

# TAFT COLLEGE EOPS NEWSLETTER

## EOPS Outstanding Scholars



**Lori Murphy**  
Major: Criminal Justice Administration

I could name a thousand reasons why I am attending college at this time in life, but the main reason is my children. I'm a single mother of 4 children and am blessed to foster two more. This life changing decision has been short of easy, but the rewards in the end will outweigh it all. I returned to school after 16 years and enrolled at Taft College. It is evident that this has been one of the best decisions I have made to build a better life for my family. From the time I walked on campus, I felt like I belonged. I knew this was right where I needed to be.

Between my job as a mother and my full time position, the only possible way I could attend college was by means of distance learning. With the abundant selection of online classes available I have been able to complete nearly all the course requirements for an Associate's degree with transfer requirements to attend CSUB in the online environment. I only had to walk into a traditional classroom to fulfill the speech and science lab requirements for transfer. I uncovered my passion for Criminal Justice while at Taft College. After this semester I will earn my Associates degree and proceed to CSUB to earn my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Within 5 years I would like to serve as a counselor in a juvenile correctional facility. I also would like to operate a pro bono private investigation firm to assist custodial parents who are having difficulty with child support order enforcement.

My current 3.67 GPA has earned me a recognition on the President's List and Phi Theta Kappa membership. I have been awarded the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award and a higher education scholarship from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I could not have accomplished any of this without the motivation from my children, the support of the faculty here at Taft College and most importantly the guidance I received from our EOPS counselors. The EOPS program has been the key element for my success for which I am forever grateful.

Everything I do in life is centered on a quality I would like to instill in my children. With a passion for excellence and drive to continue my education my children understand that there is always time to learn and learning never ends.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EOPS Outstanding Scholars	Pg. 1-4
Fall CSUB EOP Workshop	Pg. 5
Special Thanks to ASB	Pg. 5
Soroptimist Scholarship Recipients	Pg. 6
EOPS Alumni	Pg. 6
Fall 2014 President and Vice-President EOPS Students	Pg. 7
EOPS Counseling Updates	Pg. 8
EOPS/CARE Contact Information Spring 2015 Important Dates	Pg. 9

## EOPS Outstanding Scholars



**Edwin Juarez**

Major: AA-T Studio Arts for Transfer & AA-Art

Taft College has been a great experience for me. I am glad that I chose to come here before attending a 4-year University. Attending Taft College, I have felt at home. I feel like the staff and faculty treat you like family and their main goal is to see you succeed and prepare you for the real world.

At the end of this semester, I will have earned my Associates' degrees in Art as well as Studio Art for transfer. After I graduate I plan on attending CSULA to obtain a bachelor's degree in Animation. After I graduate with my BA, I will pursue a job with DreamWorks, Disney, Nickelodeon, or Pixar.

I have come a long way from the day I began my experience here at Taft. The advice I would give to students at Taft College would be to always try your best no matter what. If you fail, just work harder to reach your goals because no one is perfect, and in order to succeed, you must first learn to accept your mistakes and learn from them.

I have learned that the key to my success was having great counselors and staff assisting me throughout my journey. I also made sure not to leave any of my assignments or projects till the last minute. This was a lesson I learned the hard way. I am lucky to have attended this college, as I would recommend it to students in high school looking to pursue their education while having an amazing experience. I would like to thank the EOPS program for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



**Krystyana Lopez**

Major: Liberal Arts: Allied Health

My name is Krystyana Lopez, and I'm from Shafter. I will be graduating this semester with a degree in Liberal Arts: Allied Health. I plan on transferring to CSU Northridge in the fall. Since attending Taft College I have been on both the President's and Vice President's List every semester. It hasn't been easy, but it is worth it. I am privileged to have received EOPS services such as academic and transfer counseling. They've been nothing but helpful in guiding me in the right direction and also the financial support received from EOPS grants has helped alot.

At CSU Northridge I hope to get into their Radiological Science program to become an X-ray technician. After graduating from CSU Northridge I plan to work and make a difference in the medical field and also, to one day give my parents all they have given me. They are my biggest supporters and I couldn't have done any of this without their support.

