

November 30, 2015

Instruction Update:

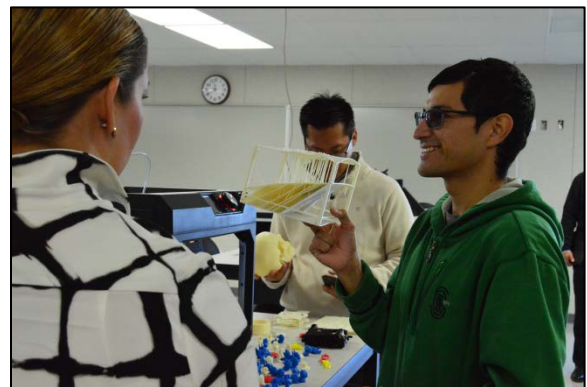
Energy Technology & Engineering Center Ribbon Cutting



On November 19th the District held a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the latest addition to our campus facilities – the new Energy Technology and Engineering Center. The facility was made possible through two U.S. Department of Education Hispanic Serving Institution grants awarded in 2011. These grants were designed to create pathways for students from our region to high wage, high demand fields relating to science, technology, engineering and math. One of the two grants specifically focused on creating a pathway for students wishing to prepare to transfer to CSUB in engineering. Taft

College Associate Professor of Engineering Paul Blake took the vision of these grants and turned it into reality. Due to Paul's hard work and commitment to the College and its engineering program, we now have over 140 students who have indicated they want to be engineering majors and transfer to CSUB when they leave Taft College. Truly a remarkable achievement in only two short years!

The ETEC would not be here without the dedication of Ms. Agnes Eguaras, Dean of Instruction for Grants, Mr. Brock McMurray, EVP of Administrative Services and his facilities team, Mr. Mark Williams, Vice President of Instruction, Mr. Greg Golling, Division Chair for Math and Science, and Ms. Kanoe Bandy, Division Chair for Applied Technologies. Additionally, the concept of the program was supported by our industry partners, and in particular, Chevron. And, California State University Bakersfield has worked closely with us to articulate our engineering program and provide a transfer opportunity to our students.



Fall 2015 Student Art Exhibit



Please come to the gallery and enjoy the show! Gallery hours as follows:

Monday: 12 pm - 4pm; Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9am - 2pm;
Wednesday: 9am - 1pm.

Kick-Off of the Transition to Independent Program 20th Anniversary



Prior to the beginning of the November 11th Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Dr. Dena Maloney visited the TIL Program in the Center for Independent Living to officially recognize the Program's 20th anniversary. A beautiful cake (pictured at left) created by TIL Instructor Chérie Napoleon depicted the CIL Building and was enjoyed by all.

The ceremony included two student speakers, sophomore Catrina Castro and freshman Zachary Brown, who gave exceptional presentations on their personal and enriching experiences while in the TIL Program. It is anticipated that several events will take place throughout the year to recognize the TIL Program and its outstanding success during its 20 years in operation.

The students in the Literary Magazine Club partnered with Black Gold and the Cougar Corner Bookstore to host a spoken-word poetry competition on Saturday, November 14, at 5:00pm. The competition was open to anyone. Professor Bill Devine, published poet Mark Fisher, and student editor Clarissa Alderete judged the contest. First prize went to Liz Greynolds with her winning poem to be published in *The Taft Independent*. Other prizes included a gift card to the Cougar Corner Bookstore and copies of *A Sharp Piece of Awesome*.

Poetry Reading
A Night for All Poets

Join the Taft College Literary Magazine Club as we host an open mic event! A panel of judges will award first, second, and third place. The best poem of the night will be awarded with publication in *The Taft Independent*. All can vote for the people's choice award!

Saturday
November 14th
5:00pm—7:00pm
At Black Gold

508 Center St,
Taft, CA 93268
[Sign in at 4:45 pm](#)

TAFTCOLLEGE

Student Services Update:

Hall of Fame Banquet



Sincere congratulations to the Taft College Class of 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees! The Hall of Fame banquet took place on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at OT Cookhouse, where 170 people came together to celebrate the accomplishments of our very distinguished inductees and to honor their numerous and

significant contributions to Taft College and our community. A recognition plaque for each inductee will be displayed in the Cougar Room on campus.

