

JULY 2023



Taft College Employee of the Month

Campus Safety Officer **Johnny Garcia** (above, with his son) was named June Employee of the Month.

GO JOHNNY!

Taft College Class of 2023 TIL Program Graduates Now Ready to Live Independently



TIL GRADUATE BENJAMIN FINK

The 27th Annual Taft College Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program held its Graduation Ceremony on June 30 at 9:00 a.m. in the Taft Union High School Auditorium. With not a dry eye among family members, friends, and Taft College Staff and Trustees in attendance, the 16 Class of 2023 TIL Program Graduates embraced their milestone moment with satisfaction, pride, and joy. First, TIL Graduate Ramina Izadi offered humorous words of wisdom and lessons learned to TIL Program freshmen. *continued*



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: TIL GRADUATES ANTHONY DELGADO, IAN ELWOOD, BENJAMIN FINK, AND JULIA GOLDEN

Photos on this page courtesy of Doug Keeler, Taft Midway Driller Editor



2023 TIL Program Graduates *continued*

TIL Graduate Benjamin Fink spoke poignantly about his positive experience in the TIL Program after overcoming initial skepticism. TIL Graduate Sarah "Red" Rosenberg was the third Class of 2023 speaker and shared the story of her mother's passing during her TIL Program studies. She credited TIL Program Staff for their patience, compassion, and support during her time of grieving. Red is proud to be continuing her education at CSUN. TIL Graduate Nate Baer's parents served as Keynote Speakers. Their joy and love for their son was greatly moving!



PASSING THE TORCH TO THE FRESHMAN CLASS: TIL GRADUATE RAMINA IZADI



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: JIM AND JENNIFER BAER (NATE BAER'S PARENTS)



TIL GRADUATE SARAH "RED" ROSENBERG



Class of 2023 TIL Program Awards Ceremony

On June 29, TIL Program Graduates, families, and friends attended an Awards Ceremony at the Taft College Student Center catered by OT's Cookhouse. Each Class of 2023 TIL Graduate was uniquely recognized by a TIL Program Staff Member for their special contribution to fellow classmates and the TIL Program as a whole.





Taft College Holds Second Open House

On June 22, the Taft College Student Center again opened its doors to the community for an evening of exploration of our academic programs, conversations with our Faculty and Staff, opportunities to enroll this fall and attend orientation, as well as fun entertainment, door prizes, and free dinner! Even the Bookstore offered a 40% discount!



Taft College TIL Graduate Spotlight: Julia Golden

Julia Golden expressed interest in working with seniors early on in her studies. Through a partnership with West Kern Adult Education Network, Julia completed a home care aide training credential during her sophomore year and was offered a paid internship at Heritage Park Senior Apartments. She provided in-home care to seniors, including social support, basic home care, and basic cooking. Her clients love her! Julia says, "I can get this job when I'm back home because home care aides are needed everywhere."



MAKE A GRADUATE'S DAY



2023 STEM and CTE Summer Camps

Summer Camps began on June 20, and will close this year on August 10. *Admission is still free.* June Summer Camps have wrapped, including June 20-22—3rd to 5th graders, STEAM 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; June 20-22—Adult STEM Camp, 3-D Printing, 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and *continued*



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY

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2023 STEM and CTE Summer Camps *continued*

June 26-29—6th to 12th graders, Drones, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Camps continue in July and August, including July 10-20—6th to 12th graders, 3-D Printing, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; July 24-August 3—6th to 12th graders, VEX Robotics, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and, August 7-10—Adult STEM Coding Camp, 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A *fully online* STEAM Camp for 3rd to 5th graders is TBA. *Stay tuned!*

Taft College Welcomes Assemblyman Vince Fong

32nd District Assemblyman Vince Fong came to the Taft College campus on June 30. He attended the very moving 2023 TIL Program Graduation Ceremony and had important conversations with Superintendent/President Brock McMurray and our Board of Trustees over lunch. Assemblyman Fong (*right, center*) also spoke to Taft Union High School employees in our Student Center.



This is a monthly publication by the Taft College Office of the President. If you have feedback, comments, or questions, please contact Susan Groveman, Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations at (661) 763-7942.

MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY