

2016 Soroptimist Award Recipients

Since 1972, the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards Program (formerly the Women's Opportunity Awards) has disbursed more than \$30 million to tens of thousands of women who has overcome poverty, domestic and sexual violence, divorce, the death of a spouse, or other life challenges. They are women—just like you, who had the courage and determination to turn their lives around.

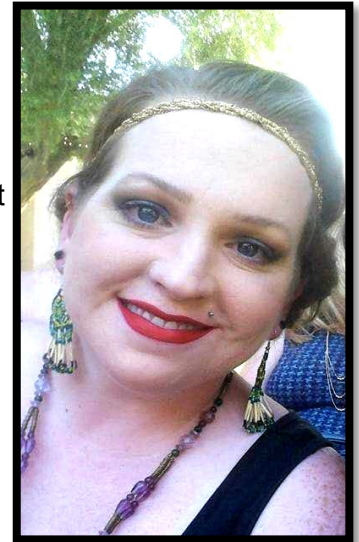


Tawny Kiss

Sometimes, I feel like people become bitter and feel victimized by the cards they are dealt with in their life. But changing your whole outlook and attitude will help motivate you to be a survivor and not a victim. My boys are my main motivation and I know my dedication and hard work will pay off. I have had some set backs such as my mother passing away last summer but I'm starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel...Life is good!

Two years ago I felt like all odds were against me. My life felt like it was spinning out of control. I felt like I was a failure because I felt trapped by a toxic marriage, not knowing what the future would hold being a single mother of a toddler and a new born. I witnessed my family's mistakes and I didn't want to repeat any unhealthy cycles. Not having any family support, I knew that I was alone and it was up to me to make a difference in my life.

My existence is a complicated one to say the least. I am the youngest of 4 children and the only girl. I come from a blended family with 3 older brothers. As a child, I always did well in school and made year round honor roll until high school. During that time my asthma became unbearable and I missed a lot of school which resulted in me not graduating. At the time I was staying home with my parents to help my mother take care of my father, who was very ill.



Ruth McCarthy

My mother also suffers from physical disabilities. Also, dealing with my older brothers was not an easy task. All three of my brothers had problems with drugs and alcohol. At 15, I was molested by someone very close to my family and it put me in a deep depression. Then at 18, I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and spent months very ill, until the doctors were able to get me into remission. After I was married, it turned out that my husband was a very severe alcoholic.

In August of 2013 my husband almost died, from alcohol abuse where which he almost bled to death from esophageal var-aces. He now has full cirrhosis of the liver and is unable to work. With his inability to work, it has put a strain on us financially and emotionally. Proudly, he has not had a drink in over two years and things are getting better. Our finances are still small, as he is not yet been approved for social security. I hope this helps better understand my situation and life, it is all true and from the heart.

EOPS Students of the Month



Nura Chacon

AA-T Psychology
AA-T Sociology

I was a drug addict for 17 years, and I was in and out of prison on numerous occasions for drug-related crimes. The last time I was sent to prison, I decided I was tired of the life I was living, and choose not to use any drugs while I was there. I chose to do a treatment program while incarcerated. I spent those three and a half years in prison trying to change my way of thinking and doing things. I also spent my time learning tools to stay sober once I was released.

When was released from prison, I began my journey at Taft College less than a month later. I will have six years clean in July, and I am determined to become a drug counselor. I want to be a role model and show other addicts it is possible to change their lives. I graduate in May with an A.A. in Psychology and Sociology and will be transferring to CSUB in the fall. I have a cumulative GPA of 3.95, and I have been an honor member of the President's List every semester since I started at Taft College. I have worked as a Student Math Tutor and SIA, and I am currently the leader of my team of peer mentors here at Taft College.



Jesus Garza

AA-T History

My name is Jesus Garza. I have attended Taft College since the Spring of 2013. I will graduate with honors in the Spring of 2016 and transfer to CSUB in the Fall of 2016. During my time at Taft College, I participated in the work study program since Fall of 2013, working as a student worker for Professor of History, Jennifer Altenhofel. I am in the CalWORKS, EOPS program, as well as a member of PTK.

I will be the first person from my family to graduate from college. I have been married for 11 years and have 4 kids. My major is History and I plan to use my degree to be a teacher at the high school level. Graduating from Taft College is a huge accomplishment for me. I know walking the stage on graduation night will bring inspiration to my children to follow in my footsteps. My time here at TC has been amazing and something that I will always treasure.

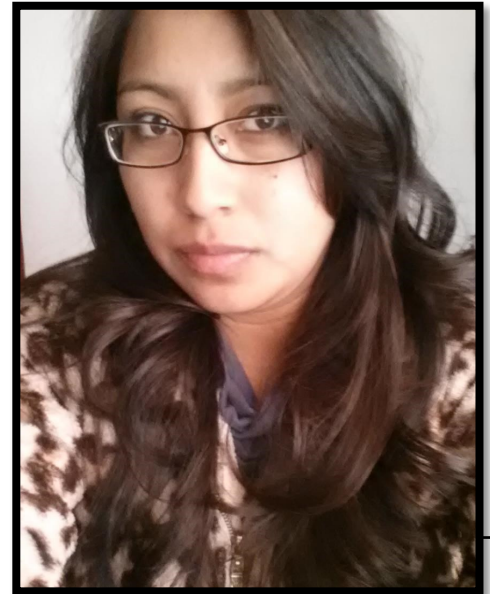
Go Cougars!!!



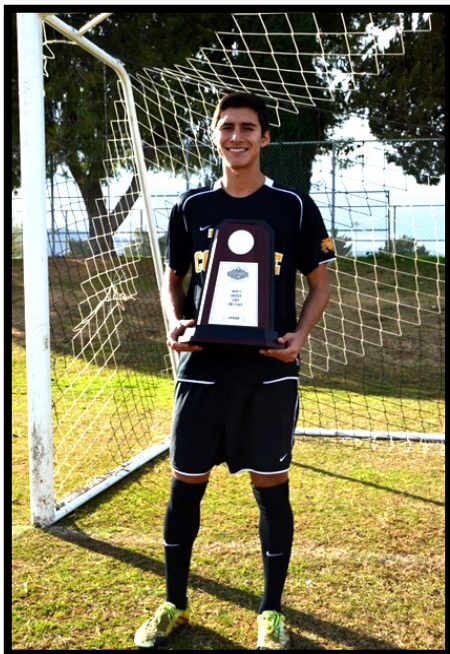
EOPS Students of the Month

Hi, my name is Elvira Garcia. I have been attending Taft College for the past two and a half years. Although, after graduating high school I attended BC but dropped after one semester and started working to help my family out. After graduating from high school, my biggest dream was to attend college and receive a higher education. After working a few years, I finally decided that it was time to return to school. Once returning to college, I thought it was going to take a while but now here I am. I'll be graduating this semester with an AS in Accounting, AA in Business Administration and I will also receive two certificates. Throughout my two and a half years here at TC, I have been recognized academically on the Vice President's list and President's list. I feel really proud of myself and I know my family is too.

I will be the first in my family to be graduating from college. After graduating, I will be transferring to CSUB where I will be completing my Bachelor's degree. I want thank my family for helping me out along the way and encouraging me to continue because it could be very stressful at times but nothing is impossible if we just work hard. My parents always tell me, "to have something good we have to work hard for it." I would also like to thank EOPS and Lourdes for all the help she has given me ever since I became a student member of EOPS.



Elvira Garcia
AA-Business Administration
AS-Accounting



Daniel Ortiz
AA-Liberal Arts Health &
Physical Education

My name is Daniel Ortiz; I was born in El Paso, Texas, but raised in Mexico. I went to school in Mexico until my sophomore year of high school. Eventually, I attended Ysleta High School in El Paso my junior and senior years, where I played varsity soccer. I decided to move to California in order to play soccer at the next level, which lead me to a great program at Taft College. I've been a student-athlete here at Taft College both my freshman and sophomore years.

