

NOVEMBER 2020 update for faculty & staff

Trustees Tour Student Center Construction



Board of Trustees:
 President Dawn Cole (olive dress), Secretary Manny Campos (black shirt, brown pants), Trustee Billy White (grey shirt), Trustee Michael Long (black shirt, jeans), and Trustee Dr. Kathy Orrin (gold blouse).

Administrators/Staff: Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels (tan jacket), EVPAS Brock McMurray (black shirt, grey pants), VPSS Severo Balason (blue shirt), VPI Dr. Leslie Minor (blue blouse), and Director Richard Treece (fluorescent vest).

Student Center Construction Continues Forward:



Kitchen rough-in (various interior mechanical, electrical, and plumbing lines are being installed), interior drywall, tape and texture, rough-in of lighting electrical, framing of soffits and ceilings, curtain wall prep for glazing (glass) installation, as well as electrical room plywood, painting, and concrete curbs.



Chef Geoff's "Best Kept Secret in Taft"

Sample Daily Menu



Hot Sandwich: Pastrami Grande



Hot Entrée: Slow Cooked Pot Roast



Entrée Salad: Seafood Louie Salad



Cold Sandwich: Asian Chicken Lettuce Wraps



Dessert: Pecan Pie and Cookies



Above: With students off campus, Chef Geoff and his culinary team were able to upgrade the Cougar Café menu to satisfy the specific tastes and dietary requirements of Taft College staff back on campus. Five unique dishes every day include a hot entrée, a hot sandwich, a cold sandwich, an entrée salad, and choice of dessert.

Taft College Cougar Café Overhauls Menu So Campus Staff Can "Taste the Love"

Many having worked together for over a decade, Chef Geoff Dunham, Lead Cook Cindy Johns, Cook Rori Blackwood, Cook Denise Gill, Cashier Kathy Shock, and Cashier Shelly Nicholson crank out over 500 meals a day when students are on campus and the café is open to the public. This culinary team quickly brought their well-oiled machine to

a screeching halt when the campus closed in March. Rising to the challenge, they promptly made themselves and their menu anew to test market a slew of restaurant-inspired recipes with staff who soon came back to campus, as well as prepare for the move to the new Student Center in the spring. "We want you to eat here and understand how hard we work to please discerning tastes," said Cindy Johns. "We can make dishes by request, including vegetarian. We even have gluten-free pasta and bread available every day! Just ask!"

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Dr. John Eigenauer Visits “Do the Math” Studio

Interviewed on November 3rd by “Do the Math” Host Michael Cushine, Taft College Philosophy Professor Dr. John Eigenauer discussed using critical thinking to find errors in reasoning, help solve complex math problems, make decisions, and get ready for the workplace. Cushine stated that, “In all our TV segments over 19+ years, nobody has had on a better or more appropriate shirt! I just love it!”



Above: For the TV show, “Do the Math,” Taft College Philosophy Professor Dr. John Eigenauer (*center*) and Hart Elementary 6th Grader Brooklyn (*left*) listen to Host Mike Cushine as he asks about ways to use critical thinking.



FOUNDATION *for* CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Historic \$100 Million Gift Pledged to Help Students Finish Community College

The Jay Pritzker Foundation has pledged \$100 million over 20 years to the Foundation for California Community Colleges. These “Finish Line” funds will provide scholarships and/or financial aid to students well on their way to completing a certificate or degree at a California community college or transferring to a university. In the first year, the Taft College Foundation will be awarded \$150,000 in Finish Line funds and work with Financial Aid to identify students who are most in need and have the drive to succeed. Students who qualify may receive funds to help cover additional costs of completing a community college education, including books, transportation, housing, childcare, and food.

New Landscaping Uplifts Dental Hygiene Program

Dental Hygiene Program faculty and staff recently added landscaping to their patio area in between the clinic and office building. They carefully selected drought-tolerant plants, donated all materials and labor, and improved the outdoor environment for students, patients, and themselves.





NOVEMBER Student Life Program Virtual Events

October 26 through December 31—RPG Club Fundraising

RPG seeks online donations for The Lauren Small Children's Center. Contact David Reynolds at dreynolds@taftcollege.edu.

November 19—ASO Kahoot Tournament

This Kahoot Tournament via Zoom will be all about Thanksgiving.

November 19 through 30—Performing Arts Club Holiday Recipes

Visit the Taft College Performing Arts YouTube channel to learn this ASO Club's favorite holiday recipes and traditions.

November 23 through 30—ASO Video Debuts on Canvas

ASO thanks first responders for fighting devastating California fires.

Every Monday in November—Financial Outreach Office Hours

Email jdumbrigue@taftcollege.edu for the Zoom link.



TC Foundation Launches New Podcast: "Taft Talks"

Sponsored by Taft College Foundation, supported by business, and co-hosted by ASO President Joshua Vasquez and Taft College Foundation Executive Director Sheri Horn-Bunk, "Taft Talks" podcasts on Energy Technology and health care enable Taft College students to network directly with professionals from firms such as Aera Energy, LLC, Geekwise Academy (A Bitwise Company), and COPE Health Scholars.

For the November 18th podcast at noon, Taft College Dean of Instruction and CTE Dr. Jessica Grimes (*left*) will detail opportunities available for our Career Technical Education students.