

TAFT COLLEGE

EOPS | CARE | CALWORKS

newsletter

FALL 2017

STUDENT EXPERIENCES 2017

SUMMER INSTITUTE / NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

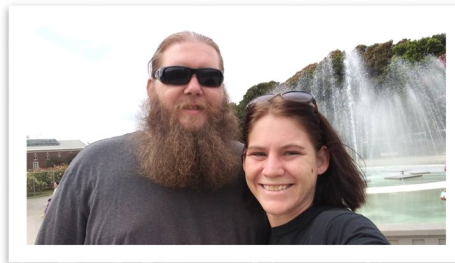
The field trip to the Natural History Museum was so much fun. The first thing we did was visit the Rose Gardens (photo above), which were absolutely beautiful. We then walked through the whole museum, lingering in the dinosaur exhibit. It was fascinating to see the difference between the way Hollywood depicts dinosaurs and their true size. It was also a lot of fun to watch the paleontologists in the Dinosaur Lab cleaning and preparing fossils for the museum.

Delyn Callaway

Such an over the top experience attending EOPS summer institute at UC Santa Barbara. Of course being on the coast was breathtaking and we really enjoyed our time together.

The campus staff, faculty and leaders were amazing and offered so much to help us learn to be successful in our University goals. What impacted me the most were the panel of counselors and staff from various EOPS campuses. Each speaker shared the stories of obstacles they had to overcome to fulfill their dream of an education. Such powerful stories gave me the courage to press on with my own personal goals and encouraged to believe I could overcome anything to complete my purpose.

Glenda Sexton



UPCOMING DATES

Nov. 2: CSUB Rep. on campus to meet with students. Make appointment through Student Services at 661.763.7748

Nov. 3: Fieldtrip to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Nov. 6: Priority Registration for Spring 2018 begins

Nov. 7: EOPS Spring Registration Workshop

Nov. 16: CSUB Rep. on campus for CalState Application Workshop

Nov. 23 – 24: Thanksgiving
— NO CLASS

Nov. 30: CSU Apply Application Workshop

Dec. 18-Jan. 15: Holiday Break
— NO CLASS

University of LaVerne
Onsite Advising for
Bachelor's Degrees:

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 10am-2pm
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 10am-1pm
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 10am-1pm

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Monica Sanchez Munoz



I have been attending Taft College since the summer of 2016, I never actually thought I would ever go back to school after having my children. I overwork myself a lot so school was never really a thought that crossed my mind, plus I had a bad experience with another school. It wasn't until I found myself being 25, a single mom of two with a part time job, and not enough income. I knew I couldn't rely on my parents forever and I really wanted to prove not only statistics, but many people wrong. Being a single mom has taught me so much. Even on those days when you don't want to get up—but you know you have to—to be a role model for your children. I woke up one day, drove out to Taft, and enrolled in an online math class. The next semester I became a full time student and part of the EOPS program, which I didn't even know existed until one of the clerks told me that it would really help me out, and it has. Since then, I have always managed to take all the classes I need. Mrs. Natalie and Mrs. Lourdes always made sure I was on top of registering and making sure I had all my units.

In one year, I finished all my required courses, yes that means that some semesters I was taking up to seven classes, working Monday through Saturday, and taking care of my kids, but somehow I did it. I have an overall GPA of above a 3.0, and I don't even think I ever held above a 2.0 in high school. I can tell you how bad it was some days, how some days I cried on my way to school thinking about what am I going to do with my life, how I was going to come up with money for food and rent, my divorce, or if it was even worth it to come to school; but after sitting in my car and wiping off my tears, I walked into every class like nothing ever happened. Everything I have put my heart into gave me one of the biggest job opportunities ever; I am currently the youngest employee to have the highest wage in my district and I hold one of the highest positions a classified employee can hold, all because I went back to school and got my life together. Because I pushed myself and received so much support from my family and my boss I decided to further my education and finish what I started.

