

March 30, 2016

Instruction Update:

Miguel Lugo Entertains and Motivates TC Audience

On March 1st, the Taft College English Language Arts Division welcomed Miguel Lugo, motivational speaker and “sit down” comedian, to the campus. The talk started with a screening of Mr. Lugo’s short film, “My Reality”, about Miguel Lugo’s experiences living with Cerebral Palsy. The Cougar Room was packed, and students were riveted by Mr. Lugo’s story. Students from Creative Writing, Early Childhood Education, English, and the Transition to Independent Living Program were all in attendance.



After Mr. Lugo’s presentation, students asked questions ranging from bullying in childhood to the types of assistive technologies Mr. Lugo used. If you missed Miguel Lugo in March, plan on attending the Abilities Partnership Team Winetasting on April 28th at The Fort. Mr. Lugo is scheduled to perform for our community again. Call Vicky Waugh for Winetasting tickets today (ext. 7775). Mr. Lugo’s film is available at: elchueco.com

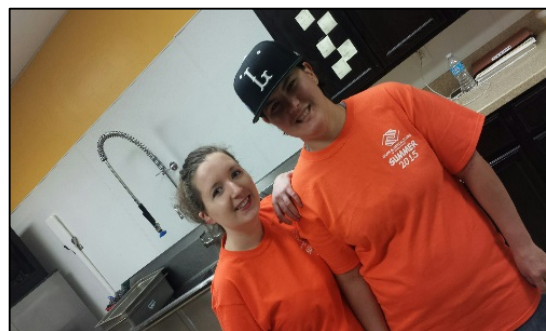
TIL Grads Gaining Job Skills While Serving at Boys & Girls Club



This semester a new project was started between the Taft College Foundation, The Transition to Independent Living Program, and The Boys and Girls Club. Sheri Horn Bunk, Foundation Executive Director, wrote a grant that is aimed at assisting people with intellectual disabilities in a vocational setting. Sheri has a strong relationship with the Boys and Girls executive Director Zane Smith and Susan Wells of the TIL Program.

The collaboration between them has produced an internship involving 3 alumni of the TIL Program currently living in Bakersfield. The trio will be working in the after-school program assisting with youth development and activities while obtaining important job skills.

“Our goal is to develop a positive relationship with the Boys and Girls Club and start, what we hope, is a continued pipeline of students to receive vocational training.” Wells states. Pictured are TIL students Chris Alverdi (above left) and Chris Jesley Handy & Kelly Sugimori (right)



TC Art Gallery Surrealism Exhibit

Surrealism: Irrational Images for the Rational Mind is the first in a series of art exhibitions that will be presented in the Taft College Art Gallery as a means to cement a relationship between the arts, the community, and the disciplines offered at Taft College. The current show was inspired by the psychology courses taught at TC, which caused Art Gallery Coordinator Gaysha D. Smith to put out an open call to seek artworks of various media that tap into the inner workings of the mind. Some of the pieces are thought provoking, some require the viewer's physical interaction, and all have some surrealist aspect.



Open calls for artists are an opportunity for anyone to enter works of art to be considered for exhibition in our gallery. In the fall, there will be an open call for any artisan to submit work relevant to our theme *Craft as Fine Art*. This show will allow selected works to be appreciated as fine art and not merely functional items. Gaysha encourages faculty and staff to visit the Gallery, "I look forward to sharing my love of education and the arts with all of you, through this and future exhibitions."

ENER 1515 (Measurement & Instrumentation) Field Trip to Aera Energy South Midway Facility



Vice President of Instruction Mark Williams (pictured left in full gear) accompanied the Taft College Measurement and Instrumentation class (ENER 1515) on a field trip to Aera Energy LLC's, South Midway Operating Area; situated between Taft and Maricopa.

The class visited the Water Plant Control Room to learn about PLC's, measurement devices, and how the Operator does the job of controlling the massive machinery in the plant. The Aera Operator, Mr. Clayton Wood; gave the class an excellent overview of the entire operation and then taught the class how he goes about controlling the water plant with his many computer work stations that monitor the measurement and control devices located throughout the facility.



Taft College thanks Aera Energy LLC and their crew at South Midway, Mr. Mike Ohman, Manager of Operations, and Mr. Brandon Chisum, Safety Engineer, for arranging the field trip. A special thanks to Mr. Wood, who provided an amazing learning experience for Mark and the Energy Technology class."

