

March 1, 2013

Construction News:



The Transition to Independent Living facility is about 85% complete. The project is currently on track to be completed at the end of April 2013. Given that, we are planning a campus Open House in May – the building Ribbon Cutting and Dedication will be held in the fall.

Working drawings for the Dorm Modernization project are still in DSA. We have received comments and anticipate starting construction in Summer 2013. The project is expected to run through the end of 2014.

Student Services Developments:

Computer Based Online GED Testing: As you may be aware, the paper and pencil based GED test is being replaced. Starting January 2014, a new Computer Based Test (CBT GED) will begin. With this comes change. Pearson Vue (a private company) will oversee the GED program. We are currently completing the application to become a certified Pearson Vue Testing Center.

Once we become certified we can offer the community a wide variety of certified exams. A full list of all Person Vue exams can be found at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/pvtc/exams/>.

We hope to have our Testing Center up and running by July/August 2013. In so doing, we can start offering testing in early January 2014. Students and community members need to know that partial or incomplete GED scores will become null and void January 1st 2014. Thus, they need to come in and finish their exams or run the risk of starting over. Please help spread the word about this important development!

Cal SOAP Steps for Success Event: California Southern San Joaquin Valley – Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal SOAP) has chosen April 12th for the “Steps to Success” event on our campus. There will be approximately 90 students from Maricopa, Shafter, TUHS, Mira Monte and Arvin. Participating students are high school seniors with an expressed interest in attending a community college.

The students will be split into four or five groups, rotating through the following one-hour sessions: admissions information, financial aid, career exploration, and a career/education pathway that will be pre-determined. The day includes lunch and a campus tour. We need as many Taft College staff involved as possible. Please let Sheri Black know if you will be able to assist.

Enrollment Update: Enrollment numbers continued to climb during the first few weeks of the Spring term. As of March 1, 2013 unduplicated headcount for Spring 2013 is up 13.7% over this same point in time in Spring 2012. Enrollment of full time students (those carrying 12 or more units) is up 10% over Spring 2012.

Human Resources and Administrative Services Update – Payroll Go Live Project:

Just last month we indicated our goal of implementing Payroll Go Live (a Banner project) this spring. Over the past thirty days, we have evaluated the priorities for Banner-related projects and have decided that given our resource constraints, we need to establish priorities. We will therefore be focusing our efforts on Banner Finance as a first priority, with the Payroll Go Live project pushed back for a period of time. For the time being, our payroll will continue to be processed by the County of Kern. The Human Resources Team will continue to keep our Banner payroll data up to date to minimize the start-up time needed when we revisit the Payroll Go Live project in the future.

Instructional Program Updates:

Transfer Model Curriculum: All California Community Colleges must fulfill the requirements of Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla), the *Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act* by developing AA-T and AS-T degrees that align with available Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) to ensure that community college students have a viable transfer pathway to CSU campuses across the state. Taft College has been busy developing the transfer model curriculum and currently offers 10 transfer degrees. Six have been approved through the State: Art History, Early Childhood Education, A. A. T. History, A. A. T. Psychology, Sociology, and Studio Arts.

One is pending State approval (English); and three are under development: Criminal Justice Administration, Business Administration, and Mathematics. We are on track to have these ten degrees in place and approved by the state sometime in Fall 2013.

Industrial Health & Safety Program: The revision to Industrial Health & Safety Associate in Science degree was recently approved by the Chancellor's Office. This revision along with the creation of three new certificate options in the program came as a result of input from industry partners working in the safety field.

Business and industry members have expressed a strong desire to partner with Taft College to support training and professional development for those wishing to enter the safety field. One such industry partner is the Bakersfield Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). At a meeting in February between members of the ASSE Bakersfield Chapter and our students, there was interest in working together to establish an ASSE Student Section on the Taft College campus. The benefits to students include: 1) networking and mentoring with industry personnel; 2) access to resources offered by ASSE; and 3) support for training and professional development opportunities. Sam Aunai is continuing to explore ways to partner with ASSE to move this forward.

2015 Accreditation Update:

We have commenced planning for our 2015 Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Self-Evaluation and Comprehensive Site Visit. Accreditation is a college-wide effort and provides an opportunity to examine our institutional effectiveness with the goal of continual improvement.

Through the Governance Council, we have formed our Accreditation Steering Committee and our Section Standard Subcommittees. During the spring 2013 semester, the Section Standard Subcommittees are engaged in training and background preparation. We will need everyone's input in creating the Self Study. Teams are forming now – contact Eric Bérubé for more information on how to get involved!

Campus Safety Update:

Much work has been done to strengthen the Campus Safety Plan and procedures at Taft College. As reported to the campus community, we have reviewed the physical layout of the campus, installed new locks where needed, implemented new features for communicating to the campus via phone display and computer display, practiced lockdown procedures within our individual work areas, and are working very closely with the Taft Police Department on additional coordination and plans.

We are currently in the process of implementation of the new *emergency alert system* called Blackboard Connect. This system will allow immediate texting ability to students, faculty and staff in the event of an emergency or the need to share important information. Implementation should be complete by the middle of April.

We are also in the process of implementing *a radio system* that will allow communication of up to 15 people or areas at any given time. This communication system will allow responders a reliable way to communicate in the event of loss of cell or landline system.

Emergency Guide Pamphlets have been ordered and should be delivered by end of March. Once delivered, we will distribute out to the campus. We will be continuing to work on the Campus Safety Plan, and training/drills will be part of the plan as well.

Classified Appreciation Week:

In recognition of CSEA's Annual School Employees Week, Taft College will host a Classified Appreciation Week the week of March 11-15th. A committee has been hard at work planning fun events to honor and thank our classified employees. Each day, a special event has been planned including doughnuts on Monday, a Pizza Party on Wednesday, and an Ice Cream Social on Friday.



Our classified employees are often the first friendly face potential students see when inquiring about attending Taft College. Throughout the campus, the classified employees are often behind the scenes, supporting students, our staff, and the community. Let's all join in the fun the week of March 11th! Look for more information to come about each day's events.

New Employees: Please welcome two new employees who both serve as Accommodation Specialists for the TIL Program through the TIPSID grant:



Hailey Cook

Hailey attended Taft Union High School and Taft College as well as working in TIL as a student worker. Haley has indicated she wants to expand her knowledge with students that have developmental disabilities.

Elizabeth Saldana

Elizabeth attended Taft Union High School and is now a student at Taft College where she is pursuing an Associate's degree in Life Science. She has worked as an AVID tutor at the high school for 7 years and also provides tutoring for sixth and seventh graders at Lincoln. She is English-Spanish speaking.



Other News:

- ❖ Former Taft College student Jay Huggins (and Cougar Baseball player) has been selected as one of the members of the 2012 CCCAA Scholar Athlete Honor Roll by the California Community College Athletic Association. While at Taft College, Jay had a record of 9 runs and 22 hits (4 of them doubles!) in 31 games. Jay will be honored at the CCCAA Conference in San Mateo on March 27. Kanoe Bandy and Tony Thompson will be in attendance.

Upcoming Events:

March 11 – 15	Classified Appreciation Week
March 13	All College Meeting @ 1:30 p.m. – Cougar Room
March 13	WKCCD Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m. – Cougar Room
March 19	All College Meeting @ 3:00 p.m. – Cougar Room
March 25 – 29	Spring Break
April 18	TIL Wine Tasting @ The Historic Fort
April 19	Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Tournament – Buena Vista Golf Course