

Board Update

August 1, 2012

Construction News:



The Transition to Independent Living project is currently about 52% complete. Phase 2 of the TIL project which includes the creation of a traffic turnaround and new parking lot surface is currently about 85% complete. This portion of the project is still scheduled to be complete by August 20th, prior to the start of the fall term. The entire project is still scheduled to be complete in the first quarter of 2013. Planning continues for Dorm renovations and a new student

center. The Dorm project drawings should be going to the state in the next few months. This project is scheduled to start by mid-2013. The student center project design should be completed in the next couple of months.



Fall Enrollment:

Fall registration continues to be strong and is right in line at this point in time as compared to fall 2011. There are currently 2,796 students registered for fall 2012 classes. As of July 26th, 44% of the students are enrolled in 12-25 units, and 32% of the students are enrolled in 6-11.5 units. We are offering 402 sections with more in reserve which will be added in early August – very similar to the offerings in fall 2011. The fall term begins August 27, 2012.

Instructional Program Update:

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440 – Padilla) requires community colleges to grant an associate degree for transfer to a student once a student has met specified general education and major requirements for the degree. Upon completion of the associate degree, the student is eligible for transfer with junior standing into the California State University (CSU) system.

To date, Taft College has brought 7 transfer degrees forward for Board approval, 5 of which have been approved by the Chancellor's Office. Those approved and pending transfer degrees include:

Approved degrees:

Art History
Early Childhood Education
History
Psychology
Sociology

Pending degrees:

English
Studio Arts

During this coming fall, we should see four more transfer degrees submitted, which will allow even more Taft College students better transfer opportunities and transfer at the junior standing level.

STEM Update:

The STEM Program hosted 22 students on campus in a one-week session the week of July 16th. Students worked in teams to increase their understanding of the importance of working within a community. The Summer K-12 STEM Program has proven to be a critical component among the K-12



STEM Program offerings. As a springboard for the coming year, the innovative and unique program components throughout the year are often conceived and initiated during Summer K-12 STEM. In previous years, the Summer K-12 STEM Program has engaged students in subjects ranging from genetics to submarine robotics. This year, students participated in a one-week session of combat robotics in preparation for a potential appearance at 2012 Combots, the world's largest organization of robot combat events.

Administrative Services Update:

In late July the California Community College Chancellor's Office will conduct their annual budget workshop in southern California. A budget briefing including revenue allocations and economic forecasts will be presented. This information will be integrated into the final proposed WKCCD FY 2012-13 operating budget and presented to the Board of Trustees in September.

The annual Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) project is near conclusion. A TRAN is needed in order to smooth out the sporadic flow of revenues to the College throughout the fiscal year. Given anticipated delays in State funding throughout FY 2012-13, this year's TRAN borrowing will be \$3,865,000 exclusive of interest and fees. The TRAN will be repaid near the end of FY 2012-13.

Business Services has been working with the auditors through most of July. Staff have been pulling files and documents and answering questions posed by the auditors. Year-end closing and transition to FY 2012-13 has been a priority for the month of July as well. The Cougar Corner Bookstore, aside from year end transition, has been ordering books in for the fall semester and updating their website. Our Café has been preparing for the return of student athletes and TIL students in early August.

Foundation Update:



On Saturday, September 29, 2012, the Taft College Foundation, Team Oxy and The Transition to Independent living program will offer its Fourth Annual TIL Casino Night at the JAM Event Center in Bakersfield. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with gaming beginning at 7:00 p.m. Evening activities will include catered buffet from Cougar Buffet; libations; gaming, including black jack, roulette, craps and Texas Hold 'Em Poker; and a silent and live auction. The Masters of Ceremony are Jim Scott and Robin Mangrin-Scott. Look for your invitation soon!

Other News:

- Patti Bench, Sam Aunai and I met with Bob Hawkes of the Kern Community College District, to discuss the Kern District's regional SB70 grant program and opportunities for SB70 activities underway in the West Kern Community College District
- I met with Tony Tartaglia and Ron Duchow from the Southern California Gas Company to update them on our plans for the STEM and Energy Technology Program. Ron was instrumental in connecting us with the Sempra Foundation, which has provided support to the STEM Program. The meeting was very productive in identifying strategies for future support from Sempra.
- Sam Aunai gave a presentation to a group of about 35 teachers from various elementary and high schools in California on July 16th in Bakersfield. The presentation was on the Energy Technology program and the potential career opportunities within this field in the oil & gas industry. The presentation was part of the Derricks to Desks Teachers' Seminar sponsored by the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) and the American Petroleum Institute (API), San Joaquin Chapter.
- I continued to get acquainted with the community and our business partners, by meeting with Craig Jones, the City Manager, Sean Kerns, President of Occidental of Elk Hills, Vince Fong of Congressman Kevin McCarthy's office, and Javier Reyes, Field Representative for Assembly member Shannon Grove.
- Sam Aunai attended the Hydrogen Energy California Power Plant informational hearing and public site visit on July 12. Initially proposed in 2008 and revised in 2009, the proposed plant is an integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power generating facility. If approved, the plant will be located near Tupman, CA in western Kern County.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

Here are some important dates coming up in August and September:

- *Taft College- On the Move* is the title of a presentation I will make at the North Bakersfield Rotary Club on Tuesday, August 14th.
- In-Service Week begins on August 20th and culminates in the Welcome Breakfast on Friday, August 24 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am at the Historic Fort. It will be a fun and informative morning and I hope you can join us!
- Our annual Welcome to TC Day is scheduled for August the 26th from 3:30 to 5:30. Dinner will be provided. Activities will include a band, cake walk, and a water balloon toss. In addition, there will be informational booths regarding clubs on campus, maps, class changes and other important information.
- The Taft College 90th Birthday Celebration will be held on August 30th from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm in the Quad. Come join us for birthday cake and 90 cent hot dogs!
- Our annual Board Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, September 16 beginning at 9:00 am. Cindra Smith will be our facilitator.

Summer is winding down and we are all looking forward to the start of the fall term! It is a busy time as we prepare for the launch of the 2012-13 academic year.