

APRIL 2024



Taft College Employee of the Month

Taft College Computer Support Technician I, **Rafael Andrade** was named March Employee of the Month.

**THANK YOU,
RAFAEL!**

Former Superintendent/President Emeritus Dr. David Cothrun Honored with TIL Lobby Dedication



On March 13, It was a lovely day to remember the contributions of Dr. David Cothrun to the TIL Program and Taft College. A substantial plaque has since been installed in the TIL Program lobby honoring Dr. Cothrun's ongoing commitment to serving students in the TIL Program where they learn how to live independently.

Above: Sandy Popejoy and Kathy Evarts take turns at the podium recognizing Dr. Cothrun.
Below, left to right: Trustee Dawn Cole, Foundation Executive Director Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk, Daughter Christie Cothrun, Cindy West, and Superintendent/President Brock McMurray.



APRIL 2024 page 2

Students on the Rise: Your Time is Now! Empowerment Summit

On March 15, the *first-ever* Taft College Empowerment Summit brought students together for breakout sessions, networking, lunch, and keynote speeches by CCC Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian, ETP Executive Director Dr. Jessica Grimes, and Kern County COO Stacy Kuwahara. *Below*, Secretary Dr. Kathy Orrin also shared advice!



UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL



Easter Egg Hunt in Quad

March 21 was a beautiful spring day, just perfect for a frenetic Easter egg hunt! Local children from Jefferson Elementary School in Ford City visited Taft College en masse to joyfully retrieve the Easter Bunny's gifts strewn here and there all over the quad. Of course, Student Services staff were quick to provide bright yellow, Taft College-branded handle bags in which kids could gather up their loot. Never to miss a chance to cater to future Taft College Cougars, staff made certain that these children, teachers, *and* chaperons had a whole lot of fun that day!

Left: Kids from Jefferson Elementary School line up to get the go-ahead to hunt for Easter eggs! *Below, left:* Admissions and Records Technician II Lindsay Turner (*center, in pink*) was thrilled to facilitate the children's happiness. *Below, right:* The egg hunters proudly display their bounty.





Taft College Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program Holds Carnival for Community

"Come Get to Know Us!" was the headline on a brightly colored flier that beckoned Taft College students, staff, Trustees, community members, former TIL staff, and TIL employers to a festive Carnival on March 20 in the afternoon on the TIL Program quad. ASO Board Members doled out free food to the first 300 people who came. Snacks and drinks were available to a steady stream of visitors seeking to understand more about the TIL Program, the TIL Program's benefits in the local community, as well as those with disabilities. Music kept the vibe lively. Games were played by youngsters and TIL students alike. This special event brought the Community of Taft together!





Taft College Alumnus Dante Scarnecchia Inducted into 2024 3C2A Hall of Fame

In Sacramento on March 27 at the Grand Sheraton, former Assistant Head Coach for the New England Patriots and Taft College Alumnus Dante Scarnecchia was one of six outstanding individuals inducted into the 2024 3C2A Hall of Fame. Dante Scarnecchia was a member of the 1966 Taft College Football Team that upset undefeated and national No. 1 seeded Boise Junior College to earn a bid to the Wool Bowl where Taft College beat Cisco College from Texas, 21-19. Scarnecchia was a part of the Patriots' Super Bowl wins in 2000, 2003, 2004, 2016, and 2018, as well as 10 conference championships. He is a member of the Patriots' Hall of Fame.



CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU

APRIL 2024 page 6

California Renewable Energy Laboratory (CREL) Visits Campus

The California Renewable Energy Laboratory (CREL)'s Mission is to connect industry, government agencies, and workers with the best information regarding carbon management technologies, clean energy innovation, microgrid and energy storage technologies, and clean transportation technologies. Taft College will begin to evaluate bringing related, state-of-the-art academic programs to campus.



JUNIOR/COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATIONAL WINNERS



Taft College Women's Basketball Brings Home Play 4Kay Breast Cancer Campaign Trophy

Taft College was named the **#1 two-year college in the nation** that raised the most money for the women's Play 4Kay Breast Cancer Awareness and Research Campaign, only after the Taft College Foundation's Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk kicked in the additional \$627 to bring Taft College to the top. Coach Lagmay said, "Thank you dearly, Sheri and the Taft College Foundation for your support of Women's Basketball!"

APRIL 2024 page 7

30th Annual Building Bridges Conference

Started 30 years ago with a grant from the CSU Chancellor's Office, the Annual Building Bridges Conference was held at the Four Points Sheraton in Bakersfield on April 12. Six institutions, including Taft College, CSUB, Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso Community College, Kern High School District, and Porterville College, collaborate about English, Literacy, Writing, Critical Thinking, AI, and Ethics throughout our community in grades 9 through university.



Two Students Make 2024 PTK All-California Academic Honor Roll

For the first time ever, *two* Taft College students, Nancy Chohan and Jonathan De La Torre have made the Phi Theta Kappa All-Academic Honor Roll in 2024. Each student will receive a complimentary medallion, certificate, and yearbook from the Community College League of California. In addition, Nancy was one of just 13 students to receive PTK's Fall 2023 Hurst Review NCLEX® Scholarship. She received Hurst Review study materials valued at \$300 and a \$250 scholarship.