

NOVEMBER 2023



Taft College Employee of the Month

Tiffany Payne, Director of Admissions and Records was named October Employee of the Month.

Taft College Celebrates Noteworthy Class of 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees on November 5



The 2023 Taft College Hall of Fame events weekend concluded with the Induction Awards Ceremony on Sunday, November 5. Our Taft College Hall of Fame Class of 2023 included **Jim Anderson** (left, with Dante Scarnecchia, right) for Distinguished Alumnus, **Dr. John Bitzer** for Extraordinary Service, **Robert Foster** for Outstanding Athletic Achievement, **Cheryl Gibson** for Distinguished Confidential, the **1988 Softball Team** for Outstanding Team Achievement, and the **1990 State Championship Track Team** for Outstanding Team Achievement.
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GO TIFFANY!



HALL OF FAME WEEKENDER



2023 Hall of Fame *continued*

Superintendent/President Brock McMurray welcomed everyone to the awards dinner that went exactly to plan. Presenters guided attendees down memory lane spanning multiple decades, celebrating the distinguished legacies of these individuals and teams. Earlier that day, Hall of Fame Committee Member Tony Thompson provided a campus tour and lunch to those interested in seeing how our campus has changed over time.



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Blast from the Past Pre-Party on November 4

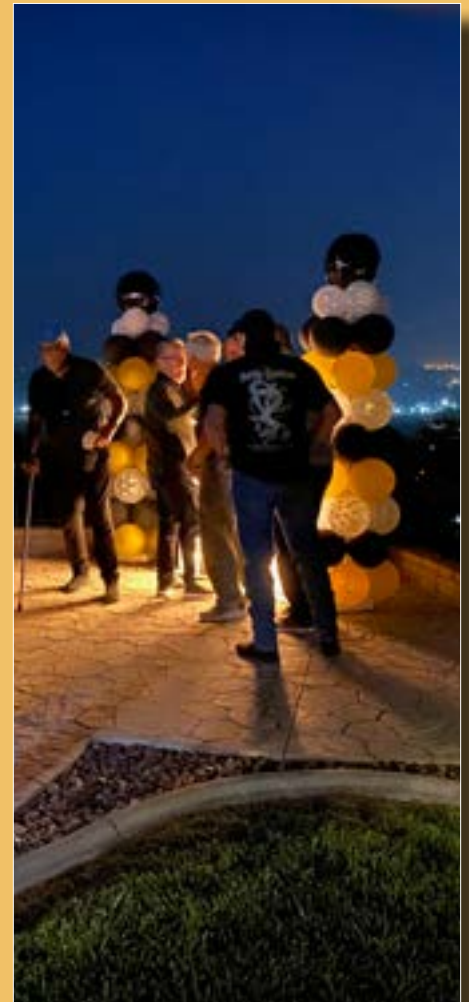
Sponsored by the Taft College Alumni Association, the second event of the Hall of Fame Weekender was the more casual meet-and-greet Saturday Pre-Party for inductees, friends, staff, and community members to get to know one another before the formal awards. On the Student Center patio, great food was served, stories were shared, and memories were made.

**HALL OF FAME WEEKENDER**



VIP Party at Presidential Home on November 3

The first of three Hall of Fame Weekender events was the Welcome Reception and VIP Party for out-of-town inductees to meet Trustees and Hall of Fame Committee Members at the Presidential Home of Superintendent/President Brock McMurray and his wife, Kim. The lovely food, lively conversation, and patio view were simply perfect!





Taft College Halloween Fall Festival

On Halloween, our dressed-up quad welcomed young children in costume, staff, and parents affiliated with the Taft College Children's Center. The children visited Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray who offered them treats before the kids made their way to the quad to decorate mini pumpkins provided by the Bookstore.



TIL Haunted Lounge

Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program Students worked hard this year to create a Haunted Lounge "experience" for the local community. Visiting local social clubs, the students were able to collect lots of candy to give out to visitors who dared to meander through on Halloween night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.





Administrative Services BBQ Potluck

Vice President of Administrative Services Dr. Todd Hampton held a BBQ potluck to bring his departments together for delicious food and a little fun at ZERO cost to the school. One goal of the gathering was to “break down siloed conversations” among diverse department teams. There are already plans to hold this terrific event again next year!



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY



Thanksgiving Potluck for Our Faculty and Staff

On November 16, Taft College Faculty and Staff shared an early Thanksgiving potluck meal with delicious turkey and gravy provided by the District. Employees also feasted on starters, side dishes, and desserts with their friends across campus. THANKS to VPSS Dr. Bell for holding a *"What's one thing you're thankful for?"* raffle with prizes!



Veteran Resource Center Open House

On Thursday, November 9, Veteran Resource Center Technician Kristy Barnachia welcomed Veterans and guests to the Open House of the newer facility. We proudly serve our Student Veterans *and* all Veterans in the community. *Left, left to right:* Kevin McCarthy's District Representative Jake Lopez joins Taft College Board Secretary Dr. Kathy Orrin, Trustee Dawn Cole, and Board President Billy White at the Open House.



Trustees Take MESA Program Tour

MESA Program Director José Valadez and MESA Program Students gave Superintendent/President Brock McMurray and the Board of Trustees the grand tour of MESA Program facilities and current initiatives on Wednesday, November 8. Everyone who attended applauded the MESA Program's extra support it provides for our students!