During my entire time at Taft College, I've been keeping a GPA above 3.0. I obtained a scholarship during my freshman year that covered my out-of-state tuition. My main goal after graduating from Taft College is to attend UCLA. I'm interested in becoming a physical therapist one day, so I need a program that will give me the preparation I need to gain acceptance into a graduate-level physical therapy degree program. My desire is to outstand both academically and athletically at the next school as I did here at Taft.

CARE Student of the Month



Heather Gibson

AS- Administrative Services
AA- Liberal Arts; Business &
Office Technology

My name is Heather, and I am double majoring here at TC, and hoping to graduate this spring with two degrees. I have been at TC for three years starting off in remedial classes, and now I am taking transferable classes and looking forward to graduating. I am a full-time student and I work part time in the EOPS department as a Peer Mentor. I love every minute of it. Also, I am an EOPS/CARE, DSPS, PTK, CALWORKS, and TRIO student. I have learned a lot from my experiences at TC. I have learned more than the knowledge taught from my classes; honestly, I have acquired a new set of social skills, time management skills, and personal traits such as: persistence, perseverance, courage, and teamwork. All these traits have influenced not only in my professional life, but my personal life as well. After my classes and fulfilling my hours at work, I go home to four thriving and eager children whom seek my attention and keep me busy.

I am blessed to have been able to influence my children to perform better in their studies and their athletic activities. They will be an image of my success, so I encourage them to reach for the stars and let nothing limit them to fulfilling their dreams. I have learned this from my experiences at Taft College, and I share that with my children at home. None of this would have been so easy without the programs incorporated at TC.

I appreciate all that Taft College, its programs, and their accommodations have to offer. All of the benefits that I have be blessed with have made my quest for education a pleasant and humble experience. I can't imagine a better experience than mine. I have overcome many obstacles and continue to achieve every goal set here at TC. The last three years is all worth the fight as I will be walking across that stage receiving my degrees in May. A quick thank you Taft College, EOPS/CARE, CALWORKS, TRIO, DSPS, and Financial Aid! I couldn't have done it without you all.



EOPS Alumni Class of 2013

My name is Krystal Allikas, I am currently the CalWORKs Technician for the Taft College CalWORKs Program and former EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs and TRIO student.

My journey at Taft College began about six years ago when I was a recent divorcee and single mother of three children. For a year I had a total of five part time jobs at which I worked two, sometimes three, at once. None of them offered much for advancement or pay increase. I decided to go to college after becoming unemployed and frustrated at the thought of more part time, minimum wage work that could not provide enough financial support for my family.

I started classes in the spring semester of 2011. A couple weeks later, I was offered a 10 hour per week federal work study position by one of the counselors, Candace Duron. About six months later Candace became the CalWORKs Coordinator and encouraged me to participate in CalWORKs and work 32 hours a week through the CalWORKs work study as the CalWORKs Assistant. I did, even though I had previously applied for CalWORKs and was sanctioned because a CalWORKs Social Worker with the Department of Human Services said I didn't need education, the department wouldn't support it, and that I just needed to get another job. These words from the social worker became my driving force when working to provide the assistance and support to every CalWORKs student attending Taft College. I do this so that they can become successful in their goals for themselves and for their families.

While working as the CalWORKs Assistant I was juggling working, a full time schedule, two kids in elementary school, and a 3-year-old. I then met my current fiancé who has four children of his own within the same age range. This added to my already full plate. I still have no idea how I managed to earn two degrees and a certificate in the summer of 2013, but I did.

