



SUPERINTENDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATE

WELCOME DR. KATHY ORRIN

In December, the WKCCD Board of Trustees welcomed new Trustee Dr. Kathy Garner Orrin and incumbent President Billy White.

Dr. Orrin comes to WKCCD with many years in education as both an educator and an administrator.

Mr. White has served the District since 2002 and is pleased to be commencing another term at Taft College.



Angelo Cutrona
Men's Soccer Head Coach

Erik Jauregui
2016 Men's Soccer

John Delaney
Player Men's Soccer Asst. Coach

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Celebrating Cougar Success On and Off the Field

The Athletic Department held our Fall Sports Banquet on December 11, giving recognition to the Men and Women's Soccer Teams and the Volleyball Team.

The Taft College Men's soccer team finished the season #4 in the CCCAA State ranking and #7 in the NSCAA National ranking. They finished the season with an overall record of 14-4-7, with 14 shutouts which ended up being the best in the state. They also only allowed 16 goals which was 5th in the state.

This season was a rollercoaster season for the

women's soccer team. After losing key players from the 2015 team, the coaching squad knew that this would be a rebuilding year. Women's soccer finished 6-3-1 in conference play.

Volleyball finished the season as the 2nd place team in the Central Valley Conference behind Fresno City College, who went on to win the state championship.

The women's basketball team began competition in November under new head coach, Carly Flowers.

Carlson Honored for Instructional Excellence

The English and Language Arts department congratulates Department Chair Kamala Carlson for receiving the distinguished California Associated Teachers of English (CATE) Excellence in Instruction award. This award recognizes English instructors for their dedication, leadership, and innovation inside and outside the classroom. In addition, awardees are selected for using best practice research in the classroom to foster an environment of mutuality in the co-construction of knowledge. As one of a select few, Professor Carlson also has the distinction of being unanimously approved for this award. We congratulate Professor Carlson for representing the ongoing commitment of promoting student success at Taft College.

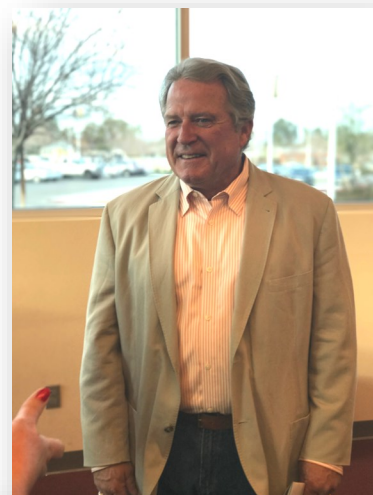


Thank you, Kal!

Service and Dedication to TC as a Trustee—2008-2016

Taft College employees and friends of the College gathered on February 8th to honor Kal Vaughn. Vaughn took great pride in serving as a Trustee to West Kern Community College District from 2008-2016. He served as the Board representative to WESTEC, sharing his expertise in career and educational advancement. Through the years of service, Vaughn participated in many College activities and planning sessions. Time was a gift he gave freely to the Cougar family.

Vaughn was honored by the Board as well as WESTEC. In the future, Vaughn continues to stay connected and active in the Taft College community by serving on the TC Foundation Board.



Office of Instruction Updates

Zero-Textbook-Cost Planning Grant: the College applied for and received a \$34,970 planning grant to explore the use of OER (online educational resources) materials. Depending on the outcome of this planning effort, the College may apply for a subsequent implementation grant.

Innovation Planning Grant: the College also applied for and received a \$15,000 planning grant to support an application for the 2016 Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. These awards are for a minimum of

\$2.5M and

are to support innovations that reduce the time needed to complete a transfer degree leading to a baccalaureate degree. Preference is given to improving outcomes for historically underrepresented groups, and/or use technology in ways that are not common in higher education.

The TIL program hosted the Taft Chamber of Commerce Mixer in January. Staff and students planned the menus and prepared and served the food which was amazing.

The Campus Fire Drill organized by Primavera went off without a hitch, and with the stylish participation of David Layne!