2016 One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern

Exciting news – the text for the 2016 One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern has been selected! The book, *The Big Thirst*, by Charles Fishman, explores humans' complex relationship with water, which is most definitely a timely issue. The variety of topics examined in this text complements and transfers across disciplines.



The Taft College Bookstore has stocked their shelves with copies of *The Big Thirst*, so pick up a copy and start reading, today! Whether you incorporate a chapter or the whole text within your class, it is a great way to encourage reading across the campus and throughout the community. Remember the deadline to submit a new text in your class is April 1st. Additionally, Charles Fishman will be speaking at CSUB on October 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Student Services Update:

1st Annual TC Student Research Conference



The 1st Annual Taft College Student Research Conference, sponsored by the Taft College Foundation, was held on March 18th in the Cougar Room. Nineteen students submitted their original work for inclusion in the conference. The audience was treated to a variety of research and reporting styles on topics ranging from cellular respiration to student-created historical videographies and presentations of student collected oral histories.

The submissions were grouped into five different categories and rated within each category by upper division undergraduate judges from CSU, Bakersfield. The three highest rated submissions by category were awarded monetary prizes to accompany the knowledge gained through the process. A good time was had by all as audience and presenters expressed their surprise at being interested in all the presentations regardless of topic. As one audience member said, “I came for the history and thought biology would be boring. This conference showed me that all the areas are really interesting!”



Special thanks to Dr. Jenifer Altenhofel for coordinating this event and to CSU, Bakersfield student judges Chyna Parker, Clarissa Cano, Andrew Suter, and Casey Harris for volunteering their time and effort (pictured above).

PTK Induction Ceremony



The Taft College Beta Lambda Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held an induction ceremony for new members on Thursday March 10th, 2016. Originally scheduled to be held in the Cougar Room, the ceremony was moved to the circular area of the library to accommodate the 24 inductees and 51 guests. Mr. Mike Eveland acted as usher, directing attendees to the revised location. Beta Lambda Zeta chapter President Jessica Ursua and Vice President Kayla Moore led the ceremony. Vice President of Student Services Darcy Bogle gave the keynote talk. Pastor Cindy Brettschneider of the Taft United Methodist Church gave the invocation. A reception

with punch and cupcakes was held in the Cougar Room after the event during which inductees and guests were able to take group photos in front of the Phi Theta Kappa banner. Please congratulate the newest members of this prestigious society!

Women's Softball



Pictured at left is the TC Softball team. Pictured below are team members Bailey San Agustin-Nordmeier, Tiana Cantero-Kawelo and Sonja Lawrence, who were honored as Outstanding Kern County Athletes by the Bakersfield Jockey Club on Monday February 22, 2106.

All three are captains, infielders, top of the lineup and they all maintain a grade point average higher than a 3.0. They are excellent student athletes and representatives of Taft College!



Baseball



The TC Baseball team is pictured above. Congratulations to TC catcher/designated hitter Brendan Halstrom, (pictured above at right) a freshman from Canada, for being the first Cougar to earn California Community College Baseball Coaches Association's (CCCBCA) Player of the Week honors this season! In two games, Halstrom went 5-8 with 3 Doubles, 2 Triples and 9 RBI. Four Cougars have hit home runs this season including Brendan Halstrom, Richard Ortiz, Ricky Sottile, and Dayton Wilson. Keep it up Cougars!

Program Spotlight - CalWORKS



Three Taft College students, Laura Hill, Allisa Tweedy, and Yoobin Hong, will be featured in this year's published copy of the California Community Colleges CalWORKs Association Portraits of Student Success publication. The Association highlights successful students chosen by the CalWORKs Board to recognize their accomplishments and to provide examples of the value and impact of the California Community College CalWORKs Program on the success of these students. The portraits represent selected CalWORKs students from each region and exemplify the many successes

achieved by the community college CalWORKs students throughout California. Congratulations Laura, Allisa, and Yoobin and the TC CalWORKs Program!

Administrative Services Update:

2016-17 Budget Process

Administrative Services is busy with budget preparation for the 2016-17 academic year. Currently the budget figures for each area are being compiled to form the preliminary budget, which will be presented for approval to the Board of Trustees in June. Vice Presidents are working with budget managers to estimate expenditure costs for the upcoming year. The spring semester apportionment attendance report will be submitted in April. This report is part of the determination of the apportionment per student enrolled full time as set by the State. By the end of April, the District will receive the update to employee health benefit costs.

