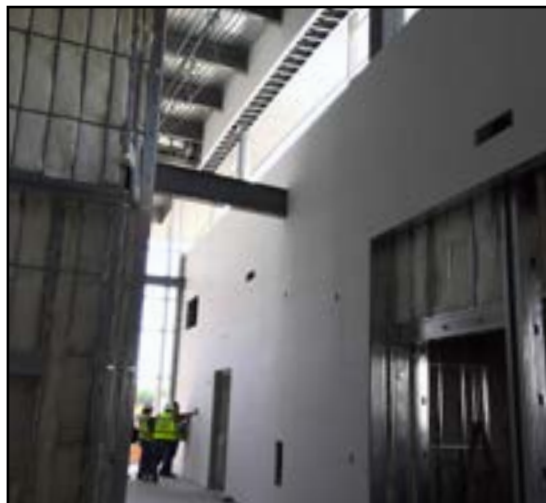


**OCTOBER 2020** *update for faculty & staff*

*Top:* Construction workers are seen laboring in what will soon be the student lounge in the Taft College Student Center. *Right:* Construction workers evaluate details on an interior wall installation in the soon-to-open Taft College Student Center. *Below:* The south side of the Taft College Student Center on track to finish in Spring 2021.



## Student Center Construction Progressing for Completion in Spring 2021

Construction activities currently underway include above ceiling electrical installation throughout the building; electrical room plywood and concrete pad installation; interior drywall installation and taping; and, lath scratch and brown coat for wall tile installation. The walk-in freezer and walk-in refrigerator arrived on October 14 and installation has begun. Curtain wall framing is near completion and installation for in-fills of glass will begin next week. The Built-Up Roofing (BUR) installation is nearing completion.

New amenities will include a student lounge, student game room, cafeteria, and bookstore, as well as meeting rooms and offices. The Taft College Bookstore will be relocated from 515 Finley Drive in Taft.



OCTOBER 2020 *update for faculty & staff, page two*

## \$2.1 Million Federal Grant Awarded to Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program

The Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program (TIL) has been awarded a \$2.1 million Federal grant over a five-year period from the United States Department of Education's Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID). "With these funds, we will be able to add activities that accelerate plans already in place to support our TIL students in taking regular college classes that will prepare them for better jobs when they graduate," says TIL Director Aaron Markovits.



Above: TIL Class of 2020 graduate Maxwell Riley maintains vehicles at his job working for Taft Area Transit (TAT) while still a student. *Top right:* TIL Class of 2019 graduate Caleb Whitten loved his Fastrip job in Taft where he learned essential skills that were transferable to his next job.

## The Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program Schedules First-Ever VIRTUAL ART AUCTION Fundraiser

*On October 23rd, The Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program will hold its first-ever VIRTUAL ART AUCTION called, "For the Work of Art—A Collector's Paradise." To register to bid on artwork in the live and silent auctions, contact Debbie Rios at [drios@taftcollege.edu](mailto:drios@taftcollege.edu).*





## CTE Students and Faculty Speak Out After Spring Semester Finally Concludes

**OSH Instructor Rigoberto Enciso** stated, "During this pandemic, there have been moments of peace, kindness, and grace. I witnessed students being supportive of each other. This journey is not over. With the support of Taft College staff, we will come out much better as individuals and a family. There is light at the end of the tunnel."

**OSH Student Janet Palomares** shared, "Classes were getting moved or postponed. We were living day-to-day not knowing what would happen. When proper protocols were put into place, we were able to continue. We all got through this and eventually finished."

**Welding Instructor Gary Bunk** offered comments from two students: "It allowed me to stay on my education plan," and "The condensed schedule helped fill my days, since I was off work or had a reduced schedule on many days."

**Second-year Dental Hygiene students** also weighed in on how they were able to finish. **Josh Menjivar** said, "I believed that we would finish one way or another, no matter the obstacle. Safety protocols make it a very safe environment." **Class President Victoria Vadnais** stated, "The key to overcoming any obstacle in your path is to ask lots of questions."



On Spring Semester's big finish, **Dean of Instruction and CTE Dr. Jessica Grimes** also said, "I am proud of what these CTE students have achieved. When faced with terrible uncertainty, our CTE students buckled down, got busy, and still got themselves over the finish line!"



### Local TV Program Shoots in Dr. Greg Golling's Classroom

On September 30th, a film crew from Kern County Superintendent of Schools' award-winning "Do the Math" program filmed a segment featuring Biology Professor Dr. Greg Golling and seven students enrolled in his lab section of Cell Biology 2201. Professor Golling and his students compared Petri dishes of bacteria picked up from their hands over the course of a day to bacteria that are part of their body's normal flora.

The program aims to help local students better understand how to solve difficult math and science problems, especially now that students are learning online during the ongoing pandemic.

*Above: Biology Professor Dr. Greg Golling (far right) and seven students in his lab section pay close attention as a film crew shoots a segment for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools' show, "Do the Math."*

2020

**ACTIVITY  
CHALLENGE**

*Fall Spectacular*

### 60-Day Fall Spectacular Activity Challenge Began October 12

Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels kicked off her Fall Spectacular Activity Challenge, "The weather is finally getting cooler and makes for better opportunities in which to safely explore activities that help to maintain our mental and physical well-being during this uncertainty. We need a new ritual that keeps us connected while we work through fall and winter towards the end-of-year break."

Throughout the 60 days, Dr. Daniels will be awarding "progress prizes," as well as "top prizes" at the end, for the most minutes of activity logged by two types of participants: those who work at home and those of us back on campus. The Fall Spectacular Activity Challenge ends December 10.



OCTOBER 2020 *update for faculty & staff, page five*

## OCTOBER Student Life Program Virtual Events

### **October 15—Register to Vote!**

ASO's second "Register to Vote" video premieres today!

### **October 19 through November 16—Student Resource Center Drive**

This is our "Annual Thanksgiving/Resource Center Drive" to add inventory to the Student Resource Center and/or items to create 10 Thanksgiving Baskets for student families who qualify.

### **October 19 through 23—Breast Cancer Awareness Week**

For complete photo submission rules, email [aso@taftcollege.edu](mailto:aso@taftcollege.edu).

### **October 20—Clery Act Zoom Training**

Director of Campus Safety and Security Kevin Altenhofel will conduct a Zoom session on the Jeanne Clery Act. For more information, contact Kevin Altenhofel at [kaltenhofel@taftcollege.edu](mailto:kaltenhofel@taftcollege.edu).

### **October 21—Financial Aid Workshop**

The Financial Aid Office will conduct a workshop for students who need to complete or renew the FAFSA or Dream Act application. Contact Joanne Dumbrigue at [jdumbrigue@taftcollege.edu](mailto:jdumbrigue@taftcollege.edu).

### **October 22 through 28—Two Special Halloween Contests!**

"Iconic Movie Characters" Halloween Costume Contest! The voting criteria is: 1) resemblance to movie character; 2) creativity; and 3) pose. AND, a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest! Participants for the pumpkin carving contest MUST submit photos of themselves holding their carved pumpkins. Judging will take place on October 29 and the winners will be announced on October 30. Submit all your photos and questions to [aso@taftcollege.edu](mailto:aso@taftcollege.edu).

### **October 30—TIL Program Halloween Costume Contest at Noon!**

Contact Paula Patterson at [ppatterson@taftcollege.edu](mailto:ppatterson@taftcollege.edu) for more information about this TIL event.

*This is a monthly publication by the Taft College Office of the President. Please contact Susan Groveman, Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations at (661) 763-7942.*