



**94<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
COMMENCEMENT**  
*Premiering on YouTube*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*Class of*  
**2020**

**TC'S FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL GRADUATION**

**Friday, August 21, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

## 2020 Taft College Virtual Commencement Ceremony Premieres on YouTube

On August 21st, Taft College premiered its *first-ever* virtual commencement ceremony on the college's YouTube channel. Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels said, "Kudos to the 2020 Graduation Committee members for delivering a spectacular program! Many thanks to our faculty and staff for their congratulatory messages to these resilient graduates who defied historic odds and still finished their courses on time." ***To date, the video has been viewed over 2,100 times!***



*Top:* The opening slide for the 2020 Taft College Virtual Commencement Ceremony welcomed viewers to this historic event. *Above:* This 2019 photo of the Taft College Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels, all dressed in regalia, added appropriate formality to the commencement celebration online.



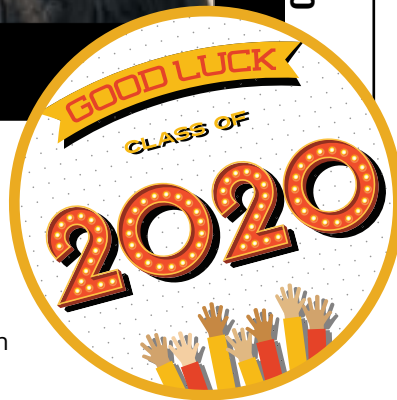
**ANNOUNCING**  
**THE CLASS OF 2020**  
*Featuring . . .*

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT!**

**TAFT COLLEGE**

**Mariza Martínez, Professor of Mathematics**  
**Julián Martínez, Professor of Spanish**

Above: Taft College Professors Mariza and Julián Martínez announced all names of the 2020 Graduates who earned degrees and/or certificates. Together, the Professors announced the name of their daughter, Highest Honor Student Isabelle Martínez Gómez, who earned both an AA for Math and an AAT for Spanish.



**2020 Taft College Virtual Commencement Ceremony Premieres on YouTube**

*continued*

Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels introduced the “cast,” including Dr. Jessica Grimes who sang a flawless rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner, Board President Dawn Cole, the Board of Trustees, the Vice Presidents, and the 2020 Student Speakers. 804 names of the graduating Class of 2020 were announced by Professors Mariza and Julián Martínez. Faculty and Staff congratulated the Class of 2020 via video tributes. You will find the Official Commemorative Program *now posted* in the NEWS section on our homepage.

Right: Taft College EOPS Counselors Gracie Mickelberry (left) and Natalie Woodall (right) directly offered curbside pickup of Fall Semester supplies to eligible students in front of the library on August 31st and September 1st.

**EOPS Counselors shared a favorite quote by Alexander Graham Bell,**  
*“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.”*



**EOPS Offers All Eligible Students Curbside Pickup of Supplies**

EOPS supplied a TC Notebook, highlighter, TC pencil, pen, mechanical pencil with lead refills, USB drive, Post-It notes, Math and Yablas codes, and calculators to rent for the semester. The purpose of the EOPS program is to go “over and above” in serving EOPS students, and one of the ways they do this is by providing them with supplies to help them start the school year *prepared!*



*Above:* The **2020 Club Rush Pet Show Contest** was held on September 8. Odalis Hernandez received a \$25 Petco gift card for submitting the winning pet photo above! *Below:* On September 24, Taft College Student Trustee Melanie Medina will debut the **Taft College Voting Campaign Video** on Canvas to encourage students to register to vote! ASO Club members have direct access to additional information on how to register to vote through the Taft College Student Life Course.

## Taft College CALENDAR OF EVENTS for September 2020

Equally adept at handling multiple roles, Taft College Student Life Coordinator and Head Women's Soccer Coach Myisha Cutrona is very busy, as usual! She leads 2020-21 ASO Board Officers in increasing student membership in 15 Student Life Clubs, trains ASO Board Officers and committee members in how to lead those Student Clubs, and distributes a monthly calendar so our students know what they need to know about special events ahead of time. As Fall Semester 2020 is primarily online, all campus events are also being held virtually. ASO Officers remain undaunted and are already forging ahead with great enthusiasm!



**REGISTER  
TO VOTE**

*Please welcome our newest employees!*



**Marianne C. Bishop, Ed.D.**  
Director,  
Distance Education

With almost two decades of experience in distance education and online learning, Marianne has been a graduate student, an adjunct faculty, an instructional designer, a course developer, and an administrator. She has published peer-reviewed articles on distance education and presented internationally. She holds a Doctorate in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University. She says, "Team work makes the dream work! We all work together so our students succeed." Ask her how she got to Taft!



**Amber M. Garcia, B.A.**  
Office Coordinator,  
Financial Aid and Scholarships

Amber is the first person in her family to graduate high school and college. She is very proud of her Latino, migrant roots! Amber has 10 years of experience in various higher education roles that directly support students. Now assisting the Director of Financial Aid with day-to-day operations, she says "Taft College is very much a student-centric institution and it is inspiring to see a school place this much focus on student success. You have all made me feel so welcome. I appreciate each one of you!"



**Rafael Andrade**  
Computer Support Technician I,  
Information Technology Services

Originally from Caracas, Venezuela, Rafael has lived in Taft for the last 14 years. He became a US citizen in 2004 and also lived in San Francisco and Fort Lauderdale. Rafael has worked for local TV stations, including six years at CBS Channel 29. Now in his role at Taft College, he provides information technology support services directly to students and in the classrooms. He has also been a great support to the 2020 Graduation Committee. He shared this quote from Voltaire, "I'm still learning."