## EOPS Outstanding Scholars



**Anabel Nunez**

Major: AS-T Early Childhood Education for Transfer & Liberal Arts: Communication

Hello Everyone! My name is Anabel Nunez. I was born in Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco, Mexico. I spent my early childhood years in Mexico and at the age of 6 I moved to the United States. I started the first grade when I got here and the first few months were difficult and challenging for me because here in United States it's a whole different world. It was very hard to adapt myself to this country at such a young age especially because I did not know how to read, write, or speak English. Since then I have been living in Shafter, California where I graduated from Jr. high and High School.

I'm the first member of my family to graduate from High School and attend college. I started Taft College right after finishing High School. Immediately I knew what I wanted to major in, Early Childhood Education. I'm about to apply for my Associate Teachers Certificate. I'm very excited about that because at first college was difficult for me, but with the helped of my friends, and staff I was able to get through it. Now I'm a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and I have made it on the president's list for multiple semesters. My goal right now is to graduate this spring with my AA degree, and I plan on transferring to CSUB to continue my studies.



**Cassidy Rubio**

Major: Liberal Arts and Humanities

Hello everyone. My name is Cassidy Rubio and I have been attending Taft College since the fall of 2012. I'm now very close to achieving my Associate's degree in Liberal Arts & Humanities. To be honest, I chose this degree because of the classes—so many of them were ones I desperately wanted to take, because subjects like history, art history, and facts about the entertainment industry fascinate me! I would love to eventually find a job where I can help others to have an appreciation for these arts, such as a job at a museum or library. I've been very fortunate to have had excellent teachers and fascinating courses each semester.

There are always going to be bumps in the road, moments of uncertainty, and big decisions to make. In those times, it's important to remember to keep your head up and find enjoyment in what you're doing. With an eye on your goals, it's very possible to succeed.

# EOPS Outstanding Scholars



**Allisa Tweedy**

**Major: AA-T Psychology and Liberal Arts: Communication**

My name is Allisa Tweedy and I am 35 years old. I was born and raised in Visalia, California to loving parents who instilled in me great perseverance. They stood by me through everything, including having a child at a young age and through my battle with cancer. Along the way, I had two beautiful daughter named Stephanie and Courtney. They have been my rocks. After fighting cancer, I moved to Taft with my parents. After my recovery, my dad told me to try out Taft College. Once I started classes in 2011, I never looked back. Through the help and support of my blood family as well as my Taft College family, I have reached goals I never thought possible

While at Taft College, I have accomplished many things. I was awarded the Soroptomist scholarship in 2013, been on the Vice-President’s list numerous times, and worked as a student worker in the Office of Instruction. I have also been selected to join The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi at Taft College. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the love and support of my two daughters and parents. My main career goal is to work in Art Therapy helping others overcome life’s obstacles through the use of art. After getting my A.A. degrees in Communications and Psychology I hope to find a job in the field of art therapy so that I can work while pursuing a Bachelor’s then Master’s degree in Psychology.

Because of my parents, I have learned to persevere no matter what struggles come my way. I believe I have done this! I have overcome the odds stacked up against me, beat cancer, raised two beautiful daughters, and am about to earn my Associates degree. I live by the motto, “No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn’t trying.” Thank you to everyone for supporting me on my journey to success! I am excited for what is to come in the future!





## Fall CSUB EOP Workshop

As the smell of pizza filled the air and students filled the Cougar room seats, Rocky Maracini, EOP Admissions and Retention Coordinator, set up for an EOP Presentation for TC Students. With CSUB switching from the quarter system to the semester system there were important dates and new information for our students to take note of. We learned the following:

- **CSUB will not be accepting New or Transfer students for the Winter 2016 Spring 2016 Semesters.** There will be a waiting period until the Fall of 2017. Students planning to transfer during this time need consider these changes.
- **March 2nd** is the deadline for FALL2015 Transfer students if they are applying for the EOP Program



## Special Thanks to the ASB Club



Taft College ASB helped brighten the holidays for Taft College students in EOPS/CARE program. Students in these programs were selected to receive a Thanksgiving basket with all the fixings including a turkey. In December select students received a Christmas tree and wreath.

