

2021

Report to the Community of Taft



A Review of Historic 2020

Education is a path forward.

“For those of you who are struggling to make ends meet during this ongoing uncertainty, education is a path forward. I have seen our students transform their lives once they receive their degrees. Numbers don’t lie. Community college students earn more over their lifetimes than those who graduate high school and choose not to continue their education.”

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College



Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College

Dear Community Members of Taft,

2020 was a year like no other. The global pandemic upended our lives as we knew them in 2019. With the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine, I have hope for all of us in the coming months of a return to a different kind of normal.

Like you did, Taft College abruptly changed course to keep faculty, staff, and students safe as the college closed in March of 2020. Overnight, we transitioned nearly all academic programs online to continue serving our students. Additionally, we offered emergency funding, laptops, tutoring, and mental health services to help our students succeed despite the odds. I want to commend our staff members for delivering their very best to our students each and every day.

I am also so proud of our dedicated faculty members who continue to teach online and are now experts at doing so. They model resilience, courage, and strength for our students to emulate as they steadfastly pursue educational goals in preparation for a more certain future. Research consistently shows that Taft College graduates bring needed revenues and resources back into our community for our collective benefit.

Please join me as we take an in-depth look back at our students’ achievements and community involvement in the historic year of 2020.

Yours in partnership,
Dr. Debra S. Daniels, Taft College Superintendent/President

Letter from the Superintendent/President

*"Never lose hope.
Storms make
people stronger
and never
last forever."*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Taft College Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Taft College is committed to creating a community of learners by enriching the lives of all students we serve through career technical education, transfer programs, foundational programs, and student support services. Taft College provides an equitable learning environment defined by applied knowledge leading to students' achievement of their educational goals.

Vision

Taft College instills a passion for learning, leading to success for all.

Values

- Students and their success
- A learning community with teaching excellence
- An environment conducive to learning, fairness, dialogue, and continuous improvement
- A communicative, collaborative, collegial, and respectful culture
- A partnership of students, faculty, support services, and community
- Innovation, diversity, creativity, and critical thinking
- Academic, financial, personal, and professional integrity
- A transparent, accessible, participative governance structure

Never lose hope.



Taft College Board of Trustees



Dawn Cole
President



Manny Campos
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Michael Long
Trustee



Billy White
Trustee



Dr. Kathy Orrin
Trustee

*"In 2020, faculty, staff,
and students showed us
what they are really
made of. It is so inspiring
to see them succeed in
spite of the many obstacles
in their way."*

Dawn Cole
President, Board of Trustees,
Taft College

“Even though I am back home in New York due to the pandemic, it is a privilege to lead fellow students at this historic time.”



Joshua Vazquez
2020-21 ASO President

2020-21 Associated Student Organization



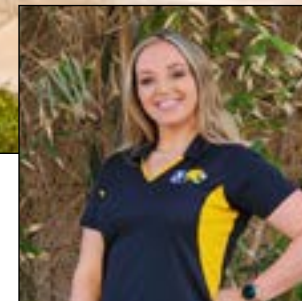
Ahmed Shurbaji
2020-21 ASO
Vice President



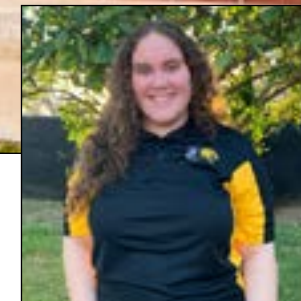
Nicholas Castillo
2020-21 ASO
Secretary/Treasurer



Zachery Carter
2020-21 ASO
Interclub Commissioner



Desirae Salas
2020-21 ASO
Social Media Officer



Melanie Medina
Taft College
Student Trustee

Stories of Student Equity and Success



Melanie Medina
Taft College Student Trustee

“As Student Trustee, I am honored to represent the voice of students.”

Despite continuous adversity, Melanie Medina is still in pursuit of her goals. Getting guidance from the right resources at Taft College has made every difference, including her success in learning online during the pandemic. She also receives critical support from fellow ASO leaders and her mental health counselor to keep her focused on her purpose of helping other students. She calls balancing schoolwork and helping other students to find the right resources the biggest accomplishments of her life so far. She wants everyone to adopt this mindset: “Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do something because I know you can. Ask for help! I did and am now succeeding.”



