

**FEBRUARY 2021** update for faculty & staff

*Above:* Construction workers lay framing for the stairs at the southwest corner of the new Student Center.  
*Left:* Framing is being laid for the stairs leading up to the main entrance on Wildcat Way.



*Right:* Data wires are being pulled through the ceiling of the new Student Center.



*Left:* This is the linear ceiling grid inside the new Taft College Bookstore and Print Shop.  
*Below:* Here, construction workers are pulling electrical feeder line.



## Taft College Student Center Inches Closer to Spring 2021 Completion

Current construction activities underway include: curtain wall trim and caulking, drywall tape and texture, painting of walls and ceilings, and T-bar grid installation are nearing completion. Installation of the linear ceiling grid and panels at the high ceilings, ceramic tile installation in the restrooms, and interior store front are underway. Electrical rough-in continues with setting of light fixtures and pulling of wire. Electrical rooms and sub panels are getting feeder wired pulled and electrical power is expected to be turned on next week for testing and approval. Data wires are also being pulled. Site concrete is being poured at a few locations and will be on going over the next several weeks. Steps are being framed and poured along Wildcat Way. Fine site grading on the North and East sides of the building and storm drain installation will be going on over the next two weeks.

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## **Spring Semester Update: EOPS Counselors Offer Supplies Curbside, Library Staff Delivers Course Materials by Appointment, and the Learning Center Provides Online and Limited In-Person Tutoring**

*Top right:* Taft College EOPS Counselor Gracie Mickelberry picks up her pace to hand deliver supplies at the curb to an EOPS student. Counselor Natalie Woodall stayed close to the EOPS booth set up in front of the library so as not to miss any student who might meander by. *Top left:* EOPS Counselor Gracie Mickelberry stops to chat with an EOPS student who received supplies curbside on January 26. *Above:* Taft College Library Assistant Miranda Tofte offers a full array of class materials to a student arriving at an appointed pickup time.

Across the board, Taft College employees have stepped up their levels of student service in order to meet the added constraints imposed by the pandemic. To keep everyone safe, methods of materials delivery, library service, and tutoring were immediately re-envisioned. EOPS counselors scheduled two curbside pick-up days to hand off supplies to their students. Open Monday through Wednesday, the library is checking out laptops, wifi hotspots, calculators, engineering class kits, and DSPS technology, asking that students order their needed materials online and then pick them up by appointment when library staff alert them to do so. The Learning Center also moved online to deliver tutoring services and has now added back in-person tutoring on a limited basis. Thanks to all our supporting staff for going above and beyond!



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## EXPANDED Taft College 2021 Activity Challenge Begins with “Spring Forward”

On February 1, Dr. Debra S. Daniels launched a 100-day activity challenge called, “*Spring Forward*.” In this new challenge, there are three categories in which to participate: **Physical Activity**, **Mindfulness Activity**, and **Weight Loss**. For the Physical and Mindfulness Activity categories, participants will log their type of activity and number of minutes every day for each period of 15 days. For the Weight Loss category, participants will log just the number of pounds and ounces lost over each 15-day period. Totals are then sent to Dr. Daniels to tally. Weight loss participants will be able to calculate the total percentage of body weight lost to determine a winner. Participants can choose one or a combination of activities. Of course, there will be prizes along the way and a commemorative t-shirt for each participant. Good luck to everyone on this “*Spring Forward*” pursuit of better health!





## FEBRUARY Student Life Program Virtual Events

### **February 1 through February 28—Black History Month**

Taft College ASO honors African-Americans who have had an impact on American history. Students will have an opportunity to take a quiz to be eligible to win a gift card on February 25.

### **February 4 through March 22—Taft College Financial Aid and Scholarship Virtual Office Hours and Workshops**

Financial Aid Virtual Office Hours:

**February 8**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**February 22**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**March 15**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**March 22**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

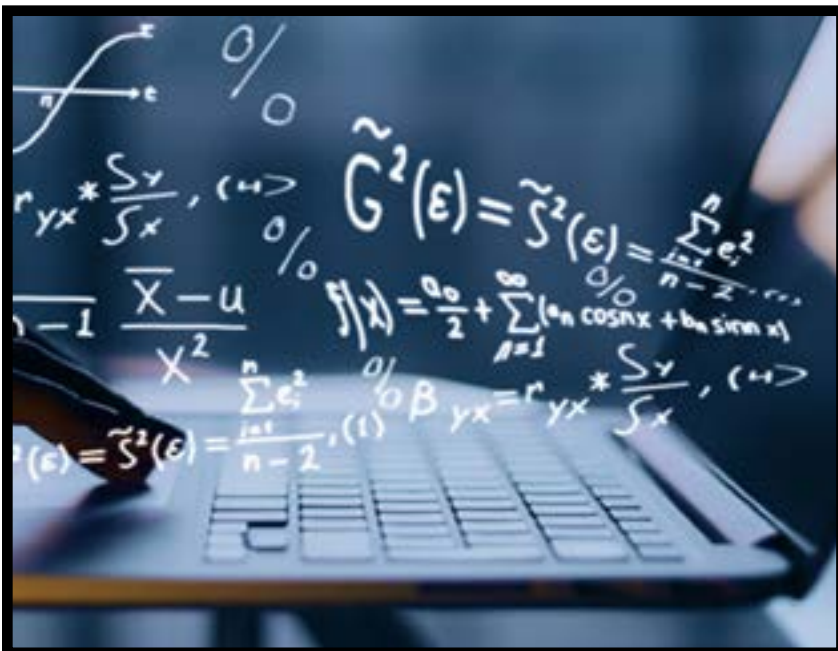
Financial Aid One-Hour Workshops:

**February 4**, 11:00 a.m.

**February 23 and 24**, 10:00 a.m.

**February 25**, 11:00 a.m.

**March 1**, 1:00 p.m.



## Learning Center Launched “Surviving and Thriving in Online Math” Zoom Series

For students struggling in their online math courses, the Taft College Learning Center offered solutions to make the most of learning math online. For tips and techniques on how to be successful in Taft College online math classes, students joined Zoom discussions the week of 2/1 ending 2/4 on Monday and Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m., as well as on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m. This series may repeat, as needed.