After earning my degrees in Liberal Arts: Business & Technology and Liberal Arts: Communication and successfully working within the CalWORKs Program, I was offered a temporary position as the CalWORKs Technician that included a pay increase. I was very excited to see my education pay off in a job that I enjoy doing. In less than 2 years I became the permanent CalWORKs Technician.

Today I am still assisting CalWORKs students where I routinely refer them to the EOPS program. I am working towards career opportunities at Taft College and plan to continue my education and earn a bachelor's degree.



Krystal Allikas

AA- Liberal Arts: Business & Office Technology

AA- Liberal Arts: Communication



EOPS Alumni Class of 2013

Haku Hilpo! Nancy Marie Landreth nitiwane. Greetings in my native language of Kitanemuk. Let me start by telling you all a little about myself. I am a thirty five year old woman from The Tejon Indian Tribe of California. I am married and have three children, Mauricio who is seventeen, Isabella who is eight, and Adelina who is two. I want to thank EOPS for asking me to be featured in their newsletter. I appreciate the EOPS program, and all the guidance and services that were offered to me while I was a student at Taft College. I was a teenage mother who did not complete high school. I overcame the struggles of addiction that controlled my life for eight years. This past February marked my ninth year of being a recovering addict. Education helped me overcome my lack of self-esteem and self-confidence that kept me from recognizing my true potential as a human being.



Nancy Landreth

AS- General Business

AA- Liberal Arts: Business and Technology

I was the first in four generations to attend college, so I am excited to share with you a summary of my educational goals and my life aspirations. I enrolled in the GED completion program at Taft College. This is where the “magic” happened for me! Being back in the classroom setting sparked something inside me that had been lost for years. Completion of my GED gave me a new outlook and determination in life and it helped me decide to continue my education. I enrolled as a traditional full time student at Taft College in the spring of 2011. I graduated with honors, and received my AA degree in General Business, as well as an AS in Business and Technology here at Taft College in the spring of 2013. I work tirelessly balancing my life between, home, work, and school. I carried a full load of 12 or more units, and maintained an overall GPA of 3.0 each semester. I am also proud to share that I made the President’s List at Taft College for two semesters, as well as Vice President’s list for one semester.

I worked as a student worker in Student Services while studying at TC, which gave me the skills and experience I needed to land my current position as the Taft College TRIO Technician. In the time that I was a college student I really became aware and had a new found understanding of the value in education. It’s something that I am determined to share with my own children and others in my tribal community. After completing my associate degree I was ready for transfer, but due to my daughter’s diagnosis of Crohn’s disease I had to postpone my studies in order to focus on her needs and getting her to a place of remission. I am over the moon to say my daughter is finally in remission, two years later. I am finally in a good position to continue with my educational goals of obtaining a Bachelor’s degree in Business. My future hopes are to use my college education to help develop our tribe into a vital business partner within our non-tribal community. I also have a strong desire to, someday, be able to teach Business based courses within our tribal community, so that our Tribe can continue to flourish for future generations to come.



Outstanding EOPS Scholars Fall 2015

President's List

Katelyn Anderson
Joanna Benitez
Natalie Bradshaw
Johndee Bulter
Anthony Cameron
Sandra Castillo Martinez
Nura Chacon
Trung Doan
Van Doan
Dulce Flores– Campoa
Heather Gibson
Candace Gonzales
Jhovanni Guzman
Bryan Henriquez Rivera
Erik Jauregui
Brittany Martinez
Johnathan McCann
Ruth McCarthy
Pablo Mendez
Katelyn Morrow
Alberto Muro
Frances Ocampo
Bianca Palos
Kierstin Peltz
Valerie Pena
Jessica Plascencia
Mayra Reyes Cruz
Marta Robles
Adrienne Ruibal
Randiel Sasi
Haley Schlechta
Katelyn Smith
Jacueline Summers
Nashel Tena
Thomas Tucker

