

TAFT COLLEGE EOPS | CARE | CALWORKS *newsletter*

SPRING 2019



TRANSFER SCHOOLS @ TC!

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March 18th
April 3rd & 24th
May 7th

March 13th & 26th
April 10th & 23rd
May 8th

March 21st
April 25th
May 9th

Meet Our **NEW PEER MENTOR**

Jourdan Thompson



Hello, my name is Jourdan Thompson and I am the newest peer mentor for the EOPS department. I have been attending Taft College since January 2018, and am on track to graduate Fall 2019. I am majoring in Life Science and Allied Health. I am hoping to be accepted into the Dental Hygiene program in the Spring of 2020. Working in the EOPS department is exciting because I am able to be an advocate for my fellow students for a program that I truly believe helps change lives!

UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 11— Apr. 5: Grad Fair at TC Bookstore, 8am-5pm

Mar. 15: Community Scholarship packets due to Financial Aid office by 4pm

April 1: Priority Registration for Summer & Fall 2019 begins.

April 15-19: Spring Break – **NO CLASS**

May 16: EOPS/CARE/ CalWORKs End of Year Celebration — *Save the date!*

May 24: Taft College Commencement Ceremony, 7pm at Taft Union H.S.





OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

2019

Idalia Estrada



My personal write-up that highlights my academic achievements are passing my classes and earning a good grade that meets my standards. Because of those highlights I was awarded with a scholarship and grants that makes the hard work pay off at the end. My future goals after graduating from Taft College is to transfer to CSUB and receive my bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Once I do that, I plan to go to the California Highway Patrol academy and graduate, and of course, pursue the career job as a CHP. I do have a backup plan, which is to become a California Border Patrol officer if it doesn't turn out to be what I set first. But it must be something in the law enforcement career.

Maria Lopez Gonzalez



Hello, my name is Maria Lopez Gonzalez, and I'm a first generation college student. My parents have bestowed upon me a strong work ethic. They, as well as my four younger siblings, have been a big motivation to do my best in school to be able to succeed. I have been taking classes at Taft College since my junior year at Taft Union High School in pursuit of an English degree. That experience has given me skills such as organization, dedication, and time management. Those abilities have helped me get highest honors in high school as well as keeping my GPA up here at Taft College. I will be transferring to CSUB this fall to work on earning my bachelors in English. My goal is to receive my bachelors to then be able to have a career at a book publishing company. My love for reading has greatly inspired my career choice.

Francisco Espinoza



Hello, my name is Francisco J Espinoza and I will be graduating Taft College this year with a degree in Kinesiology. This was my third year at Taft College where I was a full time every semester while working either part time or full time. I've had a GPA above 3.0 the last three semesters here and plan to continue that for my last semester before graduation. I plan to transfer to a CSU in the fall and continue my goal to obtaining my Bachelor's and Master's and hopefully become a successful Physical Therapist.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

2019

Megan Wade



When I began my pursue of a college degree, I never really had much of a set goal. I knew I wanted to pursue a degree in the Arts, but I bounced around so many different career ideas. I thought about being a Curator, and I worked in the Taft College Art Gallery for a couple of semesters. I quickly changed my mind when I had to take Art History and saw how much memorization was involved. I finally settled with being a Graphic Designer. I graduated from Taft College with an Associates in Studio Arts for Transfer. I want to major in Graphic Design and minor in Illustration at CSUB. My career goal is to design book covers for a publishing agency. I am currently working as a Graphic Designer for the West Side Recreation & Park District. I am also working for Taft College as a Security Officer on the weekends. I would not be where I am today if it was not for those at Taft

College who helped me. As a single mother, a job and school is almost impossible to juggle. I can't thank enough those who where there pushing me forward. Because of them, I am able to walk across the stage in May.

Vanessa Uribe



I graduated from Taft Union High School in June of 2016 with honors and began attending Taft College in the Fall of '16. Since attending Taft College, I have been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, enrolled in the EOPS program and invited into The National Society of Leadership and Success. For the last two years, I have worked here at Taft College as a Chemistry tutor and it is my favorite thing to do. Taft College has connected me with numerous instructors, counselors and students, and I am forever grateful. My goal is to graduate here, and transfer to CSUB for the nursing program to receive my BSN and then later become a nurse practitioner. Nursing is my main educational goal,

but if I don't get in I would really love to work towards a teaching credential because I love tutoring my students. If I pursue a teaching career, my goal is to become a professor.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

2019

Delyn Callaway



My name is Delyn Callaway and I graduated from Taft College in summer of 2018 with an A.S. in Life Science and an A.A. in Natural Life Science. I am the mother of two little boys, ages 9 and 4. When I began at Taft College, I was 7 months pregnant with my youngest son. I had recently lost my job and my home and had to move from Ventura to Taft to stay with relatives. My mother passed away in 2012, so I did not have much in the way of guidance. I needed a way to support my family and knew that getting an education would be the best way to make sure I could do that long term.

My first semester, my son was born a month before finals and I still finished at the top of my classes. I also earned a spot on the Vice President's List. I had started with a computer science major but ended up changing to Business. A semester later, I changed it to Accounting. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I was sitting on the couch one day with my son, watching TV when a commercial came on about working with animals. I thought to myself, "I wish I could do something like that." I have always loved animals and had a lot of experience already working with them. My next thought was, "Why can't I?" I chose Biology, and that was the major that fit me. I enjoyed the science classes and was finally working towards something I was passionate about.

I joined EOPS and ended up working as a Peer Mentor. I am not sure how I would have made it through to the end without the support of the people of this program. It was something I had been missing since my mom had passed away. In 2017, I joined the STEM club and became the Vice President. Then in the summer of 2018, I received my degrees. I started at CSUB this spring semester pursuing my B.S. in Biology and hope to one day work in endangered wildlife conservation.

Sabrina Garza



My name is Sabrina Adelina Garza. I graduated from Stockdale High School in 2017 and began my journey at Taft College the following fall 2017 semester. Although I started off at a rocky start, I have come a long way in my two years being at Taft. I have played the cello for 9 years and am very interested in photography as well as art such as drawing and painting. I am very grateful to be a part of EOPS at Taft College as both the college and the program have a lot of benefits to offer students to truly help them thrive for success.