Joshua Vazquez
2020-21 ASO President

“Attending Taft College has been the single best decision I’ve made.”

Lacking direction in high school, Joshua Vazquez enrolled at Taft College based on its online reputation and ranking on niche.com. Never having set foot in Kern County before, he drove from New York City to Taft at the end of 2018. After ASO Advisor Myisha Cutrona emphatically nudged him into the ASO President’s position, he is happy to provide as much value as he can to the student body. He credits the Learning Center and Tutor Renae Ginther with helping him to excel in math. By studying tirelessly, he has learned that positive emotion brings us closer to our goals, and everyone can learn to conquer new challenges with dedication. Concerning studying, in particular, he advises others to learn strategies that successful students use by reading this book, *How to Become a Straight-A Student*, by Cal Newport.

It is OK to ask for help.



Zachery Carter
2020-21 ASO Interclub Commissioner

Stories of Student Equity and Success

continued

“I learned that I have the potential to become a competent counselor.”

Thinking about his career prospects right out of high school, Zach Carter was a victim of a fraudulent “technical” school that negatively impacted his life for years. He kept on, battling his way out of a wholly debilitating experience to find his calling in Psychology at Taft College. While he has yet to decide if he’ll pursue a career as a mental health counselor, psychiatrist, or psychologist, he believes psychoeducational therapeutic methods will serve him well in this health care field, just as they helped him. He wants to tell students, “I know this will sound cliché, but there is actual truth to that whole ‘do what you love’ thing.” Zach will follow his heart to serve others.

“Your circumstances don’t define you. Make a change, and stand up.”

Desirae Salas characterizes her childhood as one of survival. Raised by a single mother since Desirae was a year old, she recalls only eating peanut butter often. When her mother’s employment stabilized, and their lives had improved, Desirae’s 16-year-old sister died in a car crash. The trauma of this loss caused Desirae and her mother to spiral backwards. Pregnant at 24, Desirae became a single mother to her son. Now married with two children, Desirae runs an in-home daycare to provide a happy and stable life for her children. She and her husband are also raising foster children. At Taft College, Desirae maintains a 4.0 grade point average while taking 18 units and is interested in climate change. She now has the right mentors in her life who guide her to where she needs to be.



Desirae Salas
2020-21 ASO Social Media Officer

Find a mentor to succeed.

Stories of Community Connections



Jamie Little
Community Relations Specialist,
Synagro

“Synagro has been committed to Taft College students for 13 years.”

“Since 2008, Synagro has been pleased to support a variety of Taft College programs by donating over \$200,000 to the college. The South Kern Compost Manufacturing Facility leadership team evaluates opportunities to determine which best support Synagro’s vision of a cleaner, greener world. We chose to support Taft College’s Energy Technology, veterans center, Engineering, Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program, and mobile STEM Lab. In 2018, in celebration of Synagro’s commitment to student success at Taft College, the Taft College Foundation announced the naming of the Synagro Writing and Language Lab at the Taft College Learning Center.”

“Berry Corporation supports all the great work going on at Taft College.”

“At Berry Corporation, we take great pride in our relationships with the City of Taft and Taft College. For the last century, the people in this community have been essential to safely developing oil and natural gas resources in Western Kern County, and we are incredibly grateful to be a part of their story. Through our continuing engagement with Taft College, we support their incredible work to enrich the lives of students they serve, and the surrounding community for generations to come.”



Megan Silva
Executive Vice President of
Corporate Affairs,
Berry Corporation

“Synagro and Berry Corporation, among our Industry Partners, give funds to the Taft College Foundation to change the trajectories of our students’ lives. We are so grateful for their generosity.”

Dr. Debra S. Daniels,
Superintendent/President, Taft College

Stories of Community Connections

continued



A Taft College TIL Program student works with Taft Area Transit and the City of Taft



Suzy McKean
Career Technical Education (CTE) Administrator,
Taft Union High School



"Taft College thanks the City of Taft and Taft Area Transit for hiring students from our Transition to Independent Living (TIL) Program. Employment is key to their learning how to live independently."

