

February 6, 2015

## ***Administrative Services Update:***

### ***State Budget***

Governor Jerry Brown released his 2015-16 proposed state budget as scheduled Friday, January 9, 2015. His budget projects state revenues of \$113.4 billion in the budget year, plus \$1.4 billion in carryover funds, to cover \$113.3 billion in state expenditures. The Governor's proposal provides a 10.95% share of Proposition 98 funding to community colleges, which results in significant funding increases. For general apportionments, the proposal would increase the following areas:

- \$125 million more in base allocation funding to reflect increased operation expenses, including the increase in required contributions for employee pensions
- \$106.9 million to fund 2% growth, with reinforcement of the requirement for a new growth formula starting in 2015-16
- \$92.4 million to fund the estimated 1.58% statutory COLA

An additional \$351.3 million in one-time funds are provided to further pay down outstanding mandate claims. The Governor suggests using the funds to address one-time cost such as deferred maintenance and instructional equipment.

Also included in the Governor's community college state budget proposals is:

- \$39.6 million for Proposition 39 energy efficiency program grants
- \$25 million for Awards for Innovation
- \$100 million for Student Success
- \$100 million for Student Equity
- \$500 million for Adult Education
- \$48 million one additional year for the Career Technical Education Pathways Program

Clearly, this budget proposal reflects the strong rebound in state revenues – which have primarily benefitted the Proposition 98 guarantee – that has occurred since the passage of Proposition 30. While the 2015-16 year appears to be a strong one for the California Community Colleges we still face challenges in the coming years due to increases in the STRS and PERS employer contribution rates. Further, these increases will need to be addressed by colleges as Proposition 30 revenues phase out (the sales tax provision expires on December 31, 2016 and the income tax provision expires two years later). Other local challenges include long term liability (GASB) and Oil and Gas industry concerns.



### ***Facilities:***

**Residence Hall Modernization** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this Measure A project was completed in December 2014 and the facility was occupied for the spring semester. The project included upgrades to the Internet and electrical outlets, redesign of the kitchenette, addition of TV/Microwave area and complete remodel of bathrooms. Additional lighting (inside & out) was installed and the courtyard space was upgraded as well.

**Student Center** – The final drawings were submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval during December 2014. All comments received from the Division of the State Architect (DSA) have been addressed and the project is under final review. The anticipated start date is mid-2015.

**STEM Engineering Buildings** – DSA approval was obtained at the end of 2014 for the STEM Engineering Buildings. This project is undergoing final construction cost calculations and construction can begin once the budget has received approval from the WKCCD Board. It is anticipated that construction will begin March, 2015. The modular buildings will be constructed off-site at the manufacturer’s facilities while the site work is being done – making it possible for the project to be completed in 2 to 3 months.

### ***Instruction Updates:***

During the Fall 2014 semester, the Taft College STEM Program was able to reach over 800 students through various activities, events, and projects. These projects include Lincoln Junior High School’s Young Innovators Club, Taft Union High School’s Young Innovators Club, GEMS (Girls Enjoying Math and Science) Luncheon, Maricopa Robotics, TUHS Cardboard Regatta, Star Party, Independence High School STEM Tours, STEMvitational, and LJS’ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Field Day.



On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Taft College STEM put on its first ever STEM Field Day competition with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Lincoln Junior High School. 162 students competed class-versus-class in STEM activities including Alka-Seltzer Rockets, Marshmallow Shooters, Paper Airplane competitions, and Scent Identification. Congratulations to Bob Holliday’s class for winning the competition! They received a 3D printed trophy and an ice cream party for their victory.

During the beginning of February, over 200 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Roosevelt Intermediate School visited Taft College’s ConnExpo. Students learned by playing and exploring activities and demonstrations. ConnExpo has been updated for the semester with new activities to engage students and the community in STEM.

These projects are made possible through grants from the US Department of Education as well as contributions from our STEM Corporate Circle Sponsors Chevron, Oxy, Synagro, Sempra Energy, and Wells Fargo.

### ***QFS Sponsored Adjunct Workshop, fall 2014***

Kamala Carlson and Jessica Grimes facilitated the fourth Adjunct Workshop for English and ESL faculty, sponsored by the Quest for Success (QFS) grant. This version featured two strands—writing and grammar—in response to feedback to implement best practices in alignment with CSLOs (Course Student Learning Outcomes). In-class meetings consisted of modeling effective strategies and conducting peer reviews, which included analyzing syllabi and critiquing curricula from mini-lectures and assessments that were content and CSLO-rich. This semester-length project culminated with participants submitting a portfolio of classroom-tested assignments and a reflection.

