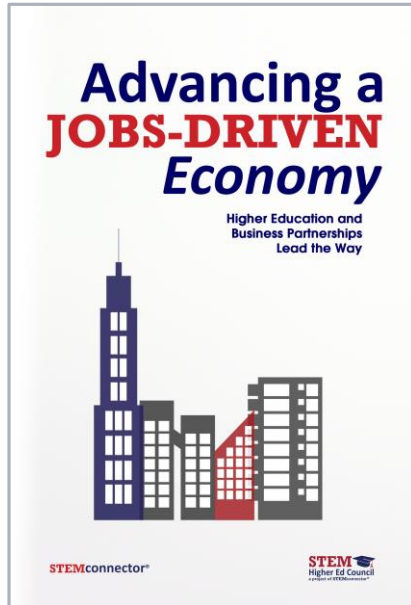


April 13, 2015

Instruction Update:



Taft College is featured in a recently released book, Advancing a Jobs-Driven Economy, published by the STEM Higher Ed Council and the STEM Connector organization (pages 61-63). Taft College joined the STEM Connector in 2013 and is among the many contributors to this book. The book focuses on workforce education gaps in the United States, and the need for strong partnerships between business and education in order to align education and training with industry demands both now and in the future. The book advocates for the transformation in workforce development thinking among educators and business. This new paradigm is based on an employer-led skills development system with educational partners who understand and embrace their role in workforce education in collaboration with employers.

Taft College's STEM initiative spans outreach and activities across multiple educational levels and is strongly supported by business and industry. It is igniting the interest of young students in STEM fields and is helping to create a pipeline of students interested in pursuing

studies in higher education in math, science, technology and engineering. Following is a link to an overview of the book:

<http://stemconnector.org/sites/default/files/AdvancingAJobs-DrivenEconomyOverview.pdf>

TutorTrac

In March 2015, the Learning Center started using TutorTrac, an online management software that records student contacts and tracks student grades. The Learning Center's TutorTrac system connects registrar; Banner information and Learning Center usage to provide a unified system that tracks students' registrations in courses; records visits and contacts to tutoring; labs usage and SI participation; and reports on progress and grades students earned in courses.

TutorTrac also helps track missed tutoring appointments; peer tutors and SIA payroll hours and costs; the Learning Center schedule; classified tutors and SIAs schedule; appointments and course assignments; check-in/check-out materials or supplies, and more. Moreover, TutorTrac will also be used to survey students about their experience using Learning Center services. With the use of TutorTrac, the Learning Center will be able to collect and analyze more accurate data and make evidence-based decisions for continuous improvement of learning support services to better serve students and instruction. TutorTrac in the Learning Center is still in its early stage. Agnes Eguaras and Debi Wooley, with the help of Terry Townsend, Jason Zsiba and Adrian Agundez, continue to collaborate and work with TutorTrac to fully develop and implement TutorTrac software to its maximized capacity.

Building Bridges 2015

Building Bridges, a local conference that attracts community college, university, and most recently high school educators from across Kern County began with a small grant and an innovative idea by Kim Flachmann, Writing Program Coordinator at California State University, Bakersfield and Kate Pluto, Professor of English at Bakersfield College. This conference has strengthened relationships among educators, established connections across campuses, and most importantly, opened opportunities for sharing current, pedagogical strategies and best practices. Building Bridges has continued to flourish and this year, Building Bridges celebrated their 25th anniversary.



Dr. Dena Maloney, Kamala Carlson & Jessica Grimes

something to share with others at this conference.” They demonstrated to participants some techniques to use before, during, and after class which included how to develop visual syllabi, the use of surveys to inform course changes, and how to adapt the Cornell note system used by both professors in their business courses. Jessica Grimes co-presented on the panel “Research Papers: Curricular Expectations and Best Practices” with faculty from Bakersfield College, California State University, Bakersfield, and Porterville College. Grimes foregrounded her presentation with best practice research from Paulo Freire, John C. Bean, Gerald Graff, The National Council of Teachers of English,