Inaugural Hall of Fame Inductees:

Al Baldock, Outstanding Coach
Jack McCall, Extraordinary Service
John Miller, Extraordinary Service
Larry Peahl, Distinguished Administrator
Don Zumbro, Distinguished Administrator
Amanda Smith, Outstanding Female Athlete
1982 Football Team, Outstanding Team

If you know of a candidate you would like to nominate, nomination forms and criteria are available on the Taft College website. The nine categories are:

Distinguished Administrator	Outstanding Female Athlete
Distinguished Alumnus	Outstanding Male Athlete
Distinguished Classified/Management	Outstanding Coach
Distinguished Faculty	Outstanding Team
Extraordinary Service	

The deadline for the Hall of Fame Class of 2016 nominations is March 15th, 2016. 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 accomplishments, and let us hear from you! Thank you for your continued support of the Taft College Hall of Fame.

Spring 2016 Registration Update

Priority registration is in full swing! Registration began Wednesday, November 11th, and will continue throughout early December. During the first few weeks of priority enrollment, priority is given 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 23rd, followed by returning students, students on academic difficulty, and non-matriculated students.

TC Halloween Activities:



On Thursday October 29th, the Taft College baseball team held their 3rd Annual “Ghouls & Goblins” Halloween Baseball. Pictured at left are a few of the great costumes.

Pictured at right are TIL staff members celebrating the holiday. From left to right are Paula Williams, Ylianna Torres, Brooke Ambrose, Susan Wells, Cindi Powell & Pearl Ramirez.



Athletics Update:

Congratulations to our fall sports teams for their achievements this season! The women's soccer team clinched their first Central Valley Conference Championship, and the men's soccer team finished as Central Valley Conference Co-Champions to achieve their fourth straight conference title. The women's volleyball team wrapped up the season with a heartbreaking five-set loss to College of Sequoias in a battle for second place in the Central Valley Conference. The campus is invited to join us in congratulating the coaches and teams on their accomplishments in the 2015/2016 season at the Athletic Fall Sports Banquet on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 12:30 at OT Cookhouse. Tickets are \$25.00. To reserve your ticket, please call Jennifer Edmaiston at 661-763-7829.



Women's Soccer



Women's Volleyball



Men's Soccer

Administrative Services Update:

Yearly Audit

It is that time of year as the business services area has been busy preparing for the scheduled visit next week from the auditors. The team will be visiting different areas of campus following up with questions and reviewing files as they have in the past.

Projects in Working Drawings/Bidding:

The Student Center project is back from DSA and in the final cost estimation stage. The next step includes evaluating the updated estimate and comparing to the budget.

We have a number of smaller projects that will begin in the near future including the PGE electrical service upgrade, the Gym HVAC repairs, the Prop 39 courtyard lighting upgrades and the Gym interior repairs phase 2. Phase 2 of the Gym repairs include an additional 120 panels to improve sound quality.

Superintendent/President Update:

Technology Update:

The ITS Department has been busy working on a number of technology infrastructure improvements which will have a big impact on our technology performance in the future. The WiFi at the Ash Street dorms has long suffered from slow response time, especially in the late afternoons and evenings when demand is at its peak. This problem has been noted in the Residence Hall Program Review document for a number of years. This year, the ITS Department is in the process of installing WiFi boosters to improve the response time for dorm residents. The boosters will be installed and tested prior to the end of December.

The IT Department has also worked with CENIC to upgrade campus internet connectivity from our previous 45MB line to a 1GB connection. In layman's terms, this is similar to going from a 2-lane highway to the German Autobahn. The improved bandwidth has eliminated most complaints about sluggish internet performance and buffering wait time for data along the pipeline. IT is now working with CENIC on plans to implement a backup 1GB connection in order to ensure redundancy in our infrastructure.