Adjuncts, reflecting on the evolution of their teaching, were effusive about the benefits of the workshop. **K-12 instructor and first year English adjunct Julie Paulsen** noted, “... I learned, thanks to the workshop,... to put the SLOs right on the student assignments. I have always put them in my syllabi, but I

had never before put the goals so explicitly on the assignments. I went over the SLOs in class when we covered the assignments, and I continually referred to them as I taught. Especially in regards to grammar, I previewed the SLOs of English 1500, so students would know that they simply had to master some of their grammar issues before they would be successful in the next course.” **Second year English adjunct Sara Wallace** stated, “[S]ome of the presentations about grammar were extremely helpful. I was especially impressed with the grammar sentence structure lesson with the multi-colored cards.” **First year adjunct Kevin Chidgy** outlined his plans to revise curricula: “In the future, I plan to find or develop exercises and tests that require more student invention. The knowledge exhibited in objective tests did not convert to better writing, although the better writers did score well on tests.”

These workshops that support Taft College’s student success goals would not be possible without the Dean of Instruction-Grants, Agnes Eguaras’s support. Request for future workshops highlighted reading skills, grading efficiency, and classroom management.

### **QFS FIGs (Faculty Inquiry Groups)**



The Quest for Success (QFS) grant continues to sponsor the Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs), facilitated by English Faculty Coordinator Jessica Grimes. Its chief purpose, championing professional development, aligns with multiple endeavors to increase student success through ongoing cross-campus dialog. One unique aspect of the FIGs is its emphasis in featuring Taft College’s content area experts across disciplines who present on a range of topics, including assessment, the Student Success Act, reading strategies, best practices, metacognition, the visual syllabus, and more recently, multilingualism at Taft College with nine language groups among its student body. Spring 2015’s roster of presenters promises to be equally enlightening in highlighting current trends in education as well as promoting faculty ingenuity. Last February 4, ESL faculty, Kelly Kulzer, presented on "The Five Marias: Multilingual at Taft College." On Monday, February 23, Dr. Jennifer Altenhofel and Dr. Michelle Oja will present on “Bloom’s Taxonomy and the Next Generation” and Dr. Chris Chung-Wee will present on “The Right Way to Write” on Monday, March 4. Other presenters during this semester are still in the works. FIGs are held at the Professional Development Center. We hope to see you there!

### **Planning and Accreditation Update:**

#### **Governance Council Update**

The Governance Council has been busy this year with a variety of projects important to the College. The Governance Council, through its Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), led the development of a new *Mission, Vision and Values* statement. This process included input from across the campus, through representatives on the Governance Council and on the SPC. After the Governance Council finalized a draft, it was shared electronically with the campus community for a 3-week comment period. Further suggestions resulted from this process. In December, the Governance Council reviewed the suggestions which surfaced during the comment period, and finalized the draft Mission, Vision and Values statement. The new Mission, Vision and Values statement was approved by the Board at its January 14, 2015 meeting.

The Governance Council and the Strategic Planning Committee also led the development of a new three-year *Strategic Action Plan* which will formally begin July 1, 2015. The plan is built upon the five broad recommendations of the Educational Master Plan, and provides goals, timelines, outcomes and

organizational champions responsible for moving the institution's goals forward. The Governance Council approved the plan in December 2014 and the Board approved it January 14, 2015.

Last, the Governance Council created a taskforce made up of representatives from the Academic Senate, classified employees, managers, administrators, and students, to develop a *Taft College Governance Guide*. The purpose of the Guide is to explain how the governance process works at Taft College, detail the committees and groups involved in governance, and provide the information needed to effectively participate in the governance process. The taskforce met throughout the fall 2014 term to develop the Guide, which has been shared with all constituent groups. The Guide will be available online in March 2015.

The Governance Council will hold its annual retreat on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The retreat will feature Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director of the Center for Evidence-Based Change. Expected outcomes include:

- Shared vision of evidence-based change and the effective use of data
- Improved institutional capacity for the use of appropriate data to analyze student outcomes
- Shared ownership of data relating to student progress and completion
- Focus on what are the most important indicators to evaluate
- Data analysis tools which can be used to move our work forward

Participants of the retreat will include members of the Governance Council and invited guests. About 40 Taft College employees will be in attendance on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Accreditation Update**

As we enter the final semester before submitting the Self-Evaluation Report of Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness in Support of Reaffirmation of Accreditation (better known as the Self-Study), we have made tremendous progress in documenting Taft College's practices and processes against the accreditation standards. The draft is now in the process of initial editing. The Accreditation Steering Committee has done a great job of overseeing the writing of the Self-Study. We expect to have the document ready for review late this semester, with final approval by the Board of Trustees in June 2015. The comprehensive site visit is scheduled to take place in fall 2015.

