

September 2016

Superintendent/President Update:

Dear Colleagues,

We have had a wonderful start to our school year! I hope you will enjoy reading about the many projects and events that are going on across our campus and district. I am continually impressed with the great work that is being done to serve our students in new and better ways. As we go forward with developing this newsletter you will see changes to the format and content as we work on bringing it to you in a more readable way.

We have some great events coming up, Cougar Cookout on October 13th and the Hall of Fame Dinner & Awards on November 13th. I hope to see you around campus!

Many thanks,

Deb

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President



Accreditation Update:

The Institution Research office is hard at work on the Taft College accreditation process. The College was given eighteen months, until March 2017, to address the recommendations issued in the visiting team report from the fall 2015 site visit (found in the Accreditation section of the Taft College website). Working with consultants and the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative resource team, the College has been working steadily to develop and implement solutions to address these recommendations. Among other things, we have revised our annual program review process; we have written or are writing substantive change proposals for submission to the Commission; we have revised SLO assessment processes to produce more meaningful data and dialog to be used for continuous improvement of student learning; and we have taken measures to communicate SLOs to students via course syllabi.

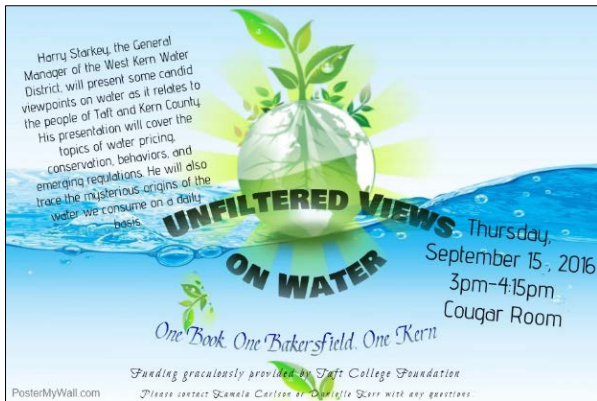
The College will submit a follow-up report and be visited again by Commission representatives in spring 2017 to ensure we are doing the things we said we are doing. If all goes well, it is expected that the eighteen month action by the Commission will be removed at that time. Subsequent to the March 2017 follow-up report and visit, it is clear sailing to the next accreditation site visit in fall 2022.

Instruction Update:

One Book. One Bakersfield. One Kern. – As a part of the “One Kern” reading project, instructors Danielle Kerr and Kamala Carlson as well as the Taft College Foundation hosted a presentation by West Kern Water District General Manager Harry Starkey. Starkey shared many details of the water situation

Instruction Update (cont.):

as it affects residents in the West Kern community. The event was a great success to an overflow crowd in attendance of students, faculty and staff fortunate enough to be able to participate. This presentation was an extension of the “One Kern” current reading source ***The Big Thirst*** by Charles Fishman.



Veterans and Workforce Center

The grand opening of the new Veterans Office and newly renovated Veterans and Workforce Center will be on October 13th. Please stop by any time during the day for refreshments and to see the work being done. Even better, buy a ticket to the Cougar Cookout from 5:30-8:00, join in a special salute to veterans that evening, and stop by the Veteran’s Center to say hello.

Chip the Robot

ETEC has a new resident – Chip the Robot. Chip can recognize your face and greet you by name, knows when you’re waving and can wave back, and can be programmed to do an amazing variety of movements. It’s an open question whether he can do the moonwalk yet.



CTE



CTE has had a busy month. During Cougar Day CTE and STEM set up the trailer with Energy and Safety programs. The EEL model was operational and was able to get students involved in donning and doffing the Safety Harness and suspended from the Tripod (used to train confined space retraction techniques). CTE along with TC outreach and STEM participated in the Kern Community College Night hosted at Rabobank. The STEM trailer and TC was the shining star on display amongst the 95 plus colleges participating.

Student Services Update:

ENROLLMENT –2016 Fall semester began August 15th. As of September 9th full time student enrollment is strong with 1,246 for 2016 compared with 1,205 the same time in 2015.

Associated Students Remember 9/11 – Associate Student leader Nancy Reynaga led a ceremony in remembrance of the 15th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks at the front of the Administration Building on September 12, 2016. Staff and students were able to reflect on the anniversary in united fashion. Associated Student Luz Lopez sang the ***Star Spangled Banner*** and a moment of silence was held in honor of the victims and their families.



Kern County College Night – Taft College was well represented in the 2016 Kern County College Night held at the Rabobank Convention Center on September 12th. Many students from around the county were able to speak with Cougar staff and faculty as well as tour the STEM trailer and pose for pictures with our Cougar mascot. Athletics and several TC instructors were there to aid students as well.



TRIO/SSS Program Grant – The Taft College TRIO/SSS program grant was awarded a 3% increase in funding for the 2016/17 year. The fiscal year 2016 appropriation bill allocated an additional \$60 million to the Federal TRIO programs. The U.S. Department of Education has determined that TRIO grantees were eligible to receive a 3% increase in their funding award for project year 2016/17. This additional allocation will allow the program to intensify project services and expand its program by offering additional academic workshops, tutoring, and counseling to assist students with persistence, academic achievement and success for both degree completion and transfer.