Taft Union High School CTE Administrator Suzy McKean serves on our Taft College Criminal Justice Advisory and works hard to expand opportunities for local high school students to earn college credit."

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College

Distinguished Contributor and Alumnus



Patty Canessa
Public Affairs Manager,
Chevron

Distinguished Contributor: Chevron

For over 20 years, Chevron's generous contributions have exponentially enriched the learning experiences of Taft College students studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). In 2020, Chevron funded the college's Allied Health and Life Sciences programs with a \$156,000 donation for models for the Chevron Innovation Lab. A state-of-the-art Taft College STEM education prepares students well for high-paying jobs in Kern County. These students, in turn, make essential contributions to the region's economic future. Chevron looks forward to again working with Taft College to continue building the brightest possible future for our community.

Distinguished Alumnus: Bob Hampton 1938-2020

Bob Hampton loved Taft Union High School, Taft College, and USC football. The self-proclaimed "#1 cheerleader for Kern County education," Bob led the formation of the Taft College Foundation and served as its President until his passing. A gifted athlete, Bob played football and basketball at Taft College before receiving a full scholarship to play USC basketball. He was inducted into the Taft Union High School, Bob Elias, and Taft College Halls of Fame. After teaching high school, Bob owned Westside Waste Management in Taft for 37 years. Howdy Miller, former Bob Elias Hall of Fame President shared, "Whether it was someone pushing a shopping cart with all his/her possessions in it, or a person at the height of politics or business, Bob treated all people the same way." Bob Hampton believed in giving back to others.



Bob Hampton
Former President,
Taft College Foundation

Giving back brings joy.

"The pandemic has upended the ways in which our students attend classes and access critical services to help them succeed. Nearly all classes are now online and our campus is far too quiet! When the CDC deems it safe for us to reopen, we will gladly welcome them back to campus."

Dawn Cole
President, Board of Trustees,
Taft College

The Pandemic Changed Everything



Student Center



Technical Arts



Art Gallery



Library



Children's Development Center



Human Physiology with
In-Person Lab



Extended Opportunity
Programs and Services (EOPS)
Curbside Delivery

The Pandemic Changed Everything

continued



"Throughout this period of uncertainty, faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to deliver our students a high-quality distance education with lots of extra student support. A handful of students are taking hard-to-transition lab classes on the Taft College campus where we have followed CDC guidelines. These protocols will still be followed when all students return to campus. We look forward to their return soon!"

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College



Celebrating Students' Accomplishments

"For the first time in Taft College's history, we held a virtual graduation ceremony on YouTube to keep students, faculty, staff, and community members safe. We honored a record 804 graduates who completed their educational goals despite the many challenges of ongoing uncertainty."

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College



Nanette Michelle Perez
Highest Honor Student
Phi Theta Kappa

AS: Life Science

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

Emily Nicole Cundiff
Highest Honor Student
Phi Theta Kappa

AA: Liberal Arts: Communication

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

Karen Y. Sandoval
Highest Honor Student
Phi Theta Kappa

AS: Physical Science

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

Cherish Kay Wiebe
Highest Honor Student
Phi Theta Kappa

AS: Dental Hygiene

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

Celebrating Students' Accomplishments

continued

Phi Theta Kappa

Established nationally in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) serves to recognize and encourage the achievement of two-year college students. In Summer 2019, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020, Taft College recognized 48 PTK Graduates:

Nicole Alonzo
Trinity Beasley
Charlotte Boggan-Knutsen
Lachlan Brear
Edgar Ceja Aguirre
Alondra Cisneros
Ivy Crouch
Emily Cundiff*
Kendra Dennis
Ana Dominguez
Alyssa Elliott
Kyleigh Freeland
Nicole Gee
Leticia Godinez
Ashley Gomez
Lesly Gueta
Damaryz Hernandez Gil
Alyssa Hill

Allison Hollon
Ferris Jarrar
Blake Johnson
Denell Johnson
Cody Keith
Sean Lynch
Christina Martin
Isabelle Martinez
Julia Masi
Elizabeth Nicklaus
Alma Paredes
Paul Patterson
Nanette Perez*
Jerry Popoy, Jr.
David Reynolds
Alan Rodriguez
Margarita Rodriguez
Madeline Romans-Kroll

Karen Sandoval*
Alaa Satouf
Kristin Smith
Jodie Temple
Jourdan Thompson
Selene Vargas
Lynnsey Ward
Denette Westbrook
Cherish Wiebe*
Nicholas Wright
Jacob Wuest
Dawn Zelanko

**See graduate's slide, left, from the 2020 Taft College Virtual Graduation Ceremony*

Hooray! You did it!