Human Resources Update:

The Human Resources Department is moving forward in analyzing and acting upon the HR Study which was completed in May 2015. In particular, the HR Department has scheduled several workshops for faculty and staff who are interested in serving on Selection Committees. The HR Report noted that Title 5 requires periodic training for Selection Committee participants. Training workshops will be offered on December 4 and January 7. To register, call HR at ext. 7805.

TAFT COLLEGE
Screening & Selection Committee Training

MANDATORY FOR EEOC COVERS BEFORE SERVING ON A SCREENING OR SELECTION COMMITTEE (Title V §5005 et al.)

COUGAR ROOM

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 4TH
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
OR
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

THURSDAY
JANUARY 7TH
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
OR
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

DECEMBER & JANUARY EEOC
Title V §5005 et al.

Facilitator:
December 4th - Dr. Robert Motzall Jr. (DECCED)
January 7th - Ms. Elena O'Hara-Anderson from Lorbert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW)

To register and January's workshop please:
EOP with HR by phone or email
HR@taft.edu

For more information:
Contact the HR staff at ext. 7805
hr@taft.edu

Thanksgiving Luncheon

The 2015 Thanksgiving Luncheon was held Friday, November 20th in the TC Cougar Room. Food and fun were served in huge quantities including Turkey & stuffing all prepared by faculty and staff. Thank you to the staff of the Human Resources Department for a well-planned and fun event!



October 22, 2015 New Employee Luncheon



Pictured above are the attendees at the October 22nd luncheon.

Taft College hired a total of 33 staff from fall 2014 to fall 2015. Two New Employee Luncheons were held to accommodate them all. Each luncheon included a brief slide show featuring each new employee and a review of important documents that provide an overview of the College and its place in the state and local community.

October 27, 2015 New Employee Luncheon

Pictured at right are the attendees at the October 27th luncheon.



Taft College NEW HIRES

Executive Assistant, Administrative Services - Ms. Sarah Criss

Sarah will join the TC family on December 15th. She comes from Taft and has a B.S. in Psychology from University of Phoenix, an A.A. in Liberal Arts from Taft College, and a Human Resources Management Certificate from CSU Bakersfield. She brings experience in human resources management and

administration. Sarah has been active in the community of Taft for years & she has worked in a fast paced clerical position for several years, combining skills in, human resources, planning budgeting, reporting, and public information preparation.

Information Systems Secretary - Ms. Sarah Gardner

Sarah joined the IT staff on November 9th and her permanent start date is December 1st. Sarah lives in Taft and has an A.S. in Office Technology from Taft College. She has experience in payroll, sales, AP/AR, creating purchase orders, ordering supplies, accounts payable processes, vendor negotiations and management, spreadsheets and accounting reports. She is skilled in SAP, WennSoft, Excel, and Word. Sarah has two daughters Sydney & Kylee.

Engineering Lab Technician - Mr. Doug Lindsey

Doug joined Taft College as a temporary employee on November 6th with a permanent start date of December 1st. Doug also lives in Taft and has a vast background in electrical, mechanical and computer control systems. He has an Associates of Science degree in Automotive Technology from Bakersfield College and a master certified technician certificate. He is currently working on an Associate of Science degree in Energy Technology at Taft College with a completion date in December. He was honored by the Taft College faculty with the Celebration of Success Award and earned a membership in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. While going to school he was employed full-time and is a family man.

Upcoming Dates to Remember!!

Date	Event	Location	Time
December 9	WKCCD Board Meeting	Cougar Room	5:00 p.m.
December 10	Bookstore Holiday Open House	Cougar Bookstore	4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
December 13	Fall Sports Banquet	OT's Cookhouse	12:00 noon
December 18	Staff Holiday Luncheon	Cougar Room	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
January 13	WKCCD Board Meeting	Cougar Room	5:00 p.m. (Closed session) 6:00 p.m. (Open Session)
January 23	Triple Play Dinner	OT's Cookhouse	6:00 p.m.