On Feb 9th Native American author Charles Twist shared his family’s journey, starting with the time of the removal from their homeland, and continuing to the current conditions for Native Americans. Professors Carlson and Kerr and the Intermediate Reading 1005 hosted the event in the Cougar Room. The event was graciously funded by the Taft College Foundation.

On March 16th Professors Carlson and Rodenhauser hosted an evening of creativity in the Art Gallery with the theme of Resurrecting the Values of a Forgotten People.

A third event will be held on April 6th—Celebrating the Music of a Forgotten People from 12-1 p.m. in the Quad.
California Department of Education, Child Development Division conducted state review on the Taft College Children’s Center. The Summary of Findings Fiscal Year 2016-2017, 6 Key Dimension for a total of 20 sub-dimensions resulted in the center meeting and exceeding 16 components and 4 needing enhancement. As an agency the Error Rate Percentage was 5%, and 95% Non-Error for total state operational accountability.

*The Teacher’s Lesson plans, student assessments and student educational profiles exceeded state requirements.

*The educational classrooms environment in which over 1,700 items were evaluated resulted in the center meeting state requirements.

* Component, “Parents, staff, students and community members participates in developing, implementing and evaluating core and categorical programs,” were commended due to Taft College Children’s Center ability to provide valuable community services to a rural and remote geographical area that reflects a high need.
Taft Health Fair to Serve the Community

Taft College is among a list of sponsors to continue the annual Taft Health Fair. The Rotary Club of Taft organizes the event and looks to serve the community in a variety of ways each year. There will be free child immunizations, free consultations for a wide variety of health issues, and low cost testing for comprehensive blood chemistry and prostate cancer.

The event will be held at Buena Vista High School on Saturday, April 22nd from 8 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.

Taft College has been a continuous sponsor for the Health Fair.

Facilities Update—Growth Continues

As you all can see, the Student Center Project is progressing. We are currently finishing up the over-excavation of the site in preparation to lay underground utilities and import structurally adequate soils. The next steps will be the laying of underground utilities, final grading, and concrete foundations.

The Gym Reroofing project is on its second phase. This project consists of work to reroof the existing upper gym roof and portions of the lower roof. Work commenced on February 27 and is near completion. This project is funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Scheduled Maintenance Funds.

Employees Give Back: Foundation Event Celebrates Giving

Taft College Foundation hosted an event to celebrate employees giving back to TC students. Each month employees have chosen to donate through monthly payroll deductions towards programs on campus. This February the Foundation held the Day of Giving ice cream social to thank employees for their continued efforts.

While the event highlighted the opportunity to give, employees can do so anytime they choose. Just contact the Foundation office if you have any questions.

Currently, 31 employees are monthly contributors!

Making College Happen

Students Educating Future Students on Future Planning

Taft College Outreach brought representation to the College Making It Happen event hosted at CSU Bakersfield recently. The event educates attendees in the importance of early academic and financial planning by providing student panelists. The student panelists share their personal information as well as assist in holding workshops for future college candidates. Taft College had strong representation at the event with the presence of:

◊ Bailey Schooler
◊ Nancy Reynaga
◊ Luz Lopez
◊ Leah McDonald
◊ Aliya Chapman
◊ Rileigh Hutchins
◊ Jenny Nunez
◊ Jasmin Figueroa
◊ Lea Graham
◊ Liz Greynolds
◊ Cristal Gurrola
◊ Alexander Victoria
Employees Take Advantage of Health Screenings

On February 28th SISC was on campus providing health screenings to Taft College employees in the Cougar Room. There were a total of 80 employees signed up. The health screenings included total cholesterol and HDL, blood pressure and pulse, blood glucose, body mass index and other key ratios. SISC visits many campuses across Kern County in an effort to educate people in preventative care.

Grad Fair 2017

It is almost that time of year again to prepare for the May Graduation Commencement Ceremony. The Taft College Bookstore is holding their annual Grad Fair from March 13th to April 7th for student and faculty regalia purchase and rental. Student orders must be placed by April 7th. Faculty orders must have been placed by March 31st. There is no price increase from last year. If you have any questions, please contact the Taft College Bookstore at 763-7731.

Professor Grimes Passes Doctoral Comprehensive Exams

Professor Jessica Grimes is leading by example. Grimes recently passed her oral and written doctoral exams on literature and criticism with DISTINCTION. The English professor is already and active member of the TC faculty, participating in and out of the classroom in a variety of functions. The Office of Instruction would like to recognize Professor Grimes for her efforts in her own education, as well.