and other composition experts. Grimes’s presentation centered on addressing cognitive egocentricism by providing models designed to excavate student voices and situate them within academic discourse to promote and elevate their critical thinking. Kamala Carlson and Danielle Kerr co-presented on “Building Teamwork through Literacy.” Emphasizing that literacy is an underlying skill in all content areas, they demonstrated how literacy can be infused campus-wide when utilizing a common book—as was evident with One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern. Carlson and Kerr also presented research indicating that contextualized learning underpins student motivation and engagement; therefore, the packet of materials they gave to attendees focused on intentional assignments and real student work that is integral to developing the metacognitive strategies necessary for most collegiate courses. Furthermore, they explained how they created a culture of teamwork and a continuum of learning by demonstrating ways to co-construct with other faculty, collaborate with the community, faculty, and students, and contextualize student learning through strategic tasks, which culminated in an event like a Community Symposium. Overall, Carlson and Kerr are optimistic that they inspired other faculty to expand literacy across their campus, as well. Finally, a sincere thanks goes to Taft College’s annual photographer, Gary Graupman, and the many other Taft College attendees.

Adam Bledsoe and David Layne from the Applied Technology division demonstrated some best practices in literacy that they have identified and are either using or planning to use in their classrooms. Professor Bledsoe stated, “Literacy, writing, and communication is found in every discipline, and this is why we believe we have



Dr. David Layne

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Student Services Update:



Kanoe Bandy CCCAA/Tony Thompson Recognition CCCAAA



Athletic Director Kanoe Bandy and Academic Senate President/Professor of P.E. and Health Education Tony Thompson were honored at the “Honoring Our Own” luncheon held on April 2nd at the CCCAA Convention in Ontario. Kanoe received the Coaching Achievement Award which recognizes the service, commitment and contributions the honorees have dedicated to California Community Colleges, their local institutions, athletes and community. Tony was selected as the recipient of the 3C4A Honoring Our Own Award. Criteria for the

award includes nominating students for the Student Athlete Achievement Award. Tony has been successful in having three students win this extremely competitive award. Congratulations, Kanoe Bandy and Tony Thompson for the great honor of being recognized by your peers for your leadership and achievement! Your dedication and service to the field of athletics is admirable and appreciated by all. You have been outstanding representatives of Taft College for many years!

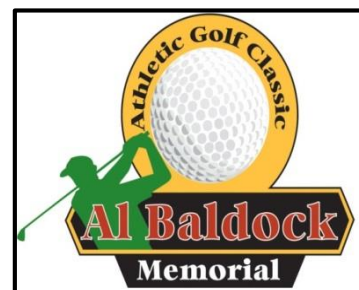
Celebration of Success Dinner

Once again, Taft College will honor students, faculty, and staff through a **Celebration of Success Recognition Dinner**. It is scheduled to be held May 8th, 2015, 6:00-8:00 pm at OT Cookhouse. Each program or division is asked to nominate students to be honored. In turn, the chosen student will nominate one faculty or staff member that has impacted his/her education at TC. A “successful” student can be anyone who has shown personal educational achievement by overcoming an adversity and/or a student who goes above and beyond what is required.

One successful student will be honored from each of the following programs: Athletics, CalWORKs, Career, Counseling, DSP&S, EOP&S, Financial Aid, MAPP, STEM, Student Activities, Transfer, TRIO, and Veterans. Two successful students will be honored from each of the following divisions: Applied Technology, Learning Support Division, Liberal Arts/English, Math & Science, and Social & Behavioral Sciences. A special thank you and honor will be extended to selected advisory board members, community partners, and employees for their continued contributions and support to Taft College.

Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Classic

Come out and enjoy a round of golf at the annual TC Foundation Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Classic on Friday, April 24th, at the Buena Vista Golf Course. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support the TC Athletic Department that Coach Al Baldock inspired through the years. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. and the shotgun start is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. A dinner, awards and raffle follow the event. Play format is four person scramble. Prizes include \$1,200 for the 1st place team; \$800 for 2nd place; \$600 for 3rd and \$400 for fourth (based on net score). Sponsorships are available. For more information regarding registration, please contact Debbie Hegeman at 661-763-7727 or dhegeman@taftcollege.edu.



