

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 was completed in time for the start of the Fall term and the design is both functional and attractive. The landscaping will be completed at the conclusion of the TIL construction project. 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 and our goal is to submit plans to DSA by the end of the 2012-13 school year. The demolition of the motorcycle shop was delayed by P. G. & E., which is scheduled to remove utility connections soon.



Property Purchases

For many years, the West Kern Community College District has explored the possibility of acquiring property from the US Department of Energy. After evaluating the needs of the District for additional property, and negotiating with the General Services Administration, the District has moved forward with an Intent to Purchase agreement to purchase two parcels totaling slightly more than 4 acres of property. The parcels are located across Ash Street and may be used for future student housing. The purchase agreement must now go before a Congressional Committee in Washington DC for final approval.

Economic Development Workshop



The Taft Chamber of Commerce, Taft College and the City of Taft are sponsoring an important economic development workshop “Building the Local Economy: A Strategy for Taft” on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at Taft College from 10:30AM to 2:45PM. This workshop aims to bring together local businesses along with public and civic leaders to share their ideas on how the local economy can be expanded, how new jobs can be created and improving the local housing market. The format will be interesting, informative and interational and will include a delicious lunch courtesy of Taft College.

Economic Development Workshop cont.

Keynote speaker Mike Dozier, Executive Director of the Office of Community Economic Development at Fresno State, will draw on over 20 years of experience in private and public sector business development to share proven strategies that have been used in other communities to grow and diversify the local economy. The workshop will also feature speakers covering the roles of education, local business, the public sector, and housing. TO RSVP, please contact Debra Elliott at dellott@cityoftaft.org or 661-763-1222, ext. 12.

Other News

The College has recently completed two important accreditation documents. Three years after a comprehensive Self Study, community colleges are required to report on their progress in addressing any recommendations stemming from the accreditation site visit. Taft College's comprehensive Self Study was completed in 2009 so it is now time to submit the Mid Term Accreditation Report. This Midterm Report addresses each of the five recommendations made by the 2009 visiting team and provides a summary of the progress made in accomplishing the 77 self-identified plans published in the college's 2009 self-study.

In addition, this year all California community colleges are required to submit a report on their progress in achieving proficiency in student learning outcomes, an important accountability measure. Both reports are due October 15th, 2012.

The College has also completed its first ever Technology Master Plan which will be presented to the Board of Trustees in October. The Facilities Master Plan is nearly complete and is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Board in November. These important planning documents are based on an in-depth analysis of the College's instructional programs and services; and reflect the technology and facility needs for the District over the next five years.

Instructional Program Updates

Taft College and Taft Union High School District are working closely in three key areas: continuing the College Concurrent Program, creating linkages between the Taft High School Oil Academy and the Taft College Energy Technology Program, and collaborating on career technical education programs such as the welding program.

This year there are 6 students taking English 1500 on the high school campus, 15 taking our online Information Competency course, and 8 taking the online Psychology course. Since its inception in Fall 2009, we have had over 125 students take part in the College Concurrent Program. In the spring, we will be adding an additional course to the onsite part of the program. Biology 1501, Fundamentals of Biology will be added to the program to round out the curriculum in this program nicely: three onsite courses and three online courses.

Program Highlight: Court Reporting

The Taft College court reporting program, being taught through our WESTEC partners, is designed to provide students with the foundation and technical training to be certified shorthand reporters. Upon

Program Highlight: Court Reporting cont.

passing the extensive requirements of this program, which translates to a minimum of 200 WPM shorthand speed, students are eligible to take the State Certified Shorthand Reporter examination. Recently, two students from our program, Elizabeth Magana and Jennifer Pryor, successfully passed the State licensing test and are working as Certified Shorthand Reporters in the Kern County area.

In May of 2011, 2 students, Ashley Warren and Krystalyn Klipp, finished the academic portion of the court reporting program and each received an Associates of Science Degree in court reporting. These two are the first students in the history of the Valley to receive a degree in court reporting. Both students were in the Taft College at WESTEC court reporting program for a little over 2 years. Katie Johnson received her degree after completing the 2012 summer session, and Alyson Duclos and Alexandra Province completed the court reporting certificate program. A total of 9 students will be taking their state certification within this academic year.

Congratulations to all the students in this program, to Gary Shaw, the Court Reporting Coordinator for WESTEC, and to all the instructors teaching this impressive skill to our students.

Administrative Services Updates

During the month of September, Administrative Services has been engaged in providing support for the New Market Tax Credit project and launching a debt structure review project.

Administrative Services has been supporting and participating in the activities of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee is reviewing proposed Program Goals and associated costs. After completing this activity, the Program Goals will be forwarded to the Governance Council for consideration. These are important activities that link planning to resource allocation decisions.