Vice President's List

Melissa Avina
Terry Campbell
Etelvina Castillo
Daniela Castro
Gabriela Cruz
Duyen Doan
Tien Doan
Camei Dotson
Alejandro Espinosa
Jesus Fraaire Vidal
Anaiz Gil Gonzalez
Carolina Gomez
Maria Guerrero
Yoobin Hong
Pawanpreet Kaur
April Lopez
Ruby Lozano
Eduardo Lujan
Maria Magana
Mariela Navarrete
Alisha Newman
Juan Ochoa
Nadene Oiterong
Jason Portillo
Jessica Rivera
Ana Rodriguez
Jessica Salazar
Juliana Salazar
Joshua Sanchez
Oscar Serrato
Hirdeyjeet Singh
Ileana Stokes
Shanti Taylor
Brenda Valenzuela
Abelulia Xancale

Presidents List Criteria

1. *Twelve or more semester units completed during the semester.*
2. *Semester Grade point average of 3.50 or higher.*
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.*

Campus Activities



Graduation Timeline Important Information for Graduates 2015-2016

March 14–April 15: Grad Fair will be hosted at the Taft College Bookstore. Preorder your Graduation Regalia.

March 18: Taft College Community Scholarship Application packets due to the Financial Aid Office by 4:00 PM.

April 15: Deadline to order cap and gown regalia packages at the Taft College Bookstore.

May 4-20: Regalia packages are available for pick-up in the Taft College Bookstore **no later than 1:00 PM on May 20 — Graduation Day.**

May 20: Rehearsal for commencement is at 5:45 PM at Martin Memorial Stadium — Taft Union High School. All graduates must be present if participating in commencement. Commencement ceremony will immediately follow rehearsal. Graduates will need to report for commencement dressed in cap and gown.

May 20: Commencement begins at 7:00 PM at Martin Memorial Stadium Taft Union High School.

GRAD FAIR

*Preorder your Graduation Regalia at the
Taft College Bookstore*

or

*Online at the bookstore website
bookstore.taftcollege.edu*

March 14th - April 15th

Receive a 10% discount with your TC ASB Sticker
by placing your order early from March 14 - March 18th !

* purchase upon pickup option available

- **Cougar Package—\$119.99**

Includes: Cap, Gown, Tassel, Stole, 10 Announcements, TC Zipper Pull Medallion and Hawaiian KuKui Nut Necklace

∞

- **Gold Package—\$109.99**

Includes: Cap, Gown, Tassel, Stole, 10 Announcements and TC Zipper Pull Medallion

∞

- **Black Package—\$99.99**

Includes: Cap, Gown, Tassel, Stole and 10 Announcements

∞

- **Basic Package—\$69.99**

Includes: Cap, Gown, Tassel and 10 Announcements

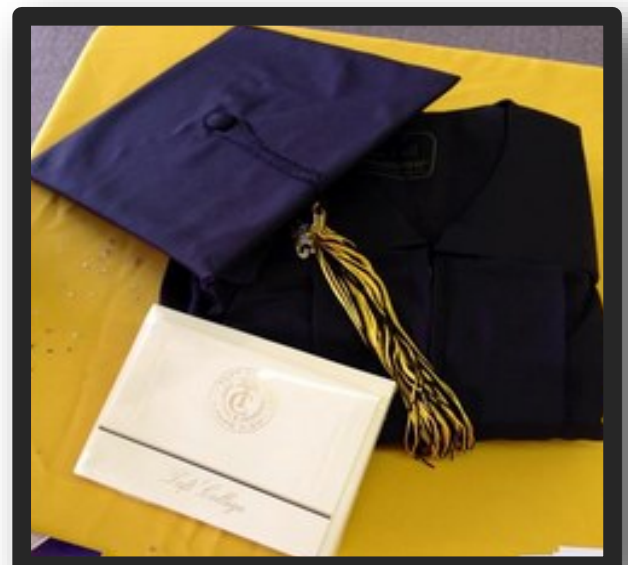
*All regalia is also available separately.
Commencement Ceremony May 20, 2016*