These steps will assist in the preparation in advance of the Governor's final revised budget in May to align District finances with the state's allocations for the upcoming year. The Governor releases these revisions each May, at which time the District will work with departments and strategic groups on campus to finalize budget requests to start the 2016-17 fiscal year. Governor Brown's proposed budget in January included money to be built-in permanently for Career/Technical Education, as well as for deferred maintenance/instructional equipment costs. While the state's budget is showing growth, Governor

Brown's budget is built conservatively to prepare for any future conditions that could affect educational spending.

Facilities

The District is currently set to open bids in early April for a new Student Center Building. The Student Center is included in the Master Facilities Plan and in Measure A funding. Once a bid is accepted and the Board of Trustees has approved the contractor, the project will begin the first phase of construction. This first phase will focus on utility infrastructure to existing facilities so that construction does not slow down our busy campus when the contractor begins the demolition/construction process. The Student Center will include the bookstore, cafeteria, and a student common area with ASB offices.

Superintendent/President Update:

TC's Adrian Agundez Receives CISOA Award



Congratulations to TC's Director of Information Services Adrian Agundez for receiving the CISOA (Chief Information Services Officers Association) Technology Excellence Award at the recent annual 3CBG (CCC Banner Group) Conference held in Anaheim. The nomination was made by Dr. Eric Bérubé, Coordinator of Institutional Research and Planning. Dr. Bérubé focused Adrian's nomination on his development of the TC Technology Master Plan that is fully integrated with the College's Educational Master Plan and Strategic Action Plan. The 2012/13 - 2016/17 Technology Master Plan, which was recently updated and implemented, provides a 5-year blueprint for advancing the use

of technology in support of student learning at Taft College. The ambitious plan has been responsible for keeping Taft College on the forefront of technology use in the California Community College system and has immensely contributed to student success and employee morale.

Dr. Bérubé included his observation, "After working in higher education for almost 30 years at numerous institutions, I have seen a lot of 'master plans' come and go. Rarely do they live up to their intentions. However, under Adrian's leadership, Taft College's Technology Master Plan has truly been a 'living document' and roadmap to improving the already excellent technological infrastructure at Taft College. The Plan was well thought out and well implemented. Adrian's leadership style has been one to not only increase morale at Taft College, but has truly been focused on student and employee success. I believe his team deserves to be recognized for their efforts in helping Taft College's students achieve their educational goals." Adrian acknowledged his staff and fellow employees for their contributions to the overall technology effort.



From the TC Foundation Executive Director Sheri Horn Bunk

The Foundation has \$8,000 to award this year and we hope to receive requests from the campus community to fund projects or purchases that might not be covered with other funds. In the past, the Foundation grants have provided funds for video equipment for the Art Gallery, support for professional

development conferences for Early Childhood education, purchase of anatomy equipment, financial awards for student success and more! Most awards granted are between \$250 and \$2,000. However, each application is taken into consideration. The Grants Selection Committee is comprised of Taft College Foundation members only. They are Carole Cohen, Don Zumbro, Larry Peahl, Penny Fulton, and Adam Alvidrez. **PLEASE APPLY - DEADLINE IS APRIL 22!** Questions can be directed to the Foundation Office at 763-7936.

Taft College NEW HIRES

Welcome new hires as of February 1 – March 25, 2016:



Kathy Johnson, Director,
West Kern Adult Education Network



Ramona Carty,
TIL Life Skills Aide



Michael Chiaramonte
TIL Life Skills Aide



Anthony Cordova,
Interim CTE Director



Ric Garza,
Testing Technician

Upcoming Dates to Remember!!

Date	Event	Location	Time
March 28 – April 1	Classified Appreciation Week	Campus	Various Events
March 29	West Kern Adult Education Network Grand Opening	The Historic Fort	12:00 – 1:00 pm
April 12	Dist. Employee Service Luncheon	Cougar Room	11:30 am – 1:00 pm
April 22	Celebrating Success Dinner	OT's Cookhouse	6:00 pm
April 26	District Service Luncheon	Campus (TBD)	11:30 – 1:00 pm
April 29	Foundation Golf Tournament	BV Golf Course	Noon
May 1	Spring Sports Banquet	OT's Cookhouse	11:30 am
May 2 – 6	Faculty Appreciation Week	Campus	Various Events
May 12	EOPS Luncheon	OT's Cookhouse	TBD
May 13	End of Year Dinner	OT's Cookhouse	6:00 pm Social Hour 7:00 pm Dinner
May 14	CalWORKS Luncheon	OT's Cookhouse	TBD
May 20	Annual Scholarship Luncheon	OT's Cookhouse	11:30 am
May 20	Graduation Ceremony	TUHS Stadium	7:00 pm