EOPS/CARE thanks the ASB Club for all their hard work and efforts. These fund raising activities were much appreciated. Following are some personal statements from some of the recipients:

“My family was very blessed to receive the Christmas tree. My son Wyatt Johansen and I had a great time decorating it.”

- Kristy Shafer EOPS/CARE Student



“My son and I were grateful to receive a Thanksgiving basket. It can be challenging to go to the grocery store when you have an autistic son.”

-Laura Hill EOPS/CARE Student

## Soroptimist “Live Your Dream” Scholarship Recipients

Since 1972, the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards program has dispersed more than \$25 Million to tens of thousands of women who have overcome poverty, violence, divorce, the death of a spouse, or other life challenges. They are women who had the courage and determination to set educational goals and meet them.

This year the Soroptimist selected 2 single parents to recognize for their academic achievements and aspirations. The Soroptimist Luncheon was held at Paiks Restaurant where Lapetrious Cook and Lori Murphy were honored and awarded scholarships to help further their education.

Congratulations to Lapetrious and Lori for their academic achievements!



As pictured from left to right: Laura Hill (previous Soroptimist Award winner), Lapetrious Cook, and Lori Murphy



Dr. Dena Maloney presents Soroptimist Award to Lapetrious Cook

## EOPS Alumni Class of 2012

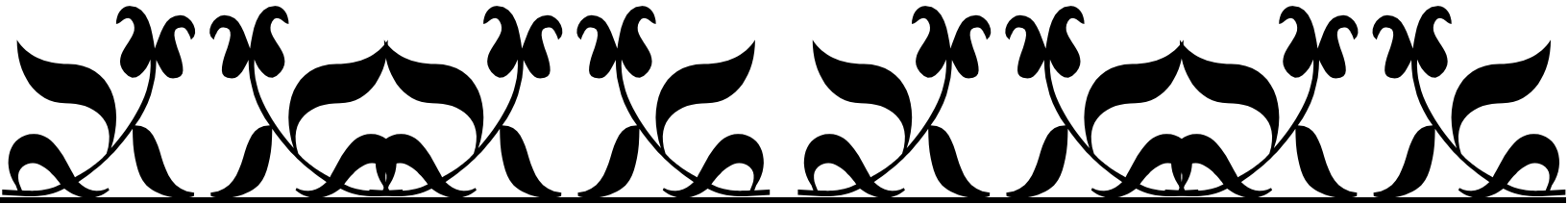


**Daniel Rodela**  
Counseling Center Technician

When I attended Taft College, I participated in the EOPS program. As a result, I was able to obtain an A.A. in Liberal Arts Communications. Also, I had the privilege of receiving an EOPS certificate of excellence for being on the president's list.

Recently, I graduated from CSUB with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Philosophy. During my studies at CSUB, I had the honor of being on the School of Social Science Dean's list due to maintaining above a 3.0 GPA.

My goals are to earn an M.A. in Social Work and eventually a law degree in order to practice family and immigration law. Since 2012, I have served as Director of Communication for the North American Religious Liberty Association-West (NARLA-West). NARLA-West is a non-profit organization which focuses on promoting freedom of conscience for all people of faith. Currently, I work in the Counseling Department at Taft College as a Counseling Technician and I enjoy serving the students that are seeking to succeed in their educational endeavors.



