

AUGUST 2022 update for faculty & staff, page 1

## Message from Brock McMurray, Acting Superintendent/President

*Hello Taft College Family,*

*Welcome to the August issue of the Campus Newsletter! As we gear up for the start of fall classes, I want to thank you for the wonderful work you are doing to continuously meet our students' basic and specific needs during this time of transition. You are living proof of what makes our college so valuable to this local community! Our high quality programs help our students, no matter where they may be in life, to achieve their educational goals and change their lives for the better. With your caring guidance, our students will achieve their dreams!*



*I look forward to changing many more students' lives with your help,  
**Brock***



*Above, left to right: 2022 Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program Graduate and current Taft College Engineering student Nathan Benson offers Acting Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray a vex robot demonstration at Summer Camp.*

## STEM and CTE Vex Robotics and Coding Summer Camp Returns

By popular demand, Taft College FREE STEM and CTE Summer Camps returned this summer! Select students going into *ninth through twelfth grade* attended the FREE STEM and CTE Vex Robotics and Coding Summer Camp for three days. Three separate camps were offered on July 11-13, July 18-20, and July 25-27, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. each day. By exposing students to our STEM and CTE programs early, the college hopes that these prospective students might enroll at Taft College some day! Plus, these camps are such a fun way to enjoy the summer break!

AUGUST 2022 update for faculty & staff, page 2

## Taft College Cougar Day Drives Enrollment Momentum Forward

Unofficially dubbed as the most attended Cougar Day *ever* on the Taft College campus, approximately 120 students registered for fall classes, met with a counselor to get their comprehensive education plan, applied for financial aid, toured the campus, ate lunch in the Student Center dining hall, and/or received a Book Voucher to cover the costs of their books and supplies this fall. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., students were walked through the whole process and received a piece of "treasure" at each station on their map.



Above: Taft College Dean of Student Services Cecilia Alvarado proudly welcomes new students to campus for Taft College Cougar Day on August 9.  
Left: The Student Services lobby was full of students waiting for their next step in enrolling at Taft College on Cougar Day.

AUGUST 2022 update for faculty & staff, page 3



*Left:* Retiring Taft College Athletics Counselor Tony Thompson (*in blue*) addresses 2022-23 Student Athletes at their Orientation and Breakfast on August 1, 2022. Athletic Director Kanoe Bandy (*in white and below*) facilitates the event. *Below:* Taft College Athletic Director Kanoe Bandy (*right*) stands next to Acting Superintendent/President Brock McMurray (*left*) who happily welcomed new and returning Student Athletes back to campus.

## 2022-23 Taft College Student Athletes Welcomed to Athletics Orientation and Breakfast

On August 1, Taft College Acting Superintendent/President Brock McMurray was thrilled to welcome a large group of new and returning Student Athletes to the Taft College campus this fall. Athletic Director Kanoe Bandy introduced the Student Athletes to their designated Coaches and Staff, went over many Athletics details, and then turned the meeting over to retiring Athletics Counselor Tony Thompson. Thompson officially handed the reigns, so-to-speak, to incoming Athletics Counselor Joe'll Chaidez who vowed to do his very best to meet all these Student Athletes' counseling and scheduling needs!



AUGUST 2022 update for faculty & staff, page 4

## Taft College ASO Sponsorship at United Way of Kern County Now at Halfway Point

Sponsored by the 2021-22 ASO Officers through February 2023, the Taft College Centennial Community Service Project to promote literacy in Taft is 50% complete as of August 17, 2022. This United Way of Kern County's Book of the Month sponsorship was specifically set up to mail books to our youngest residents, ages zero to eight, a group not served in Taft. Thanks to Taft College Class of 2022 graduate, Zach Carter (*right*) and Kiwanis Club of Taft member, Robyn Melton (*far right*) for helping us *each and every time!*



All are welcome at our

# 100th

## Birthday Party & Burger Bash!

**FREE** food, fun, and *The Sandlot* movie!

**August 19, 2022**  
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSOR





FEATURING  
**THE SANDLOT!**



TAFTCOLLEGE

**Celebrating**  
**100 Years**  
of excellence in education  
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## Taft College Centennial Birthday Party and Burger Bash on Friday, August 19

Be sure to stop by the quad on Friday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. for burgers, cupcakes, games, and discounts at the Taft College Bookstore! Don't miss Cougie opening his birthday gift! See the movie, *The Sandlot*, on the baseball field after 7:30 p.m. *The Taft College Baseball Team will welcome you there!*

AUGUST 2022 update for faculty & staff, page 5



## Promise Program Fall Orientation Luncheon

Taft College welcomed new and second-year Promise Program students on August 10 to the Student Center for an orientation, a delicious lunch catered by our own Chef Geoff, and other benefits, including new laptops for first year students, as well as books and supplies courtesy of our current Book Voucher program. Financial Aid oversaw the event, Dr. Leslie Minor facilitated the pledge signing, and Dr. Vicki Jacobi detailed the program in depth.

*Above:* The dynamic trio of Financial Aid, including (*left to right*) Alexis "Lexi" White, Baghdad Alkorin, and Director Barbara Amerio, went all out to deliver a memorable event for new and second-year Taft College Promise Program Students. *Right:* Designated Promise Program Counselor Dr. Vicki Jacobi (*holding the mic*) discusses all details of the Promise Program.



This is a monthly publication by the Taft College Office of the President. If you have feedback, comments, or questions, please contact Susan Groveman, Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations at (661) 763-7942.