Taft College Bookstore
515 Finley Drive
Taft, CA 93268
(661)763-7731
bookstore.taftcollege.edu

UCSB

JOIN US IN TOURING UC SANTA BARBARA
WEDNESDAY, May 4TH
An all-day event, provided by Taft College Student Services

TRIO | CalWORKS | EOPS | STEM



Campus Activities



MARCH 15TH 11-12 COUGAR ROOM PROCRASTINATION TIME MANGEMENT

Procrastination Prevention/Time Management

Come to the procrastination prevention/ time management session on March 15th in the Cougar Room. You will learn how to avoid procrastination, tap into organizational skills and understand how procrastination can affect your college time-line. Call 763-7723 to reserve your spot today! Seating is limited.



**Procrastination/
Time Management
Help**

Learn how to
avoid
procrastination

Learn
organizational
skills

Procrastination
can affect your
college success

Reserve your spot
today! Call
763-7723

PROCRASTINATION/ TIME MANGEMENT

Taft College
29 Cougar Court
Taft, CA 93268
763-7723

March 15th 11-12
Cougar Room

EOPS Counseling Contacts

3 required per semester: 2 with an EOPS counselor & 1 with a peer mentor (if there are no changes to ED plan).

1st Contact

January 18th-February 19th

A contact session which combines interview and other interpretation of assessment results to prepare a student's educational plan and mutual responsibility contact specifying what programs and services the student shall receive and what the student is expected to accomplish.

2nd Contact

February 22nd–April 1st

(with either peer mentor or counselor.)

* Progress checks*

An in-term contact session to insure the student is succeeding adequately, that programs and services are being provided effectively and to plan changes as may be needed to enhance student success.

3rd Contact

April 4th-May 20th

A term-end or program exit contact session's purpose is to assess the success of students in reaching the objectives of that term. Also, to provide services to assist students to prepare for the following term and/or to make future plans to transfer.



Hours of Operation:

Mon-Thurs: 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Fri: 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Font Desk Phone: 661-763-7938

Email :learningcenter@taftcollege.edu

Learning Center Services

Math Lab: Taft College provides a dedicated Math Lab where students are guided by classified staff and student tutors. Math faculty are also available in the lab for 10 hours per week. Computers and calculators are available for student use, and Math class printing is free in the Math Lab for TC students. Help is available with My MathLab.com and homework. Individual tutoring appointments are also available for further explanation of math concepts addressed in class.

Writing and Language Lab: The Taft College Writing and Language Lab provides a quiet environment where students can work on class assignments and papers. Computers and a printer are provided for student use. Classified staff and student tutors are available to help with a variety of issues including formatting, grammar, sentence structure, and provide resources for student success.

EOPS/CARE Peer Mentor Corner

Heather Gibson

“Follow your dreams and you shall be one of the wealthiest people in the world, for those riches are not valued by the amount of money in your pockets but by the courage in your heart.”

~ Unknown

Tawny Kiss

Advice: Do not let one class that you didn't do so well in dictate your original goal. Never underestimate yourself because that's when you cheat yourself.

April Lopez

Students Should Know...

There is help in the library such as tutors for different subjects.

Different programs to assist students: EOPS/CARE, DSPS, CALWORKS, TRIO, Career/Transfer Center, Financial Aid

Scholarships available at financial aid for those who apply.

Camei Dotson

Tips to be successful:

- Read your textbook before class so you have a working knowledge of the material.
- Do not procrastinate.
- Stay up on your homework



Left to Right : Camei Dotson, Heather Gibson, Tawny Kiss, April Lopez

2015-2016 EOPS/CARE STAFF



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Camei Dotson
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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:

8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Friday:

7:30 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.

Board of Trustees

Billy White (President), Kal Vaughn (Secretary), Emmanuel Campos, Dawn Cole, Michael Long

Interim Superintendent/President

Brock McMurray