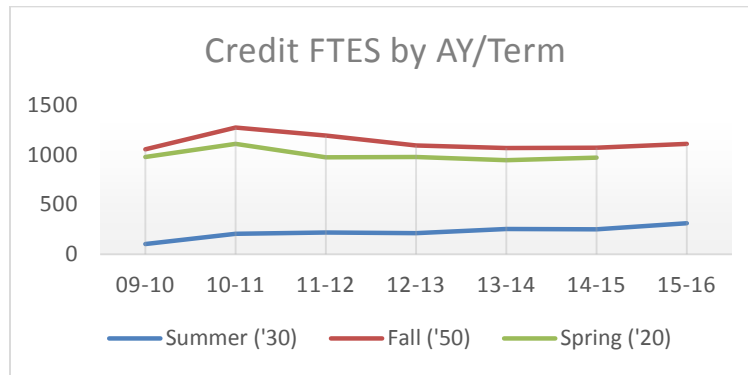


Shoshanna's main goal in serving is to help TC reach our maximum potential in regards to student government. Shoshanna said, "I've learned so many things on a state level and on how different schools run their ASB. Its eye opening to see how things are done at the state level, and how much more potential we have at TC." Shoshanna travels to Sacramento once per month to sit on the state board. We are extremely proud of Shoshanna and very excited to have a TC student be represented as a voice for our students at the state level!

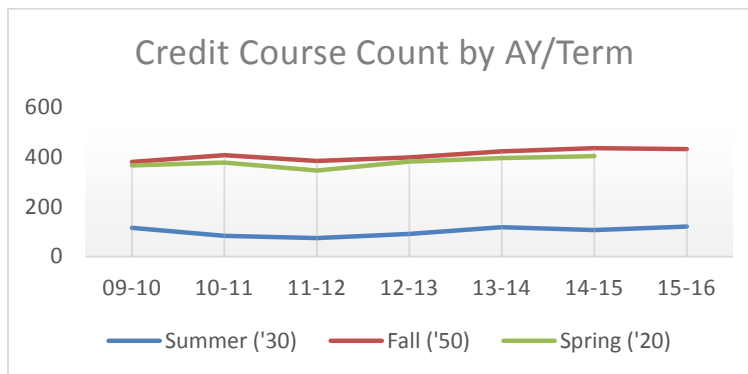
Shoshanna is a Math/Science major at TC, and plans to transfer and major in Geography with a career goal to practice Environmental Law. Congratulations to Shoshanna Kukuliev for her accomplishments, and commitment to student governmental affairs.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment for fall is looking strong. A new Enrollment Report compares total FTEs and Sections to Census from the prior year. Currently, the College is up 40 FTEs compared to Fall Census 2014. As we move closer to the Census date, we will see shifts in enrollment. The District's goal is to grow by 1% this academic year, which is approximately 25-30 FTEs.



	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Summer ('30)	104	207	220	212	253	250	312
Fall ('50)	1056	1274	1194	1095	1069	1071	1111
Spring ('20)	978	1110	975	980	946	972	
	2138	2591	2389	2287	2268	2293	1424



	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Summer ('30)	116	83	74	91	118	107	121
Fall ('50)	381	408	385	399	424	436	433
Spring ('20)	367	378	346	383	396	404	
	864	869	805	873	938	947	554

Spring 2015 All Conference Awards

Congratulations to ten TC baseball players for achieving the Academic All-Conference Award last spring! Criteria for the award is enrollment in 12 semester units (physical education activity units are not counted), maintenance of a grade point average of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale and successful participation in the current season of baseball. We're really proud of our scholar athletes!

Administrative Services Update:

Construction Projects Update

Projects Completed:

Gym Roofing Project and Gym Interior Upgrade (pictured at right) which included painting and sound boards.

Projects in Construction:

Site Utility at Alley – Student Center Infrastructure:

This project is phase one of the Student Center project. It brings mechanical and electrical infrastructure down the back campus road for the Student Center. This project is also beautifying the alley by repaving and adding new fencing in certain areas. Completion date is September 18, 2015.



STEM Buildings (pictured at left) are currently being installed and Site Work following. Completion date is October 15, 2015.

Projects in Working Drawings/Bidding:

PGE Electrical Service Upgrade:

The college architects are finalizing the plans to bid out the PGE Electrical Service Upgrade project. This project will bring a new 4KV service onto campus in order to provide necessary power for the Student Center and future projects. We anticipate this project going to bid by the end of the month.

Projects at DSA:

Student Center:

The college architects are currently working with DSA to schedule final plan review approval. Anticipate DSA approval September 2015. Anticipated construction start date is end of fourth quarter of 2015.