Business Services has been working to close out FY 2012-13 accounting records and positioning to prepare the State required annual 311(A) financial report.

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. We are so



proud of the women's volleyball team for winning the San Diego City College Tournament on Saturday, September 22nd. The Cougars played 4 teams in 5 different matches and remained undefeated! They currently have an AVCA record of 13-3.



Women's soccer has won three matches, lost five, and tied two since beginning play this term. Men's soccer was undefeated in non-conference play with a 6-0-2 record. Taft College men's soccer is ranked 12th in the nation on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll released last week.

Athletics cont.

A very creative fundraising idea was proposed by our Baseball Coach, Vince Maiocco. He and his players took pledges to see if Vince and his cycling partner could ride 100 miles from Taft College to Lake Ming. They actually rode 106 miles and proved that they could do it. Next year we will build on this "century bike ride" and host a community bike ride along with Coach Maiocco.

The month of October is a very busy time for the Athletic Department. During the week of October 15-19, the volleyball team is teaming up with the ASB to host a Breast Cancer Awareness week. The kick-off event will be on October 12th at the home volleyball match. The price of admission will be a donation to Breast Cancer Research. There will be t-shirts available for purchase along with raffle prizes. Throughout the next week, there will be information tables on campus that will share the latest information about Breast Cancer and also the opportunity to make donations for the cause. The donations collected will be given to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation and to the local Soroptomist Club to be used in their critical care funds.

Also coming up is the unveiling of the new sign in front of the Cougar Sports Center on October 20th, 2012. In honor of our very successful football coach, the gym has been renamed the Al Baldock Cougar Sports Center. A short ceremony will take place prior to the Alumni Rib Eye BBQ on that date.

Our biggest fundraiser yet is working with Alpine Christmas Trees to presale live Christmas trees during the month of October. The live trees will be available for pick up on November 30th and December 1st on our softball field. The trees will arrive 48 hours after the time that they are cut. Our goal is to sell 1,000 live trees in the hopes of raising \$15,000 for the Athletics department as a whole. Please spread the word!

September 11, 2012: A Day of Remembrance

On Tuesday, September 11, 2012, the Taft College ASB held a day of remembrance in the Quad regarding the events that occurred eleven years ago in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. A moment of silence was held at 8:46 a.m., the exact moment of the first attack, and large "thank you" posters were signed by student and staff and mailed to the police and fire departments of the Manhattan and Brooklyn stations.

TIL Grads' 15th Year Reunion

On Saturday, October 13, 2012, the 15th year reunion for TIL graduates will be held at the downtown Marriott in Bakersfield. Included in the festivities are a dinner, a dance, and Sunday breakfast the next morning. Students will be coming from all over and will stay in the Marriott and the Hill House for the weekend. Contact the TIL department for more information regarding this wonderful event.

3rd Annual Cougar Rib-Eye Cookout

Also mark your calendars for the Rib Eye BBQ and dedication of the Al Baldock Sports Center being held Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 5 pm to 8 pm in the Taft College Quad. *There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony prior to the cookout at 3:30 pm in front of the sports center.* Tickets for the Rib Eye Dinner are \$20 or \$10 with student ID. This event is sponsored by the Taft College Foundation and TRC Operating Company, Inc.

Staff Highlight: Danielle Krause



Danielle has worked at Taft College as a Supplemental Instructional Assistant since 2007. As a lifelong resident of Taft, she graduated from Taft Union High School in 2002 and received her bachelor's degree from CSUB in 2006. Danielle, a TC graduate, enjoys being a part of students' education at TC because she "has walked in their shoes." Danielle and the other SIA's provide academic support to students in the labs located in the library. Additionally, she facilitates SI Sessions, which are student centered study groups. Danielle says the best part of her job is witnessing students achieve their academic goals. "It's very rewarding to be a part of students' lives as they progress through their courses." Danielle currently lives in Taft with her husband, Gary, and two dogs.

Upcoming Student Activities

Black & Gold Day	10/12/12	Quad	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Breast Cancer Rally	10/17/12	Quad	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Scary Movie Night	10/25/12	G-11 (Student Union)	7:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Sports Day	10/29/12	Quad	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Hippie Day	10/30/12	Quad	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Roaring Twenties Day	10/31/12	Quad	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Haunted Hallway	10/13/12	T-Dorms	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Trick or Treat	10/31/12	Ash Street Dorms	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Halloween Carnival	10/31/12	Quad	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Super Hero Day	11/1/12	Quad	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Halloween Dance	11/2/12	Quad	8:00 pm – 12:00 pm