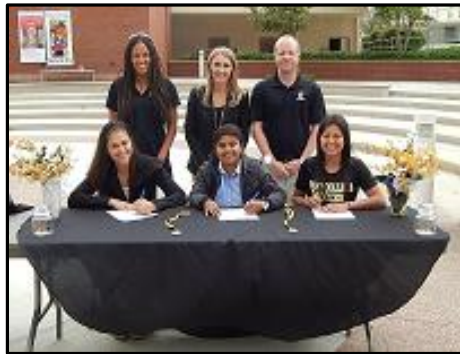
Administrative Services Update:

Facilities Master Plan

To address future space needs identified in the 2014-2024 Educational Master Plan, the College and the Facilities Committee has been working with AP Architects to develop an updated Facilities Master Plan to meet the needs of the Taft community well into the future. The plan will consider future space needs such as classroom space, laboratory space, office space, parking, pedestrian and traffic flow. The first step is to develop a site plan that utilizes current space and recognizes future space needs well into the future. Drafts of the site plan have been presented and reviewed by the Facilities Committee and Governance Council. The plan is scheduled to be completed by July 2015. If you have not seen the draft site plan you may access it on the website at <http://www.measure-a.info/MasterPlan.php>.

Associated Students:

Women Soccer Athletes Sign with Four-Year Schools



Congratulations to Anyela Jiminez, Christina Salazar and Celia Rangel (seated left to right at photo to left) for signing letters of intention to attend four year schools as soccer athletes following their graduation from TC! Anyela has signed with William Penn University in Iowa; Christina has signed with Texas A & M of Texarkana; and Celia has signed with William Jessup University in Northern California. We are very proud of our TC women soccer players not only for their athletic achievements but as scholar students!

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Induction Ceremony

On Thursday, April 9th, the Taft College PTK Beta Lambda Zeta Chapter held its induction ceremony to welcome new members: Amanda Acosta, Jose Barerra Cordero; Brittany Bonds, Camisha Carr, Caesar Castillo, Jesus Cazares, Shella Floyd; Christopher Loubey; Johnathan McCann; Kayla Moore; Alejandra Padilla; Makayla Payne; Jerry Popoy; Kayla Spoonemore; Paige Urioste; Jessica Ursua and Jalynn Williams. Students qualify as members of PTK with enrollment in a regionally accredited institution offering an associate degree program, completing at least 12 hours of coursework applicable to an associate degree, and maintaining a grade point average of 3.5.



PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2.5 million members and 1,275 chapters located worldwide. PTK is recognized as the official honor society for two-year colleges. At the ceremony guest speaker, Sheri Horn-Bunk, Executive Director of the TC Foundation and Institutional Advancement, engaged the audience with her talk “Everyone Needs to Know They Can Make a Difference.”

Superintendent/President Update:

District Service Luncheon

This April launches a new tradition at Taft College! The District will be hosting an Annual Service Recognition luncheon for all employees with 15 or more years of service with the District. The luncheon will be on April 28th in the Quad and will feature a buffet lunch and special entertainment. All employees – faculty, classified, management - with 15 or more years of service at the College will be recognized and appreciated at the luncheon. Supported by the Taft College Foundation, the luncheon is a way to say “Thank You” for many years of service to our students, our community, and one another. Invitations are being distributed April 13th.

Human Resources News

New Classified Employees:

Name	Department	Position Title
Alvin Bunk	Student Services	Student Support Services Programmer II

Congratulations to the following Soon-to-Be Retirees!

Craig Johnson	Professor of Life Sciences	35 Years @ TC!
Sonja Swenson	Professor of Art and Humanities	26 Years @ TC!
Harold Pease	Professor of Social Science	32 Years @ TC!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Date	Event	Location
April 16	Foundation Board Meeting & Petroleum Partners Roundtable Luncheon	TC Industrial Technology Education Center
April 24	TC Foundation Athletic Golf Classic Al Baldock Memorial Golf Tournament	Buena Vista Golf Course
April 28	District Employee Service Recognition Luncheon	TC Quad
April 30	Taft disAbilities Partnership Team & The Fort Preservation Society Annual Wine & Jazz Festival	Taft Historic Fort
May 4 – 8	Faculty Appreciation Week	Campus-Wide
May 8	Celebration of Success Dinner	OT’s Cookhouse
May 15	End of Year Dinner	OT’s Cookhouse
May 22	Commencement Ceremony	TUHS Stadium
May 23	Dental Hygiene Graduation Ceremony	OT’s Cookhouse