

Taft College Update

August 31, 2012

Construction News:



The Transition to Independent Living project continues to move forward with an anticipated completion date of late first quarter, 2013. The parking lot project and campus entrance turnaround is now complete with the exception of landscaping, which will be completed at the conclusion of the TIL construction project. The TIL design team will be meeting soon to review furniture options, and will select furniture, fabrics and other soft finishes within

the parameters of the TIL construction budget. Planning continues for Dorm renovations and a new student center. Lastly, the demolition of the Motorcycle Shop property on 6th Street will begin shortly. Abatement of the property will commence September 5th. The demolition activity will begin September 7th and is scheduled to be completed September 14th.



Instructional Program Update:

With the pending departure of Mark Richardson, Superintendent at Taft Union High School District, Marilyn Brown has been appointed as Principal of Taft High School. To continue to strengthen ties with the high school, Patti Bench met with Marilyn this past week to discuss current programs as well as future plans. Marilyn is a long time Taft resident and has extensive experience in curriculum development at our local high school. She is a strong supporter of our College Concurrent Program and looks forward to strengthening our ties and supporting the high school students' participation in this program.

Another passion Marilyn has is in the area of the high school's Oil Academy. The Oil Academy is a flagship program at the high school that is strongly supported by the community, business, and industry. Some of the business partners for this program are the same partners Taft College has with the Energy Technology Program such as Holmes Western, Chevron, Oxy, Aera Energy, Nabors, and others. Marilyn would like to see us develop stronger connections between their Oil Academy and the college's Energy Technology Program. Patti has been invited to attend their monthly advisory committee breakfast later this month to get to know more of their partners and see if we can get their academy leader, Ted Pendergrass to consider joining our advisory committee too.

The third joint project between the college and the high school surrounds the college's welding program. Marilyn and Patti are continuing discussions regarding holding one or two welding classes in their state of the art facility and hope to have the details worked out soon. Our hope is to

offer at least one evening class during the spring 2013 semester, and if that works out, we may add a second class in the fall.

Taft College Foundation Update:

On Thursday, August 30 the Foundation hosted the 90th Anniversary “birthday party” celebration of Taft College. Alumni, faculty, staff, community leaders, and guests enjoyed the celebration.



Representatives from the state of California, Kern County, and the City of Taft provided commendations and recognition to the College.

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. The event is nearly sold out so if you plan to attend, contact the Foundation soon!

The Annual Rib Eye Cookout has found a major sponsor which is TRC operating company! TRC is owned by Charlie Comfort and Tracy Rogers – both Taft College Alumni – Go Cougars! The Annual Rib Eye is on Saturday, October 20th, at 5:00 p.m. Prior to the Cookout beginning at 3:30 p.m. will be the official ribbon cutting of the Al Baldock Cougar Sports Center at the intersection of Emmons Park Drive and Wildcat Way. Tickets are on sale now. Please call 661-763-7936.



Athletics:

Fall is here and with it brings our Fall sports programs including Men and Women’s Soccer, and Women’s Volleyball. The Athletic Schedule is online at www.taftcollege.edu/athletics. Kudos to our Athletic Director, coaches, athletes and entire sports team staff for their dedication to Taft College athletics. I hope you can join me in coming out to cheer for our Cougars this Fall!

Administrative Services:

Administrative and Business Services have been finalizing the proposed FY 2012-13 operating budget for the District. This includes updating the revenue and expense figures based on the final State budget adopted by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Brown. The budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees on September 13th for their consideration and adoption.

Business Services has been busily working to close the books on FY 2011-12. Closing entries are in progress and upon completion information will then be made available to the auditors for their important annual audit work.

An Economic Development workshop is planned for October 10th from 10:30 AM until 3:00 PM. The San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center in partnership with Taft College, City of Taft, Taft

Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic business community will be sponsoring the event. The workshop will be held in the Cougar room.

Accreditation:

The 2012 Mid-Term Report and the Student Learning Outcomes Report that are due in October were approved by the Governance Council at their meeting held today (Friday, August 31st)! Many thanks to all faculty and staff members for their diligence and hard work to support our planning processes and carry out the important work on student learning outcomes.

Staff Highlights - Getting to Know You!



Meet Lupe Figueroa. Lupe came to Taft College in 2004 as a student majoring in Criminal Justice Administration and during that time, worked as a student worker with the Migrant Education Program. After she graduated in 2007, Lupe was hired as a part-time Migrant Education Instructional Aide. Within a few years, that position grew to fulltime and included Migrant Education along with the FIELD program. Lupe assisted students in both programs helping them get admitted, enrolled, and supported. When those programs were integrated into existing services, Lupe began providing support for our STEM and QFS programs where she has become an important part of their success. Although Lupe has lived in Taft for over 9 years, she just recently moved to Bakersfield. When asked what she likes most about Taft College, she said she “loves the feeling you get when you work with people on a daily basis. It feels like home.”

Important Dates and Updates:

- Sam Aunai, Sheri Horn Bunk, and Dena Maloney attended the Taft High School Oil Academy 2012 BBQ on August 27, 2012.
- Our annual Board Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, September 16 beginning at 9:00 am. Cindra Smith will be our facilitator.
- TIL Casino Night – September 29, 2012 – Contact Sheri Horn Bunk at 661-763-7936