

MAY 2023



Taft College Employee of the Month

Instructional Technician **Jeanene Garcia** was named April Employee of the Month. *Congratulations!*

GO JEANENE!

Taft Chamber of Commerce Showcases Education and Energy at State of the City Luncheon



On April 27, the Taft Chamber of Commerce held its annual State of the City Luncheon at the Taft Transit Center. Taft City School District Superintendent Dr. Lori Slaven, Taft Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Jason Hodgson, and Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray sequentially delivered updates on their respective Districts. Supervisor Zack Scrivner, Mayor Dave Noerr, and California Resources Corporation Director of Governmental and External Affairs Joe Ashley shared their respective thoughts on the energy business.



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY

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Taft College Retirement Dinner Brings Several Back to Campus

On April 27, Taft College celebrated its retiree family with great fanfare and emotional tributes. Office of the President Executive Assistant Sarah Criss created lovely photo memories of retirees who could attend in person. Those who couldn't attend were also recognized. Retirees honored included Lisa Adema, Jill Brown, Pilar Gutierrez, Kathleen Helms, Cynthia Johns, Christopher Jones, Diane Jones, Kevin Kasper, Olga Newlove, Paula Patterson, Mary Perales, Steven Richards, Kathy Schock, Lee Schryver, Tony Thompson, Victoria Waugh, and Michaela White.



Superintendent/President Invites Students to Lunch on May 2

Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray invited students to lunch and to share their experiences directly with him in the Student Center on Student Appreciation Day, May 2. This event creates a dialog between students and the CEO of the college, as well as underscores ways to best support students in their unique journeys. Students gathered around Superintendent/President McMurray who wants them to feel his personal support! ASO leaders took charge of distributing the lunches.

**MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY**



Taft JOB FEST Held in Student Center

On May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the Community of Taft was invited to a Job Fair set up by Job Fest Kern in the Taft College Student Center. Local employers participated with some even interviewing on the spot. Job Fest Kern plans a return as feedback was very positive!



Two Taft College Students Honored by Soroptimist International of Taft

On May 9, Soroptimist International of Taft held its 30th Annual Young Women of Achievement and Woman of the Year event. Taft College students Emma MacKinnon and Amber Andrew were named Young Women of Achievement in 2023. Emma MacKinnon, *pictured right*, just graduated from the Hutchison Engineering Promise Program (HEPP). Amber Andrew did not attend, but she'll return to the college this fall!





Classified Appreciation Week: May 1-5

During the first week of May, campus departments showed Classified Staff the love! ITS/IR sponsored a pizza party lunch with games and prizes on day one. Day two featured breakfast and a coffee mug contest, courtesy of Student Services. HR sponsored Tony's Snow Time snow cones on day three. Administrative Services offered up a Star Wars Trivia contest, t-shirts, and Nothing Bundt cakes. Instruction sponsored day five's goodie bag giveaway and the Student Art Exhibit preview. *Thank you for all you do, Team CSEA!*

Faculty Appreciation Week: May 8-12

Taft College ASO honored Faculty Members for going above and beyond to meet students where they are so they can succeed in their classes. Students filled out thank you cards all week for individual Faculty Members they wished to recognize. Free desserts on Monday, continental breakfast on Tuesday, and delivered snacks on Wednesday, plus three gift basket raffles were awarded to Faculty Members, all courtesy of Taft College ASO.



Left, left to right:
Taft College ASO Vice President Quentin Butler, Coordinator of Student Life and Basic Needs and ASO Advisor Myisha Cutrona, Counselor Darcy Bogle, and Math Professor Joy Reynolds.



Staff Member of the Year: Lori Murphy

Taft College students voted Financial Aid Special Programs Coordinator Lori Murphy 2022-23 Staff Member of the Year! Here are quotes from students: 1) "Lori is always willing to help and makes everything easy to understand;" 2) "She is super nice and helped me apply to scholarships and grants that I did not know about;" and 3) "She helped me with my financial aid applications and then always asks how my classes are going even if I see her around campus."

Faculty Member of the Year: Kyle Webster

Taft College students voted Biology Professor Kyle Webster 2022-23 Faculty Member of the Year! Here are quotes from students: 1) "Kyle encouraged me to reach my goals in nursing school;" 2) "Kyle is always motivating me, even when I struggle. He is an amazing teacher and always positive;" and, 3) "He is an amazing professor who truly cares about his students. Mr. Webster is a very patient professor and tries his best to help every student."



This is a monthly publication by the Taft College Office of the President. If you have feedback, comments, or questions, please contact Susan Groveman, Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations at (661) 763-7942.

CONGRATULATIONS