# OUTSTANDING EOPS SCHOLARS– Fall 2014 SEMESTER

## President’s List

- Yeraldin Barrera
- Consuelo Barrera Lopez
- Joanna Benitez
- Roberto Bradley
- Mayra Buenrostro
- Cristian Campos
- Camisha Carr
- Sandra Castillo Martinez
- Lapetrious Cook
- Flor Cortes
- Trung Doan
- Maribeth Doyle
- Dulce Flores-Campo
- Eva Gallegos
- Janet Garcia
- Natalie Garcia
- Anaiz Gil Gonzalez
- Edwin Juarez
- Julia Laguna
- Kristyana Lopez
- Lori Murphy
- Desirae Navarro
- Anabel Nunez
- Mayra Reyes-Cruz
- Jessica Rivera
- Jeanette Rubio
- Jacqueline Summers

## Vice President’s List

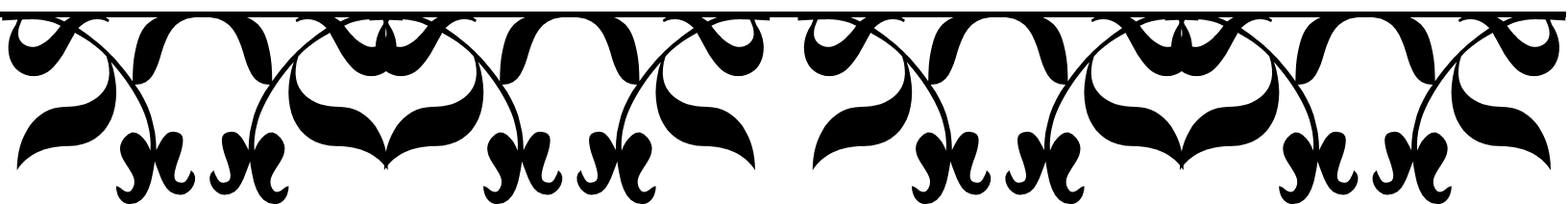
- Mohammad Al-qudsi
- Mirtha Andrade
- Rebecca Ayon
- Jose Barajas
- Heather Bess
- Vladimir Bonilla
- Mayra Carranza
- Daniela Castro
- Clarissa Del Toro
- Alejandro Espinosa
- Pedro Figueroa
- Heather Gibson
- Candace Gonzales
- Icela Guitierrez Cuevas
- Laura Hill
- Tawny Kiss
- Alexis Lopez
- Gabriela Lopez
- Folau Maui
- Johnathan McCann
- Pablo Mendez
- Lizette Mendoza
- Sandra Merino
- Fernando Palma
- Nora Perez
- Vianna Rocha
- Edgar Rodriguez
- Gloria Saldivar Avelar
- Kristy Shafer
- Amber Stimpfle
- Ileana Stokes
- Ashley Tarango
- Zachery Thomson
- Sarah Torres
- Allisa Tweedy
- Jesus Villalpando

### Presidents List Criteria.

1. Twelve or more semester units completed during the semester.
2. Semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.
3. No grade for the semester below a “B”.
4. A grade of “P” in more than 4 semester units.


### Vice Presidents List Criteria.



1. Twelve or more semester units completed during the semester.
2. Semester grade point average of 3.0 or better.
3. No grade for the semester below a “C”.
4. A grade of “P” in more than 4 semester units.





# EOPS Counseling Updates



**FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION WORKSHOPS**  
Bring the following information to complete your application

- FAFSA Pin ([www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)) for student and if applicable for parent (FAFSA)
- Social Security number (FAFSA)
- Driver's License
- Alien Registration number (FAFSA)
- For Independent students: 2014 Federal tax information or tax returns including W-2 or records of untaxed income (TANF, SSI, Veterans) for yourself, for your spouse if you are married
- For Dependent students: Parent(s) 2014 Federal tax information or tax returns including W-2 or records of untaxed income (TANF, SSI, Veterans), parent(s) social security numbers, dates of birth, date of marriage or divorce

**All Workshops will be held in the library in room 311:**

February 5	12-1	March 2	12-1
February 10	11-12	March 11	11-12
February 17	12-1	March 24	12-1
February 23	12-1	April 9	11-12
February 27	12-1	April 24	11-12

A FINANCIAL AID SPECIALIST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS!  
For more information call: 763-7762

**It's Time to Apply for Scholarships!!!**

The Taft College Community Scholarship & CCCSEAAA Student Scholarship packets are available for pick-up at the EOPS front counter as well as the Financial aid front counter.

**Hurry down and apply !!**

There are scholarships for graduates, continuing students, and incoming new students.