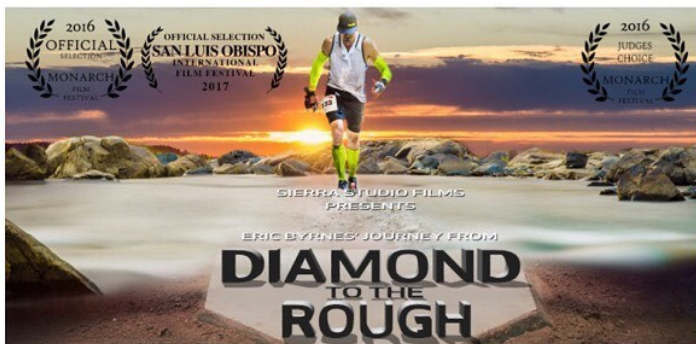


TC Bookstore Continues to Support Campus

On December 8, 2016, the Taft College Bookstore hosted its annual Open House event. It was a pleasant event, and all Bookstore staff and attendees seemed to enjoy the evening. Sales were up 11% from last year's event, and \$414.76 was raised for the Keali'i Pearl Memorial Scholarship.

It is almost that time of year again to prepare for the May Graduation Commencement Ceremony. The Bookstore is holding their annual Grad Fair from March 13th to April 7th for student and faculty regalia purchase and rental. Student orders must be placed by April 7th. Faculty orders must be placed by March 31st. There is no price increase from last year. If you have any questions, please contact the Taft College Bookstore at 763-7731.

TRIPLE PLAY DINNER: Featuring Eric Byrnes



The Triple Play Dinner and Auction took place on January 27, 2017 drawing a large crowd for a fun evening featuring former MLB Outfielder and MLB Network Studio Analyst, Eric Byrnes. The Cougar baseball and softball teams served guests at the historic Fort. Byrnes shared his story - not only his 11 years on the diamond— but in his quest to complete the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run. The event raises funds for the athletic department to ensure the teams have the necessary equipment to run successful programs. Final numbers are not available at this time but this event provides funding successfully each year.

Student Services Outreach Efforts Reorganized

With the retirement of Sheri Black, Student Services took a look at the needs of the college and did a reorganization of the position. Outreach efforts were centralized into one position to ensure there are no duplication of efforts. Once the reorganization was approved, Joanne Dumbrigue became the new Outreach Coordinator/Advisor leaving a Financial Aid Technician I position open which is going through the recruiting and hiring process.



Previous to her employment at Taft College, Joanne was employed with the Kern High School District for 12 years working at Arvin and Ridgeview High Schools in various positions ranging from Instructional Aide to Finance Clerk. She has worked in the Taft College Financial Aid

department since November 2010 and one of her main responsibilities was providing outreach and workshops to encourage students to apply for financial aid. She was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. She attended Arvin High School and graduated from Bakersfield College in 2002 with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies. In 2008, she graduated from California State University-Bakersfield

with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Literature and in June 2015 she received a Masters of Science in School Counseling. Joanne is a valuable asset and team member of Student Services and she hopes to continue contributing to the growth and success of students.



Student Center

As you all can see, the Student Center Project is progressing. We are currently in the site over-excavation phase, which includes importing soil and mixing it with on-site soil to reach the required specifications of the soil engineers. They are also beginning to locate underground utilities and prepare the site for installation of below ground lines.

Gym Reroofing Phase 2

The Gym Reroofing Phase 2 Project consists of work to reroof the existing upper gym roof and portions of the lower roof. This project went out for bid on December 1, 2016, and was awarded to the lowest bidder on January 11, 2017, by the Board of Trustees. Work is expected to begin around the beginning of February, and is estimated to be completed near the end March of 2017. This project is funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Scheduled Maintenance Funds.

