



### Taft College Employee of the Month

Taft College Lead Custodian, **Jorge Castro** was named February Employee of the Month.

**THANK YOU,  
JORGE!**

### Taft College Baseball Receives Community Service Award from Taft District Chamber of Commerce



Taft College Baseball was honored on the field for their Community Service efforts with an award from the Taft District Chamber of Commerce on February 24. Head Baseball Coach Vince Maiocco congratulated his student-athletes for making a difference in our community.

Above: Taft District Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and Taft College Trustee, Dr. Kathy Orrin (in yellow) chats with Taft College Baseball Players. Below: Dr. Orrin and the Baseball Team pose after the team received the Chamber's Community Service Award.





MARCH 2024 *page 2*

## Taft District Chamber of Commerce Installs Board of Directors and Honors Biggest Contributors in Taft

At their Installation Dinner and Awards Night, the Taft District Chamber of Commerce celebrated Taft's annual achievements at the Pioneer Mercantile Building on February 29. *It was a great time!*



Baseball's Community Service Award is presented to Head Coach Vince Maiocco.

WKCCD Board President Billy White



The newly installed Taft District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors





MARCH 2024 page 3

## Student Services Team Wears Pink to Women's Basketball Game

On February 21, Taft College Women's Basketball hosted the Play 4Kay Breast Cancer Research and Awareness game. The players and fans wore pink to support the great cause. *Thank you!*



Taft College  
**STATE PLAYOFFS**

**VIEWING PARTY IN STUDENT CENTER!  
MARCH 2ND!  
Game starts at 6:00PM**

**First 50 people to attend will get free swag!**

**Cougar Nation**

**Taft College Cougars VS Laney College Eagles**

## Women's Basketball Makes State Playoffs

For the first time in 12 years, Taft College Women's Basketball earned a berth to state playoffs, starting with the 2024 3C2A Men's and Women's Basketball Regional Championships. Head Women's Basketball Coach Romeo Lagmay earned his 300th career victory in college coaching on February 21. Coach Lagmay also became the third coach to have a fourth overall winning season in 24 years.

On February 28, #22 seed Taft College traveled to Hayward to face #11 Chabot College. The Cougars won this game. They then faced #6 seed Laney College in Oakland in the second round on March 2. While the Cougars lost the second game, they achieved great things this season. *We can't wait for next season!*

**FIRST TIME IN 12 YEARS**



## Foundation Welcomes Kern County Health Care Leaders for Nursing Program Update

At the meeting of the Foundation Board on February 28, 2024, Superintendent/President Brock McMurray and Foundation Executive Director Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk welcomed health care leaders from Dignity Health Memorial Hospital, Adventist Health Hospitals, Kaiser Permanente, and Taft's West Side Health Care District for an update on our Allied Health Programs in development, including an Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) leading to RN licensure. Dean of Instruction and CTE Dr. Devin Daugherty kicked off the lunch meeting from the Instruction side, and Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk shared the long-term plan status, projected costs, and societal benefits to our region.



# ALLIED HEALTH MEETING



## Foundation Presents Chevron's \$100,000 Check to Board at Engineering Center Naming Ceremony

New signage of the Hutchison Engineering Center was unveiled on March 5 in honor of Stanley and Madalyn Hutchison, two Taft College Foundation Benefactors. The Taft College Foundation received a \$100,000 check from Chevron and lunch was served.



*Clockwise from top:*

- 1) Vice President of Chevron's San Joaquin Valley Business Unit, Alan Pitts delivers a \$100,000 check to the Taft College Foundation for Engineering and Allied Health Internships available to Taft College students later this year.
- 2) It was a beautiful day in Taft at the luncheon honoring Stanley and Madalyn Hutchison, as the E-Tech Building was renamed the Hutchison Engineering Center.
- 3) Engineering Professor Paul Blake hands out 3-D printed scissors to staff and students for the official ribbon cutting.



**THANK YOU TO CHEVRON**

## Taft City School District Superintendent Joins Taft Rotary

On February 14 at Jo's Restaurant in Taft, Rotary Club of Taft President and Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray inducted Taft City School District Superintendent Dr. Lori Slaven. Dr. Slaven joins TUHS District Superintendent Dr. Jason Hodgson, making for a **Superintendent Trifecta** at the Rotary Club of Taft. *Welcome to Rotary, Dr. Slaven!*



## Taft College Bookstore Conducts MONTHLY RAFFLE with Community Member Participation

Taft Union High School student Stephanie Avina won the Taft College Bookstore's Raffle in February, "Enter to Win Contest." Stephanie was excited to win a pink, Taft College-branded t-shirt, a 500-piece round puzzle, and a baseball hat. Of course, it should be no surprise that Stephanie plans on attending Taft College after she graduates from TUHS! *We will welcome you at Taft College, Stephanie!*



MARCH 2024 *page 7*

## Art Gallery Exhibit Highlights Portfolio of 3-D Printed Works by Students and Staff

On February 28, Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray attended the art opening at the Taft College Art Gallery featuring 3-D printed art objects by both students and staff. Taft College computer science student Si Cash, who takes engineering courses and studies with fellow MESA students, contributed pieces of artwork to this exhibit. He proudly honored Superintendent/President McMurray with a special, intricate piece (*below, left*).



**ART GALLERY EXHIBIT**

## Taft College Student Services Team Takes Transfer Students on College Field Trip

On March 4, Taft College students transferring in 2025-2026 gladly took a field trip to learn about two transfer school options, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), and Chapman University, both in Orange County. Four chaperones and 27 students studying different majors headed first to Chapman University for a self-guided tour. After lunch in Old Town Orange, they drove to CSUF for a student-guided tour. More students showed an interest in CSUF.





MARCH 2024 page 9

## Taft College Holds No CAPP—Go to College Summit for TUHS Students

80 Taft Union High School students and staff came to Taft College for information and inspiration on March 7. The goal of the event was to encourage a college going culture for generally underrepresented groups from our local high school. The summit included presentations, fun activities, and a campus tour.



## CTE Exploration Day on March 8!

Over 500 middle school students and staff came to campus for a day filled with fun CTE activities. The goal was to provide these middle school students with an overview of the vast number of opportunities available within CTE and allow them to see themselves as future Taft College Cougars. Activities took place at various locations around campus, including the Gym, Dental Hygiene, the Cougar Room, various classrooms, and our Student Center. *We will welcome them back to campus anytime!*