

DECEMBER 2023



Taft College Employee of the Month

Alexis Ramirez, TIL Program Direct Support Coordinator was named November Employee of the Month.

**WAY TO GO,
ALEXIS!**

Taft College Art Exhibition and Gallery Reception for Studio Student-Artists



On November 30, Taft College students studying Studio Art unveiled their final projects in the T-11 Art Gallery at 3:00 p.m. For three hours, visitors from campus and the community sampled hors d'oeuvres and cookies as they perused colorful paintings and drawings in the gallery. *Great work, artists! Well done.*



STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

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Taft Oil-Technology Academy BBQ Meeting

On November 29, Fred Holmes invited community members to the West Side Recreation and Park District for a BBQ dinner and an American Association of Drilling Engineers Student Section Technical Forum. Alex Holmes, Operations Manager, Holmes Western Oil Corporation was the keynote speaker. Thank you, Fred and Barbara for leading this work!





Chamber of Commerce's Taft Christmas Parade

Superintendent/President Brock McMurray, his family, and their dog, Miley maneuvered the Taft College ASO-led parade group entry that featured CTE Staff, Dental Hygiene Professors and Students, as well as TIL Program Staff and Students along Center Street on December 4. The ASO won second place group by depicting the theme, "Santa Paws."





EOPS Reindeer Games

The EOPS Team's annual Reindeer Games took place on December 5. Students wanted to have some fun before their finals, compete in clever games, and enjoy pizza. Each student who attended also walked away with a prize, but Lakeyshia McGill (*left*) won the TV donated by ASO and Lauren Gutierrez (*below*) won one of the mini projector baskets donated by the Taft College Foundation!





Fall 2023 Open House

Taft College sponsored an event on December 6 to connect prospective students, future Cougars, and parents with Taft College staff and current students to learn about their campus experiences. Attendees were treated to a DJ, a photo booth, visits with Santa, tamales, tacos, and opportunity drawings every 15 minutes. Help with applying and registering for Spring Semester classes was also available.





President McMurray Hosts Student Lunch on 12/7

Superintendent/President Brock McMurray truly enjoys talking with students about their experiences at Taft College. He likes to learn first hand how the college is meeting their educational needs and where they think we should improve. A product of a community college education himself, Brock knows very well how to successfully address pain points.



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY



Taft College Foundation Christmas Party

On December 7, Taft College Foundation Staff, Taft College Foundation Board Members, Taft College Trustees, Taft College Staff, and Taft College Emeritus Leaders gathered at Stockdale Country Club to celebrate the holiday season and the accomplishments of the Taft College Foundation. The Taft College Foundation has raised over \$14 million under Executive Director Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk since 2009.



Black Student Union (BSU) Dinner

On December 7, Vice President of Student Services Dr. Damon Bell and Dean of Student Services Cecilia Alvarado held a dinner for current students who showed interest in officially convening a Black Student Union at Taft College. Hosted by Dean Alvarado at her home, the event provided an opportunity to further explore all the particulars of formalizing a BSU at Taft College.

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Holiday Potluck and Ugly Sweater Contest

On December 12, Faculty and Staff brought their prepared dishes to the dining hall for a holiday party, potluck meal, Bingo, "Simon Says" games, and an Ugly Sweater contest. Board President Billy White (*left*) lost to Renee Ginther's "grandma" who got run over by a reindeer (*below*), a collaborative effort with Nathan Cahoon's "reindeer."



WSPA Associates San Joaquin Valley Holiday Party in Sundale

On December 12 at the Petroleum Club, the WSPA Holiday Party raised funds for the Taft College Foundation. Brock McMurray met a woman who had worked for his father's company in Louisiana.