Café Point of Sale System

The Café Point of Sale system is in full operation. We have become tech savvy and are ready to go paperless. All charge accounts were laid to rest on December 30, 2016. To avoid the sting of the holidays, those holding accounts will be given until March 1, 2017 to pay off the balance of the account. Since the Café is now fully debit/credit capable, payments may be made that way. Want an easy way to cut your time in line, The Café also offers an easy pre pay option in the form of a 10 meal punch card. It allows you to pay in advance for 10 meals and receive the 11th meal free. That's right. FREE!!! Thank you for your continued support. Any questions please call Geoffrey Dunham at 763-7786.

Induction Ceremony for PTK Chapter

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held its induction ceremony for the fall semester to honor its new members on Wednesday, December 7. The event took place in the Cougar Room and was conducted by the Taft College students serving as current PTK officers and the chapter advisor, Dr. Sharyn Eveland.

PTK promotes leadership and service as well as scholar excellence

After a processional entrance of the inductees and a formal welcoming took place, the ceremony began with special guest Pastor Cindy Brettschneider of the Taft United

Methodist Church leading the attendees in an invocation.

An overview of the mission of the Society and a brief history was then given by the Vice President of 5 Star Competitive Edge, Randiel Sasi. This was followed by an address given by the guest speaker, Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels. Chapter Co-Presidents Westen Blair and Jasmine Jones directed the induction process, and the new members took the oath of membership, signed the Chapter Record Book, and were presented with a ceremonial candle as well as distinguishing cords to be worn at their graduations from TC.

The ceremony ended with closing remarks from Dr. Eveland and was followed by a time of socializing during which inductees, officers, faculty, and guests enjoyed refreshments while conversing and getting to know one another.



2017-18 Finance Outlook

Key Points from the Governor Brown's January Budget Release

On January 10, 2017, Governor Brown released the 2017-2018 Governor's Proposed Budget. The Proposed Budget is an essential part of the larger budget development process and is subject to change before adoption. With that being said, here are some highlights included in the 2017-2018 Governor's Proposed Budget:

- Guided Pathways – An increase of \$150 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for grants to community colleges to develop an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success.
- Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment – A one-time increase of \$43.7 million from Proposition 98 settle-up that community colleges can use for deferred maintenance, instructional equipment, and specified water conservation projects. No matching funds are required.
- An increase of \$94.1 million for a 1.48% COLA.
- An increase of \$79.3 million available for enrollment growth.
- Increased Operating Expenses – An increase of \$23.6 million Proposition 98 General Fund to support increased community college operating expenses in areas such as employee benefits, facilities, professional development, and other general expenses.
- Innovation Awards – An increase of \$20 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to provide innovation grants to incent the development and implementation of innovation practices in various functional areas as determined by the Chancellor.
- Proposition 39 – An increase of \$3 million Clean Energy Job Creation Fund for California Community College energy efficiency projects, consistent with the provisions of Proposition 39. As a result, total program funding is \$52.3 million Clean Energy Job Creation Fund for 2017-18.

Throughout the spring of 2017, the Department of Finance will collaborate with the Chancellor's Office to develop an organizational framework for the office that will better enable the Chancellor's Office to achieve the goals and priorities set forth by the new system Chancellor and Board of Governors.



Dental Hygiene Candlelight Ceremony

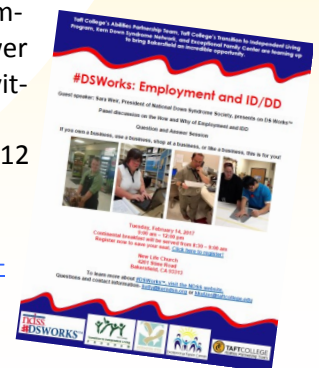
The Candlelight Ceremony is a ceremony held for first year students by the Dental Hygiene program to symbolize the students have passed all pre-clinical requirements and are ready to treat patients. The students receive a certificate signed by the director of the program, the lead instructor of the Introduction to Clinic course, and one faculty member who also taught the Intro to Clinic course. During the ceremony, candles are lit from instructor to student to signify the passing of knowledge. After candles are lit, the Dental Hygiene Oath is recited. The program was proud to certify 19 students this year.