In the spring of 2018, I will be attending CSUB to major in Liberal Studies and minor in Communications. When I walk across that stage, I'll know then that every heartache, every tear, every night staying up till 4am doing homework and research only to get back up at 6am will be worth it. If I can give any single parent any advice, it would be to never give up, even when the skies are grey, there's always a slight glimpse of light trying to shine for you. Always remember who is watching, those little hearts depend on you and only you, so make it count. I would really like to thank my EOPS counselors and staff for always greeting me and my children with a smile; Mrs. Natalie for always providing a pen and paper so my daughter could scribble during my appointments. Taft College was so worth the drive! And lastly I'd like to thank my mom, for always reminding me of who I really was, the strongest woman.

Kellie Vermillion



Being a student at Taft College has given me many things in my life that I am proud of. It has given me confidence, a good work ethic, and soon two college degrees. I attribute most of my success at Taft College to the counseling services I have received through EOPS. With the help of EOPS I was able to create an educational plan that made it possible for me to graduate sooner than I could have on my own. I feel very blessed that I found EOPS so that I could further my education with their support when I needed it. I feel prepared to transfer to a four-year university because of the skills Taft College and EOPS have given me.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Amber Hernandez



Hello, my name is Amber Hernandez, I am a sophomore here at Taft College majoring in Psychology. I will be graduating in the Spring of 2018 with an AA for transfer in Psychology. I plan on transferring to CSUB. It was through my studies at Taft College that I rediscovered my passion for education and teaching which is why I will be declaring Liberal Studies as my major once I attend CUSB. I wish to become an elementary teacher. Ever since I was a little girl I knew I wanted to positively change people lives. I want to make a difference in someone's life and empower future generations, which I why I want to be involved in the education system.

My strong work ethic and dedication are what got me to where I am now. I first began Taft College as a high school senior in 2015, I was involved in the concurrent program which allowed me to take college course all while being in high school. Since officially entering TC in the Fall of 2016 I have been a full-time student, have received straight A's in all college courses, have become a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, qualified for the Presidents List of academic achievers for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, and just this semester I began working here at the Taft College as the overseer of the Children's Library area, working 20 hours a week. I admit, it can all be a bit stressful and tiresome, however my perseverance and determination drive my success and I continue to put my best foot forward in hopes of becoming a better person, who will one-day change people's lives.

I would also like to add how grateful I am to be a part of the EOPS and TRIO programs. A huge thanks to Natalie Woodall and Jill Brown, they have help me a lot along the way!

Mariela Navarrete



My name is Mariela Navarrete, I am 20 years old and a student at Taft College. I have been attending Taft College since fall 2015 and I will be graduating this December of 2017 with an Early Care Education for Transfer. Taft College has been a great experience, I have met really nice people and awesome professors that are always there to help me whenever I am in need of help with any subject or even when I have a problem. I don't regret coming to Taft, it's a great college! Moreover, I am transferring to CSUB and planning to get my Bachelor's degree in teaching. I am really looking forward for new experiences at CSUB and looking forward to pursue my career.

I am the first one in my family to attend college and I really want to make my parents proud. They are my motivation and the reason why I wake up every morning ready to start a new day. My parents mean everything to me, not only did they give me life and bring me joy, but they love me and care for me. I can't wait to graduate and see my parents full of happiness.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Maria Medina



My name is Maria Y. Medina. I was born and raised in New Cuyama. I absolutely love it there! When I graduated high school I was awarded two scholarships, one being the community service scholarship for earning almost 100 community service hours throughout high school. I chose to continue my education at Taft College because it was the closest and one of the top community colleges in California. Without EOPS, I doubt I would have graduated in the time frame that I did. I love being able to see Lourdes, Megan, and Natalie any time I needed, even if it was short notice. At the end of this semester, I'll have two associate degrees and an assistant teaching certificate. I plan to transfer to CSUB in January to continue my journey of being an elementary school teacher. I hope to get my Bachelor's degree, my teaching credentials, start teaching, and later earn my Master's degree while working.

Laura Flores



I'm Laura, and I'm currently a student at Taft College, soon to graduate. I have been at TC for about three years and am waiting to receive my Associate degree in Psychology. I will attend Cal State Bakersfield to continue my education. I want to thank EOPS for all the help it has granted me throughout my years at TC. EOPS has given me an opportunity to plan and succeed.