**The Taft College Community Scholarship Deadline: Friday March 20, 2015 no later than 4:00 P.M.**  
**CCCSEAAA Student Scholarship Deadline: February 27, 2015**

- **Criteria:** Each scholarship has it's own requirements. For clarification you can contact the Financial Aid Department.
- **There are also additional scholarships that can be accessed on the Taft College Financial Aid website.**

**Financial Aid Contact Information:**  
**(661) 763-7762**

**Don't forget your 3 contacts !!!**

For the SPRING 2015 Semester the last day to make contacts will be May 21, 2015.  
Plan ahead and schedule your contacts throughout the semester.

Contact EOPS/CARE Office: (661) 763-7723

**What Qualifies as a EOPS Contact?**

- Meeting With an EOPS Counselor.
- Phone appointment or email correspondence with an EOPS counselor.
- Turning in a self-registered schedule (During priority registration).
- One contact Credit can be given for meeting with a general counselor if **proper form is returned.**

(Ask front desk for form)

*This guide can help you stay on track.*

**If you make your....**

**First contact by: February 27th**  
**Second Contact by: April 17th**  
**Third Contact by: May 21th**

**You will have your three contacts by the end of the Spring Semester.**

**FALL 2015 CSUB Applicants**

**Don't forget About Your EOP Application!**

Sign up for EOP Program.

1. You must apply to CSUB in CSU MENTOR before starting an EOP application.
2. After your CSUB application is submitted go back online and click on the **EOP application link**. There you can complete the EOP application.
3. Don't forget to fill out **item number 26**. If left blank your application **will not** be considered.
4. **March 2nd** is the deadline for EOP application submission. TC EOPS students need to submit an EOPS Verification form. (Contact TC EOPS for this form)


**Important Dates to Keep in Mind**

Are you thinking of dropping a class or two?

As of **Feb 2nd**, you will receive a "W" on your transcripts for any dropped classes. For **most** classes, with exception to late start classes and some others, the last day to drop with a "W" is **April 6th**.

**If you are unsure of your class specifics, Visit the link below to see exact dates:**

[http://www.taftcollege.edu/student\\_services/pdf/class\\_schedules/Deadlines\\_for\\_Spring\\_Add\\_Drops.pdf](http://www.taftcollege.edu/student_services/pdf/class_schedules/Deadlines_for_Spring_Add_Drops.pdf)





## Extended Opportunity Program and Services

Taft College is committed to the outreach, success, and retention of college student. The EOPS Program is designed to assist students from educational and socioeconomic disadvantaged backgrounds. The goals of the EOPS Program are to prepare students to transfer to four-year universities, complete an Associate Degree, or achieve a vocational certificate.

## Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education

CARE serves as an educational support/assistance program for single head-of-household parents who are participants of the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs)/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).



**EOPS/CARE**  
Coordinator/Counselor

Lourdes Gonzalez  
661-763-7830  
lgonzalez@taftcollege.edu



**EOPS/CARE**  
Counselor

Chris Flachmann  
661-763-7858  
cflachmann@taftcollege.edu



**EOPS/CARE**  
Temporary Senior Secretary

Rodolfo Noriega  
661-763-7723  
rnoriega@taftcollege.edu

# SPRING 2015 Taft College Academic Calendar

Evening Appointments with EOPS	March 17th
Community Scholarship packets due at 4 pm	March 20th
Spring Break	March 27th and return Monday April 6th
EOPS Summer and Fall Priority Registration	April 8th
Evening Appointments with EOPS	April 14th
Deadline to turn in Graduation Application for AA/AS	April 15th
Dead Day	May 14th
EOPS/CARE & Cal WORKs Luncheon	May 14th
Final Exams	May 15th—May 21st
<b>Graduation Day</b>	<b>May 22nd</b>
Summer Classes Start	June 8th—Aug 14th

**Taft Community College District Board of Trustees**  
Emmanuel Campos, Dawn Cole, Michael Long, Kal Vaughn, Billy White  
Taft College: Dena P. Maloney, Ed. D., Superintendent/President