### ***Student Services Update:***

#### **Spring Enrollment**

<b>TAFT COLLEGE ENROLLMENT &amp; COMPARISONS</b>						
<b>SPRING 2015</b>						
DAY	DATE	UNITS				ENROLL. DAILY TOTAL
		0	0.5-5.5	6-11.5	12-25	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>2/2/2015</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>3384</b> <small>census</small>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>2/3/2014</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>3047</b> <small>census</small>

Enrollment for spring 2015 has held steady, and enrollment daily totals are very similar when compared to numbers from spring 2014. As of census, our enrollment daily total is 3,384 students, with 1,149 students in the 12-25 unit category. Along with enrollment daily totals, we are working on producing an

enrollment summary statistics report, which would include charts of information pertaining to course count, FTES, and enrollment for credit courses by term and year. This report is designed to accurately calculate FTES projections, and will assist with enrollment management.

Thank you to Terry Townsend, on behalf of Information Services, and Mark Williams, on behalf of Instruction for their support and expertise in developing and refining this report.

### ***Sports Update:***

**Men's Soccer** - The men's soccer team was recently presented with their conference championship trophies. We are very proud of the team's impressive record, accomplishments, and the many well-deserved awards earned by various players, including the Central Valley Conference MVP award received by Ruben Alvarez. Congratulations to Angelo Cutrona for being honored as the Central Valley Coach of the Year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, and for his third straight conference championship! The men's soccer team finished the season ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Northern California, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation!



**Spring Sports** - Our spring sports are now underway, and the College made the difficult decision to suspend the season for the Women's Softball Team. The team has faced unexpected recruitment circumstances and a roster that has excellent athletes but does not have the numbers to ensure the successful completion of the season once started. We are committed to supporting the students, and the program, and are putting into place a plan that ensures the future success of our women's softball program, while using this season to revamp and rebuild.

The **Women's Basketball** team is currently 7-13 overall, and has three home games scheduled on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. The team has 9 players, and recently lost a player for the remainder of the season due to injury. The team's overall attitude is very positive, and they are giving 100% every game. Come to a game and show your support!

The **Baseball Team** is also looking strong with 31 players including three red-shirts, and is off to a good start! One exciting win includes the recent victory over 6<sup>th</sup> ranked Feather River College in the bottom of the 14<sup>th</sup> inning with a final score of 3-2. The baseball team is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in Northern California, and has several home games during February, including Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>. Most games begin at 2:00 p.m. For a complete schedule, please access the link on page 6. Go Cougars!



**Triple Play Dinner** - As with last year, Taft College's Triple Play Dinner and Auction held on Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup> was a huge success benefiting the College's athletics programs! This year's special guest, Ron Coomer, was a former Taft College student athlete and former 9-year veteran major league baseball player. Coomer played in the major leagues from 1995-2003, and still holds the home run record at Taft College, hitting 19 home runs during his 1987 season. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of a plaque to Coomer, and the retiring of his number, number 7.

### ***TC Foundation Update:***

This year the **West Kern Petroleum Summit** will be a part of the **105<sup>th</sup> Oildorado** celebration in the City of Taft under a 200' by 100' tent across from the famous Oil Worker Monument. The WKPS will be filled with petroleum and energy industry leaders from our community. Congressman Kevin McCarthy will set the tone and open the event. The remainder of the summit will be filled with relevant topics from legislators and regulators in oil and gas, energy and renewable resources. For more information contact the Taft College Foundation at 661-763-7936.



**Chevron** supports career education at Taft College with a second year of funding from their Social Responsibility Grant. The two-year grant is for \$300,000 and supports six Taft College students to work together in an area non-profit for 20 hours a week. Our students, three traditional and three TIL students, work at the Taft Goodwill. All attend Taft College and are in the Goodwill Retail Sales and Management Certificate Program. The work timeline is from August to May. We are pleased to have earned a second year of funding on the grant and will be interviewing applicants soon for an August start date.

### **2014 Upcoming Events**

#### **February:**

February 11	WKCCD Board Mtg. (5:00 p.m. Closed Session – 6:00 p.m. Open Session)
February 13	Lincoln's Birthday Holiday – Campus Closed
February 16	Washington's Birthday Holiday – Campus Closed
February 27	Governance Council Retreat @ Stockdale Country Club (Bakersfield) (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

#### **March:**

March 11	WKCCD Board Mtg. (5:00 p.m. Closed Session – 6:00 p.m. Open Session)
March 30 – April 3	Spring Break

Link to Baseball Game Schedule:

[http://web.taftcollege.edu/athletics/baseball/baseball\\_schedule.shtml](http://web.taftcollege.edu/athletics/baseball/baseball_schedule.shtml)

Link to Women's Basketball Game Schedule:

[http://www.taftcollege.edu/athletics/files\\_current/2014-15\\_wbasketball\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.taftcollege.edu/athletics/files_current/2014-15_wbasketball_schedule.pdf)