APT and TIL Team Up in DSWorks Event

Sara Weir, President of National Down Syndrome Society, will hold a panel discussion on the how and why of employment. She will hold a question and answer session. Anyone interested in the topic is invited to attend— including business owners! The event is on February 14th from 9 a.m.—12 p.m. at the New Life Church at 4201 Stine Road in Bakersfield. If you have questions about the event, contact Kelly Kulzer at kkulzer@taftcollege.edu

You can register [here](#)



Cougars Show Festive Spirit

STEM Float Takes 1st Place in Christmas Parade · Winter Extravaganza Fun



TC Promise Program Off to Great Start

Employees Stand Behind Scholarship Effort



The TC Promise Scholarship program, to benefit high school students within the District, is off to a \$4,000 start. This strong foundation is due to the efforts of employees who donated and participated in the Winter Extravaganza basket drawing. The donations totaled \$2000, which the President matched. Hopefully this new tradition will grow in spirit and success.

Nicholas Heads to Butte College

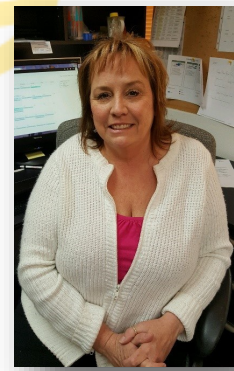
As many of you already know, Director of Fiscal Services, Jim Nicholas, has left Taft College to continue his career at Butte College near Oroville, CA. Jim worked here at TC for over 13 years. He was hired as an Accountant in 2003, and became the Director of Business Services in 2006. Jim was then re-classed to Director of Fiscal Services in 2014.

Jim's hard work and dedication to Taft College, our students, and our community is greatly appreciated, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Welcome New Hires



Severo Balason, Jr.
Vice President of Student Services



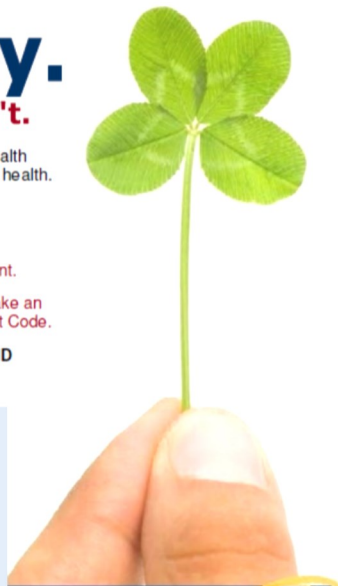
Karen Byrd
Special Dental Projects
Coordinator Assistant

Born Lucky. Too bad most of us aren't.

You can't change genetics. But you can get your health screening to learn what you can do to improve your health.

- 1 Make an appointment online now at www.sishealth.com.
- 2 Get your numbers at the health screening event.
- 3 Earn a \$30 Amazon Gift Code. If you don't make an appointment, your award is a \$15 Amazon Gift Code.

You must be enrolled in a SISC medical plan AND present your SISC ID to earn your award.



HOW ABOUT AN EXTRA \$500?

Enrolled members who participate earn a chance to win \$500. We'll award 20 \$500 cash awards every month from January through May.



Employees of
West Kern Community College District

Tuesday, February 28th
9:00AM – 3:00PM
Taft College
29 Cougar Court, 93268

Schedule your appointment at
www.sishealth.com

Online appointment schedule available 24-7 and closes at 6:00PM the evening before each clinic.

Identification Needed.
Please bring photo ID and insurance card.

TC Love—Employees Giving Back

Employees can participate in monthly payroll deductions as a charitable donation to our own Taft College Foundation. This opportunity to support the growth and events on campus can be started at any time. However, if you do so Tuesday, February 14th you could win an iPad or Apple Watch!

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR AN AFTERNOON TREAT

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
2:00 pm
TC Cougar Room

EMPLOYEE GIVING APPRECIATION
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Receive 1 raffle ticket for every \$10 you commit to giving monthly to the Taft College Foundation as part of the Employee Giving Program. Win an iPad & Apple Watch!

Thank you for contributing to the
Taft College Foundation Employee Giving Program

TAFTCOLLEGE