

OCTOBER 2023


Taft College Employee of the Month

Barbara Amerio, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships was named September Employee of the Month.

Taft College Dental Hygiene Celebrates 30 Years with Casino Night Fundraiser



Celebrating 30 important years of educating *caring* dental hygienists, the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program and the Taft College Foundation held a successful Casino Night fundraiser at Seven Oaks Country Club in Bakersfield on September 15. The event brought together stakeholders from dental societies and practices, as well as Dental Hygiene Program alumni and current students, for a night of betting, bidding, and fine dining. Below, Synagro's Jamie Andrews (*center*) presents a \$25,000 check to the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program for future growth.

GO BARBARA!



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY



KEDC's Annual Dinner

On September 14, Kern Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) held its Annual Dinner in Bakersfield. Taft College Foundation Executive Director Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk was joined by Vice President of Student Services Dr. Damon Bell, Dean of Instruction and CTE Dr. Devin Daugherty, and Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations Susan Groveman at the event.



DEIA in Action Institute in San Diego

Taft College Faculty and Staff attended the first Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in Action Institute hosted by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office on September 21-22. The summit sought to build a coalition of change agents to deepen DEIA and anti-racism strategies, policies, and solutions.



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. DAMON BELL, CECILIA ALVARADO, DR. AMAR ABBOTT, DR. VICKI JACOBI, AND CHRIS ALDACO

MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY



Annual Cougar Cookout Celebrates Veterans and Both Les Clarks

The Taft College Foundation SOLD OUT its 13th Cougar Cookout held on October 5. Catered by Hodel's, the event brought community members and dignitaries to Taft to honor our veterans and present both Les Clark, Jr. and Les Clark, III with the 2023 Community Spirit Award.



13TH COUGAR COOKOUT



Taft Union High School (TUHS) Oil Technology Academy BBQ

On September 18, Holmes Western Oil Chairman Fred Holmes generously sponsored the TUHS Oil Tech Academy BBQ. Attended by many friends of the Oil Academy, the event featured delicious BBQ and the moving personal story of John Kopp, TUHSD Board Member.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: KIM MCMURRAY, DR. SHERI HORN-BUNK, CITY OF TAFT MAYOR DAVE NOERR, BROCK MCMURRAY, DR. DEVIN DAUGHERTY, AND SUSAN GROVEMAN.



TIL Program Raises Funds for 2024 Vintage Vegas Casino Night

The TIL Program held "Cougie's Marketplace" auction fundraiser on September 26 in the Cougar Room. Funds raised will help offset expenses of the Vintage Vegas Casino Night next March. Bids were placed on lots of handmade and collectible items.



COUGIE'S MARKETPLACE



Taft College Launches Circle K Club

On October 10, the new Taft College Circle K Club scheduled its first meeting, to the delight of Kiwanians Susan Wells (*left*) and Dr. Damon Bell (*below*). Circle K International (CKI) is the world's largest collegiate service organization. CKI members leave college with real-life networking and advocating skills AND service leadership. *Go, Circle K Members!*



TIL Program Spotlight: Nate Baer

Nate Baer paused his TIL Program studies in 2019 due to the pandemic, returned for in-person classes in 2021, and finished in May. Nate was well-known in the Best Buddies Student Club and as an ASO Board Member. Nate interned with the Taft College Maintenance team doing grounds work (*left*). He recently fulfilled his dream of working at LEGOLAND as a landscaper. *Congratulations, Nate!*