Projects at the State Pending Funding:

Vocational Center:

The Vocational Center project is an approved Final Project Proposal (FPP) at the Chancellor's office. The project consists of 19,878 assignable square feet (ASF), which consist mostly of laboratories and some office space. This project will be considered for funding on the next statewide general obligation bond. The project is extremely competitive and should have a great chance at being funded.

Facilities Master Plan

The 2015/16 – 2019/20 Facilities Master Plan, which will cover the next phase of campus growth is currently in progress. The draft will be presented to the Facilities Committee on September 8th. As successful as we have been with the previous bond, the list of needs far exceed available funding. A long range strategy and planning outlook has been completed. Based on the Educational Master Plan recommendations, Taft College has extended the Facilities Master Plan out through 2019/20. Since a Campus Facilities Master Plan is a reflection of the academic and campus life endeavors of the institution, it is based on a series of assumptions and guiding principles. The plan will show the College's needs well into the future. The College will continue to seek State funding as well as donations.

Superintendent/President Update:

Accreditation Site Visit

After two years of preparation including the development of a comprehensive Self Evaluation report, the Accreditation Site Visit will soon be here. The site visit is scheduled from September 28 – October 1, with a twelve-member team of colleagues on campus Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week. Team members will interview faculty and staff, conduct two open forums, visit classes, and evaluate how well Taft College meets accreditation standards. The team will be housed in the Cougar Room and will kick off the Site Visit with an open meeting in the Library on September 27th. The team will prepare a Team Report which will be reviewed by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in preparation for action on our application for reaccreditation. The final outcome of this process will be announced after the Commission meets in January 2016.

As was announced on August 26th, the College received a letter from ACCJC regarding the 2015 Annual Report. The Annual Report was determined by the ACCJC to be incomplete and we are being asked to provide additional information and resubmit the report by October 15, 2015. Additionally, due to the incomplete report, we have been given notice of receiving “enhanced monitoring” and the possibility of a “special report” to address the deficiencies noted in the letter.

To address the issues raised in this letter, TC has formed a preliminary task force to develop a response plan. The Academic Senate, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Governance Council have been apprised of the letter and will be providing input on how best to address these issues. The Self Evaluation report and the Letter from ACCJC are posted to the Institutional Research website under the Accreditation tab. Please be sure to review these as they are vitally important to our process of ongoing continuous improvement.

Foundation Update



On Thursday, October 8, 2015 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm, the Taft College Foundation will host its 6th Annual Cougar Alumni and Friends Cookout in the Quad on the Taft College Campus. The event celebrates the service of veterans in Taft and since 2014, has included a salute to one of Taft's community members through the Taft College Foundation Community Spirit Award.

This year, the Taft College Foundation is proud to recognize Taft alumni Harry Wilson (pictured above left). It takes a lot of heart and gumption to build the reputation that Harry Wilson has made for himself. His dedication to the community, education and the Taft College Foundation makes him

much deserving of the 2015 Taft College Foundation Community Spirit Award.

Mr. Wilson graduated from Taft College in 1942. He served in World War II and soon after returned to Taft. Shortly after his homecoming, Wilson was then called up to serve in the Korean War. Following his return from Korea, he began his career in the oil and gas industry by working for Arco.

The Cougar Cookout is an evening of music food and fun. Guests will enjoy a real Santa Maria BBQ, wine and beer as the amazing band, The Fruit Tramps, perform. Cost is \$30 and \$20 for students and Taft College employees. TRC Operating Company has once again made a generous donation to cover the cost of 100 Veterans to come and enjoy the great food and fun!

Taft College and the Taft College Foundation are offering the second West Kern Petroleum Summit, focusing on the economic impact, workforce needs and outlook for the petroleum and natural gas industry. October 16th will be a day to remember as the second West Kern Petroleum Summit (WKPS) highlights some of the top thinkers in the oil and energy industry including the “Grandfather of Oil,” T. Boone Pickens, this year’s keynote speaker.

The Foundation has established a faculty table for 8 at the summit. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at 763-7936

Find more information at www.wkpsummit.com

AB86 Update

As many of you know AB86 provided funds for community colleges, high schools and adult schools to 1) analyze current adult educational programs and 2) develop a plan to improve these services. The West Kern planning grant is led by co-chairs Dr. Dena Maloney (TC), Dr. Blanca Cavazos (TUHS), Dr. Scott Meier (Maricopa Unified) and grant director Joe’l Chaidez. The planning grant will end on December 31, 2015. On August 28, 2015, the state released the 2015/16 allocation funding proposed for each consortium. The West Kern AB86 Consortium will receive \$750,000 to implement its AB86 Adult Education Plan. This far exceeds our initial expectations and provides the opportunity to start transforming adult education in western Kern County.