"Paving the path forward for our students in need, the Taft College Foundation awarded \$43,200 in scholarships to 68 students for the 2019-20 academic year."

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College



Taft College Foundation



Taft College Foundation Governing Board

Kirk Hessler, President
Robert Duchow, Vice President
Brock McMurray, Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Bennett, Secretary

Taft College Foundation Board of Directors

Janice Ashley, Nurse Practitioner
Jasmeet Bains, M.D., Physician, Dignity Health Bakersfield Memorial Hospital
Cathy Bennett, Attorney, Klein DeNatale Goldner
Larry Buttke, Retired WKCCD Trustee
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Richard Chapman, President, KEDC
Don Clark, Retired News Anchor
Les Clark Jr., Owner, Independent Oil Production Alliance
Carole Cohen, Retired Educator
Larry Crews, Major Maintenance Coordinator, West Coast Pipeline, Phillips 66
Dr. Deb Daniels, Superintendent/President, Taft College
Robert Duchow, Public Affairs Manager, SoCalGas
Jim Fiscus, Retired Auto Sales Manager
Penelope Fulton, Retired Financial Manager
Gabriela Gonzales, External Affairs, California Resources Corporation
Max Goossen, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Westside Waste Management
Kirk Hessler, Vice President, Citizens Business Bank

Taft College Foundation Staff

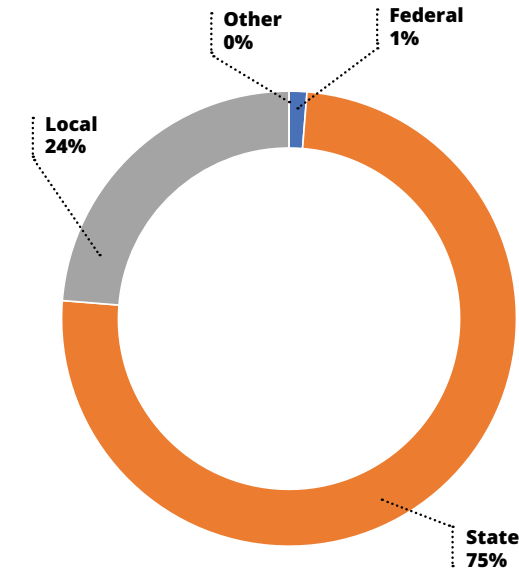
Sheri Horn-Bunk, Executive Director, Foundation & Institutional Advancement
Mahea Maui, Development Associate

Sheri Horn-Bunk, Executive Director, Foundation & Institutional Advancement, Taft College Foundation
Carolyn Hosking, Retired WKCCD Trustee
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Brock McMurray, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, Taft College
Suzanne Noble, Vice President, Production Regions & Sacramento Affairs, WSPA
Bill Phillimore, Phillimore Consulting
Ray Scott, Administrator, Price Disposal
Megan Silva, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Berry Corporation
Jamie Swetalla, Public Affairs Specialist-South Kern, Aera Energy LLC
Kal Vaughn, Owner, West Coast Construction & Mechanical

West Kern Community College District operates under a conservative budgeting model that supports fiscal responsibility while providing a strong financial commitment to the college's teaching and learning foci. For fiscal year 2020, the college again received a clean, unmodified audit opinion from its external auditing firm. This confirms the accuracy, professional competence, and transparency exhibited by the college's financial reporting. The college's financial position continues to remain strong. The charts on this page reflect the actual results of the college for the general operating funds, which consist of the Unrestricted General Fund and the Restricted General Fund.