Museum of Tolerance – Students and staff participated in a trip to the Museum of Tolerance, hosted by the TRIO/SSS program. The 45 seats offered for the trip were quickly filled for the September 16th trip. Students were challenged to understand the Holocaust in both historic and contemporary contexts and to confront all forms of prejudice and discrimination in the world today. After the trip the students felt a bit more educated and enlightened in the view of the Museum of Tolerance to live peacefully together.

Administrative Services Update:

Facilities Update – Projects and ongoing maintenance through the summer session included upgrades to the electrical service to increase power capacity, upgrades to the Cougar Dorms, and energy efficient site light retrofitting.

Student Center - The Student Center Project is currently underway with an estimated completion in spring of 2018. This \$17 million project will include a Cafeteria, Bookstore, and Student Center designed to support student learning by providing a place for students to gather and access campus services. A groundbreaking is set for the morning of October 14th at 10 a.m.



Budget Update – One September 14th the Board of Trustees approved the WKCCD FY 2016/17 final budget. Budget highlights include: increased funding to Basic Skills; funding of the Strong Workforce Program to support CTE; strong funding for deferred maintenance and instructional equipment; funding for energy efficiency projects; continued consistent funding to SSSP and Equity; and use of one time funds to help offset the GASB 45 contribution. In addition, Taft College is planning for growth of approximately 1% by increasing sections offerings and successful course completion. The final budget may be accessed on the District website under the Administration & Campus Policies section.

Foundation Update:

Leadership Summit – Educators, Business leaders, Entrepreneurs and Students, filled the AERA Energy Training Academy for the **West Kern Petroleum Mini Leadership Summit** on Friday, September 9, 2016, hosted by the **Taft College Foundation Petroleum Partners**. As part of a continuation series, Dr. Francis Flynn, Professor of Organizational Behavior at Stanford University, returned as the speaker for this event. Dr. Flynn offered insight into motivating employees to perform and how to make sound decisions in the workplace. Attendees were engaged through several exercises and were given a range of motivation techniques to apply in the workforce. Would you like to find out more about our next mini summit, contact the Taft College Foundation at 763-7900.



2016 Cougar Cookout – The 7th Annual Cougar Alumni and Friends Cookout is being held on October 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the Taft College Quad. The event is a salute to Veteran's in the community as well as a celebration of Taft College success. New this year to the Cookout is the Alumni Village – where there will be draft beer on tap. The Cookout will have a special presentation from sponsor Synagro, raffle prizes, beer and wine, great BBQ and dancing to the blue grass sounds of the **Night Life Band**. The Community Spirit Award will be awarded to former Superintendent/President Dr. David Cothrun, who served as president for 21 years. Proud Taft resident,

**Tickets are \$30
(\$20 for TC
Students and
Faculty)
Purchase Tickets
at the TC Cashier
or Bookstore
For more
information call
763-7900**

Special thank you to our sponsors: TRC Operating Company, Chevron Valley Credit Union, Synagro, Motor City Lexus and the Taft College Foundation Petroleum Partners.



Dr. Cothrun continues to serve our District's benefit as a member Board of Directors for the Taft College Foundation.

Human Resources Update:



On August 19th the Fall semester kicked off with the annual Welcome Back Breakfast for staff and faculty. It was an informative and fun morning.



Upcoming Dates to Remember!!

Date	Event	Location	Time
October 10, 2016	Lu Chi Fa Presentation	Cougar Room	9 a.m. & 10 a.m.
October 12, 2016	Board Meeting (Joint with TUHS)	Cougar Room	5:00 p.m.
October 13, 2016*	Cougar Cookout (Foundation)	TC Quad	5:30-8:00 p.m.
October 14, 2016	Groundbreaking - Student Center	TC Quad	10:00 a.m.
November 13, 2016	Hall of Fame Dinner & Awards	OT's Cookhouse	5:00 p.m.
December 8, 2016	Cougar Bookstore Open House	Bookstore	4:00 – 7:00 pm
April 21, 2017	TC Foundation Golf Tournament	BV Golf Course	12:00 p.m.

* Dr. David Cothrun will be honored with the Community Spirit Award. For tickets to this event, see the Cashier or Cougar Bookstore.

Taft College NEW HIRES

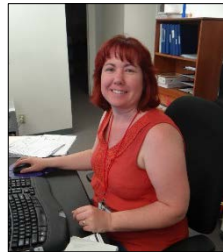
Welcome new employees hired during the summer session



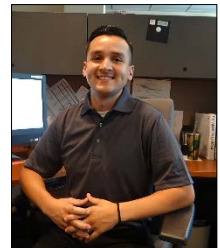
Amar Abbott
High Tech Center –
Access Specialist



Carey Capenter
Interim TIL Program
Director



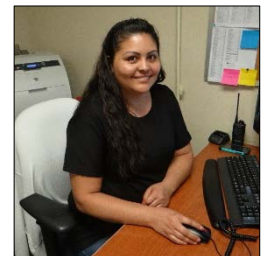
Dana Hicks
Information Technology
Secretary



Norberto Lopez
Instructional Technician
- Curriculum



David Mitchell
Professor, Mathematics



Martha Rodriguez
Testing Technician



Bruce Burroughs
Head Women's Golf Coach