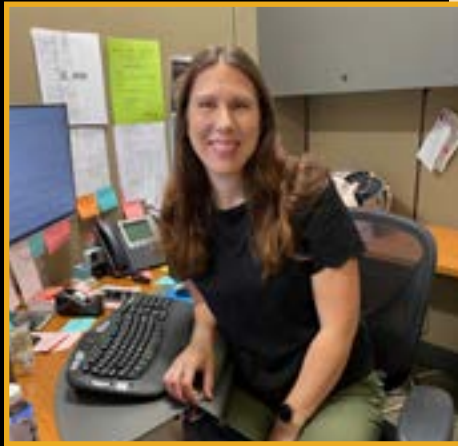


FEBRUARY 2024



Taft College Employee of the Month

Taft College Payroll Technician, **Shannon Clift** was named January Employee of the Month.

**THANK YOU,
SHANNON!**

The Kern Coalition for California Jobs First (Formerly, CERF) Efforts Continue



Taft College Associate Dean of Instruction, Jaime Lopez was elected to serve on The Kern Coalition for California Jobs First Governance Council. He shared, "I look forward to supporting local workforce development efforts and representing Taft College and West Kern on the Council." Jaime's swearing-in ceremony was held at the Weill Institute in Bakersfield on January 11, 2024.



FEBRUARY 2024 page 2

Taft College Children's Center Conducts December Coat Drive

The Children's Center organized a Coat Drive to help vulnerable children ages birth to age 5 who may need extra warmth during colder months. The community came together to ensure that everyone stays warm this winter. 15 new and gently used coats were donated to local children in late December 2023. *Thank you!*

**COATS DONATED TO KIDS**



Taft College Athletics' Triple Play Dinner Filled to Capacity as Former Los Angeles Dodger, Bill Russell Takes Stage

On January 20, the annual Triple Play Dinner and Auction was held to raise funds for Taft College Baseball and Softball. Los Angeles Dodgers' former player and manager, Bill Russell sat down with emcee Angelo Frazier to share exciting stories from his days as a Dodger, including a famous story about Kirk Gibson's classic home run to win the first game of the 1988 World Series. Baseball Head Coach Vince Maiocco expressed his gratitude, *"Every year, the Triple Play is an outstanding event. I want to thank all those who made this a successful evening. Everyone had a great time, and we hope to make it even better next year."*



TRIPLE PLAY DINNER

FEBRUARY 2024 *page 4*

Clockwise from right:
1) On January 26, 2024, the West Side Recreation and Park District, The Fox Theatre, and Berry Corporation cut the ribbon at the Berry Corporation Theater at The Fox Theatre in Taft; 2) Berry's Mia Cifuentes, Brock McMurray, Berry's Jason Marshall, Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk, and Dr. Damon Bell; and, 3) the ribbon is officially cut!



West Side Recreation and Park District (WSRPD) and Berry Corporation (BRY) Announce ASPIRE Program Joint Venture

A joint venture between BRY and WSRPD, the ASPIRE Program will bridge partnerships, cultivate synergy, and advance enrichment initiatives for both employees and the broader community. ASPIRE Program events begin this year. BRY also invested in downtown Taft with a \$75,000 sponsorship over three years for a BRY-branded theater inside The Fox Theatre.

**PARTNERSHIPS IN TAFT**

Public Workshop Held on Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Carbon TerraVault I Project in Kern County

On January 30 at the West Side Park and Recreation District, Superintendent/President Brock McMurray spoke at the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department's public workshop on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for CRC's Carbon TerraVault I Project.



Superintendent/President Brock McMurray Thanks Staff and Faculty for Bringing Students Back to Taft College

"Congratulations for the great job you've done to get more students enrolled at Taft College! As you may know, enrollment jumped 20.2% this spring, year over year! This was a Team effort, taking all of us to get here. We are not done, yet! I humbly ask each of you to double down on these efforts so we don't lose any momentum enrolling new students for summer/fall 2024."



MORE STUDENTS ENROLLED

Tejon Indian Tribe Chairman, Octavio Escobedo III Visits Rotary Club of Taft

On February 7, 2024, the Rotary Club of Taft welcomed Tejon Indian Tribe Chairman and Taft College Foundation Board Member, Octavio Escobedo III to share the Tejon Indian Tribe's history and any Tejon Hard Rock Hotel and Casino updates. Chairman Escobedo said the Tribe is empowering its members through healthcare, education, and economic development. The Tejon Hard Rock Hotel and Casino will greatly and positively impact the West Kern economy.



CSUB Engineering Winter Research Program and Lunch

Sponsored by the Taft College Foundation, six pre-engineering students spent three weeks over their winter break learning robotics programming as part of the CSUB Engineering Winter Research Program. CSUB Associate Professor of Computer and Electrical Engineering, Dr. Saeed Jafarzadeh shared, *"My goal in such programs is to instill passion for Engineering. But Taft College students, and I carefully observed every one of them, had that passion already. My hope is that they enjoyed their experience as much as everyone else did having Taft College students in the program."*



Above: The Taft College Foundation hosted lunch for our students who participated in the CSUB Engineering Winter Research Program and those who may do so next fall; Below: Dr. Saeed Jafarzadeh, Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk, and Taft College engineering students at CSUB over winter break; Left: Taft College Engineering Professor Paul Blake watches students' robot demonstrations.



Educational Master Plan (EMP) 2024-2034

Taft College is developing its next ten-year Educational Master Plan (EMP) 2024-2034. To facilitate this process, the District has engaged the Collaborative Brain Trust (CBT), a highly qualified team with extensive experience in educational master planning across dozens of colleges in California and the nation. The EMP has three phases: Phase I – Discovery; Phase II – Portfolio Development; and Phase III – Goal Setting. *We are now in Phase I.*



Essay

Mindware: Critical Thinking in Everyday Life

John Eigenauer

Special Issue
 Critical Thinking in Everyday Life
 Edited by
 Dr. Christopher P. Dwyer

Another Essay by Professor Dr. John Eigenauer

A renowned expert in the field of Critical Thinking, Professor John Eigenauer contributed the essay, "Mindware: Critical Thinking in Everyday Life" to the Journal of Intelligence. Eigenauer states that Keith Stanovich's simple definition of Mindware, "*Mindware is a generic label for the rules, knowledge, procedures, and strategies that a person can retrieve from memory in order to aid decision making and problem solving,*" has the potential to reshape the world of critical thinking instruction and improve critical thinking skills in daily life.