Fiscal Year 2020 Financials

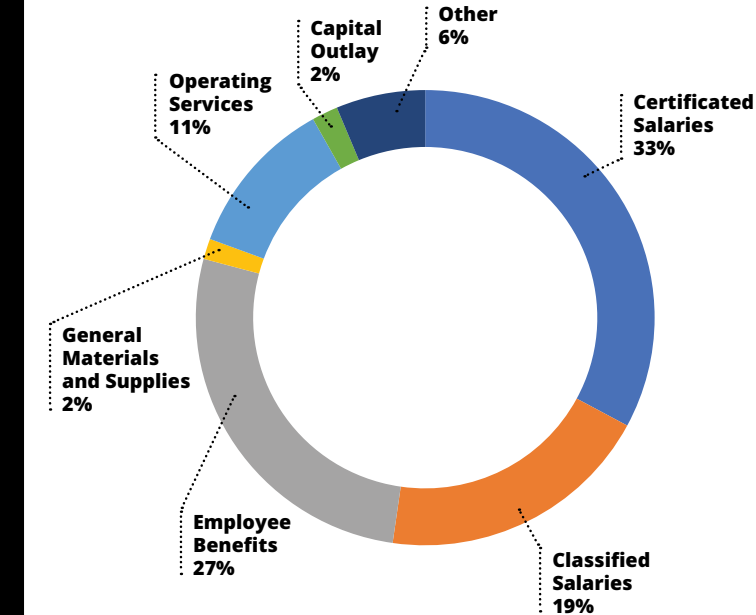
Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Revenues By Source



Operating Revenues for the years ended June 30 (in millions)

Operating Revenues	2018	2019	2020
Federal	\$ 6.78	\$ 6.56	\$ 0.47
State	24.51	27.34	27.91
Local	10.08	8.46	8.83
Other	-	0.41	-
	\$ 41.37	\$ 42.77	\$ 37.21

Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Expenses By Source



Operating Expenses for the years ended June 30 (in millions)

Operating Expenses	2018	2019	2020
Certificated Salaries	\$ 10.24	\$ 10.45	\$ 11.07
Classified Salaries	5.63	5.59	6.54
Employee Benefits	7.51	9.07	9.06
General Materials and Supplies	0.82	0.53	0.49
Operating Services	5.71	4.10	3.79
Capital Outlay	1.74	0.73	0.62
Other	10.46	11.41	2.12
	\$ 42.11	\$ 41.88	\$ 33.69

Transforming the Community of Taft by the Numbers*

In 2017-18, Taft College contributed
\$42.9 million
to Western Kern County's Economy.

Taft College will
celebrate
100 years
of student
success in 2022.

As a result of their Taft College education,
2018 graduates will receive
\$114 million
in higher earnings over their working lives.

Award-winning
Dental Hygiene
Program

Taft College
supports
**one out of
every 28**
Regional Jobs.

In 2019, we paid
over \$500,000
to local businesses
for their services.

In 2018, Taft College
contributed
the equivalent of
2.4%
of the Gross Regional
Product (GRP).

Our Taft College Promise Program
offers all Taft Union High School
and Maricopa High School students
two years free.

For every \$1.00 that students
invest in Taft College, they
will receive \$5.10 in higher
future earnings, generating a
17.3% rate of return.

Taft College generates
more tax revenue
for state and local government
than it takes.

*Emsi Impact Report on the Economic Value of Taft College, 2017-18

Taft College Centennial Celebration 1922-2022



TAFTCOLLEGE

**Celebrating
100 Years
of excellence in education**

1922 • 2022



"The college will be celebrating 100 years of student success in 2022. Throughout the year, we will hold ceremonies and events to commemorate this significant milestone in our history and celebrate our partnership with the City of Taft. You are all invited to celebrate with us, virtually and/or in person!"

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
Superintendent/President,
Taft College

We transform lives, one student at a time.

Keep Your Career Moving!



***Building resilience
to adversity happens
one day at a time.***

***Apply online today.
You belong here.***

***Call us at (661) 763-7748 or
visit us at www.taftcollege.edu***

***In partnership with the Community of Taft,
Taft College will celebrate 100 years of student
success in 2022.***

Taft College
29 Cougar Court
Taft, California 93268

Printed in March 2021

We are your community college.