Meanwhile, this summer was busy for all involved with AB86 efforts. There were several projects this summer that would not have been possible without the help of several key people. **Danielle Kerr** and **Kamala Carlson** ran a four day basic skills writing enhancement workshop. **The West Side ROP** ran a culinary program and a business class for adults. **Joe’l Chaidez** worked with Instruction on revitalizing our high school equivalency program. **Tori Furman** has been working on a Work Keys project which helps students obtain “work readiness” certificates. **Agnes Eguaras** and the **SI team** ran two Math Jump Start sessions. In addition to the above pilots, we are currently in the process for creating an AB86 grant outreach coordinator position to increase participation in local adult programs. The AB86 coordinator will also share information for adults who might need our High School Equivalency preparation classes

and our ESL credit and non-credit classes. We look forward to reporting the results of these projects in the near future.

Human Resources News:

Welcome New Faculty

Dr. Abbas Jarrahan is the new faculty member in the Biological Science discipline. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from CSU Bakersfield, a Master of Arts in Chemistry from San Diego State University, and a Master of Science as well as a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Jarrahan taught for ten years at two pharmacy schools before spending the past two years as the Chemistry laboratory instructor/manager at Ohio State University at Lima in Lima, Ohio.

Ms. Tina Mendoza is a new faculty member in the Social Science Division as a new full-time History professor. She holds a Master of Science degree in Mexican American History from the University of Arizona and a Master of Art in History from the University of Arizona. She is from Bakersfield and served eight years in the US Air Force. She has taught at Bakersfield College and Crafton Hills Community College and has also served as an educational advisor at Bakersfield College.

Ms. Debra Rodenhauser is a new full time faculty member teaching Studio Arts. Originally from Redding California, Debra holds an Associate of Arts in Art from Bakersfield College, a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Communication from Cal State Bakersfield and a Master of Arts in Art and Public Policy and Administration from CSUB. She has taught Art at Taft College, Bakersfield College and CSUB prior to assuming the full time teaching position at Taft College this fall. As an artist, she has participated in art exhibitions creating thought-provoking work about our globally changing environment.

Welcome New Administrators:

The College also welcomes two new administrators. **Ms. Elaine Shackelford** is the new Director of the Transition to Independent Living Program (TIL). Elaine's background includes five years as a special education teacher in the Simi Valley Unified School District and ten years with the LA Unified School District in the Speech and Language Program. Elaine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication and Theater from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University – Northridge, and a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Robert Meteau has joined Taft College as the Associate Vice President of Human Resources. Dr. Meteau has worked in education since 1998, specializing in human resources since 2007. He has a Doctorate in Public Administration, and a Master of Art in Educational Administration. He also is a SPHR – Senior Professional in Human Resources - a Senior Certificate Professional through the Society of Human Resources Management, and holds a Personnel Academy Certificate from ACSA.

Welcome new summer and Fall Hires - Classified Staff

Krista Saylor is our new Bookstore Clerk. Krista is a graduate of TC and recently earned her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from CSUB. Krista worked as substitute in the Bookstore for 5 years before becoming permanent in April 2015. Krista brings over ten years of retail and customer service experience.

Melissa Thornsberry was hired in May 2015 as an Accounting Technician. Melissa is currently working on her Master of Science in Administration degree at CSUB. She also has earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology/Applied Statistics. Melissa most recently worked at CSUB Auxiliary, TAP as a Budget Analyst/Grant Coordinator. Melissa is married with two children who both are attending college.

Kimberly Williams, Mail Clerk. Kimberly is a graduate of TC. She is a mother to two young children. Her previous work experience as a mail clerk in Fellows, CA and as a Post Master Relief made Kimberly an ideal candidate for the Mail Clerk position at TC. Kimberly enjoys selling Scentsy and photography.

Tiffany Payne – Hired August 2015 as our new Cashier. She is a TC graduate earning her AA in Social Science. Her family has other roots with our campus, as her mother is our very own Professor Ruby Payne. Tiffany has spent the last three years as the Recreation Inmate Coordinator at the Taft Correctional Facility so she is well qualified to help our students keep their accounts in line.

Upcoming Dates to Remember!!

Date	Event	Location
September 9	Board Meeting	Cougar Room
September 28 – October 1	Accreditation Site Visit	TC Campus
October 8	Foundation Cookout	TC Quad
October 16	West Kern Petroleum Summit	Taft Oildorado Tent (Oilworker Monument Site)
November 7	Hall of Fame Dinner	OT's Cookhouse