

JANUARY 2024



**Taft College Employee  
of the Month**

**Paul Blake**, Professor of Engineering was named December Employee of the Month.

**WAY TO GO,  
PAUL!**

**Hard Rock Hotel/Casino Tejon Project Expected to Create 2,000 Construction Jobs**



On December 14, 2023, Taft College Leaders attended the groundbreaking ceremony (*left*) for the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tejon. *Below, left to right:* Dean Dr. Devin Daugherty, Executive Director Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk, WKAEN's Lisa Ramirez and Stacey Falgout, Tejon Tribe Chair Octavio Escobedo III, and President Brock McMurray.



**TRULY GROUNDBREAKING**



## Assemblyman Vince Fong Visits Kiwanis Club of Taft

Always a crowd pleaser and wealth of information, Assemblyman Vince Fong stopped by to visit the Kiwanis Club of Taft on December 21. At this time, Fong had not yet heard that he would be allowed to run for the House seat vacated by Kevin McCarthy at the end of December 2023. He can now run, so he has ramped up his campaign. *You are always welcome, Vince!*



*Above:* Assemblyman Vince Fong is flanked by President Brock McMurray and Board Secretary Dr. Kathy Orrin.

*Above, right:* Kiwanian and Cooper's True Value Home Center Owner Eric Cooper helps Vince wrap things up. *Right:* Kiwanis Club of Taft members give Vince Fong a big round of applause!





*Right:* On December 13, 2023, Taft College Head Women's Basketball Coach Romeo Lagmay, Jr. (*far right*) proudly recognized two of his student-athletes, Mary Pahukoa (*left*) and Alyah Blackwater (*center*) at the Bakersfield Jockey Club's breakfast for excellence both on the court and in the classroom.



## Bakersfield Jockey Club Honors Taft College Women's Basketball Student-Athletes

On December 13, 2023, the Bakersfield Jockey Club honored nine Kern County student-athletes who earned high grade-point averages in the classroom while succeeding on the court or field. Taft College Women's Basketball student-athletes, Mary Pahukoa and Alyah Blackwater were honored with breakfast at Hodel's and plaques for their academic performance last fall.



## Early Care, Child Education, and Family Studies Student Club Members Deliver

ECEFS Student Club members gathered pantry items and shelf stable foods to assemble food boxes to be distributed to community members in need over the Thanksgiving holiday last year. Led by ECEFS Club advisor Michelle Beasley, Club members went above and beyond to deliver these folks a happy holiday.

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## Taft College Women's Basketball Has 13-6 Record Overall

As one of the premier teams in the Central Valley Conference with a winning record, Taft College Women's Basketball has a target on its back. The Cougars got to experience that firsthand with a lopsided loss to Fresno City College followed by a recent victory. On Saturday, January 21, last place team West Hills College Lemoore visited Cougar Country and nearly beat the Cougars losing 58-60. Taft College will next host College of the Sequoias on Wednesday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m. College of the Sequoias has a 3-0 conference record and is 13-6 overall. Taft College is 1-2 in conference play and also has an overall record of 13-6. *Join us at home on Wednesday, January 24!*

