

Dr. Daniels' monthly update for faculty and staff

2019 Kern Women Inspiring Girls Awards Dinner

On October 11 at the Petroleum Club of Bakersfield, Girl Scouts of Central California South celebrated its 10th Annual Women Inspiring Girls Awards, honoring Jennifer Jensen, Founder and Executive Director, Global Family Care Network and The Daughter Project; Deanna Salyards, Nurse Practitioner, Golden Valley Medical Associates; and, Dr. Lynette Zelezny, President, California State University, Bakersfield. This event supports an afterschool program for 2,500 economically disadvantaged girls in Kern County.



Above, left to right: The Taft College Foundation Executive Director Sheri Horn-Bunk, Institutional Research and Planning Executive Director Xiaohong Li, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Leslie Minor, Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels, and Dean of Instruction and CTE Dr. Jessica Grimes attend the 2019 Kern Women Inspiring Girls Awards Dinner on October 11, 2019.

Oildorado Countdown to 2020

On October 12, Taft District Chamber of Commerce kicked off Oildorado Countdown to 2020, a downtown street concert featuring Daniel Bonte and Truxton Mile at 5th & North Street, adjacent to the Oildorado Headquarters Store. The community celebrated the one-year countdown with the reigning Oildorado Queen, Sheriff's Posse, and Wooden Nickel gang all in attendance.



Left, back row, left to right: Institutional Research and Planning Executive Director Xiaohong Li, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Leslie Minor, and Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels; *Front row, left to right:* The Taft College Foundation Development Associate Mahea Maui and The Taft College Foundation Executive Director Sheri Horn-Bunk, attend Countdown to Oildorado on October 12, 2019.

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Right, left to right: Taft College Board of Trustees Secretary Emmanuel Campos, Taft College Board of Trustees President Dawn Cole, Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels, Taft College Board Trustee Dr. Kathy Orrin, and Taft College Board Trustee Billy White attend the 2019 Association of Community College Trustees Conference in Northern California from October 16-19.



2019 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Conference

From October 16th through the 19th, Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels and the Taft College Board of Trustees attended the Association of Community College Trustees annual conference in Northern California. At the conference, they listened to presentations about "Trust in Trusteeship," "The Future of Public Higher Education Governance," and "Serving the New Traditional Student."

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Taft College Legislative Discussion with State Senate Majority Leader Shannon Grove and Assemblymember Vince Fong

On October 23rd, Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels and the Taft College Board of Trustees invited Senator Shannon Grove and Assemblymember Vince Fong for tours of the college's Gold Star Award-winning Dental Hygiene Program and Student Resource Center, lunch, an opportunity to meet with four Taft College ASO leaders, and a legislative discussion on Taft College's compliance with AB 705 and how to best serve our most vulnerable students at Taft College despite the lack of added resources.



Above: State Senator Shannon Grove and Assemblymember Vince Fong join Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels and ASO students for a legislative discussion in the Taft College Cougar Room.



Above: Assemblymember Vince Fong and Taft College Board of Trustees President Dawn Cole join Dental Hygiene Director Dr. Vickie Kimbrough for a tour of Dental Hygiene Program facilities.

Left: State Senator Shannon Grove hugs Taft College Board of Trustees Secretary Emmanuel Campos at the conclusion of the legislative discussion in the Taft College Cougar Room.

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2019 Taft College Career and Transfer Fair

On October 23th, Taft College held its annual Career and Transfer Fair in front of both the Library and Administration Building. 28 employers and vendors served over 50 Taft College students who were interested in learning more about various career opportunities available in Kern County. Students and employers reported positive feedback to Taft College Career Counselors about the value of the event. Student comments included, "Very informative!" and "It was great!" and "I like how there were plenty of different stands and they have information to give out that really helps." Employers' reviews were equally positive, "This was a great event and we will be back," and "Coordination of the event was great!" and "I was able to professionally network with other businesses and agencies represented here today. Excellent event!"



On October 23, 2019, Taft College students had an opportunity to directly interact with 28 employers and agencies to learn about potential career paths they might pursue in Kern County. All-in-all, the event received very favorable reviews!

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This event was sponsored by Synagro, U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy's Office, Berry Petroleum Company, Cooper's TrueValue, Chevron, TRC Operating Company, Inc., Metropolitan Recycling, LLC, San Joaquin Bit Service, Vince Fong for Assembly, Baker Hughes, Taft College, California Resources Corporation, Safe1 Credit Union, Hall Ambulance, UBS Ira & Carole Cohen, Dr. Loretta Lipscomb, West Side Family Health, Three-Way Chevrolet, AERA, Dignity Health, West Coast Construction & Mechanical, Inc., and Western States Petroleum Association.

10th Annual Alumni & Friends Cougar Cookout Honors 2019 Community Spirit Award Winners Bob and Judy Hampton

On October 24th, 450 people celebrated at the sold out 10th Annual Alumni & Friends Cougar Cookout in the festive Taft College quad. Bob and Judy Hampton accepted the 2019 Community Spirit Award from Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels on behalf of Taft College, the Taft College Board of Trustees, and The Taft College Foundation. Synagro Plant Manager Jamie Little gave a \$25,000 check to benefit the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program. And, Taft College Student Veteran Elias Ruiz received a \$1,200 Honor Flight scholarship from U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy.



Top left: On October 24, 2019, City of Taft Mayor Dave Noerr (right) welcomes everyone to the 10th Annual Alumni & Friends Cougar Cookout as Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels, the Taft College Board of Trustees, and The Taft College Foundation Executive Director Sheri Horn-Bunk look on.

Above: Synagro Plant Manager Jamie Little (back row in burgundy) presents a \$25,000 check to Taft College Dental Hygiene Director Dr. Vickie Kimbrough, Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels, and the Taft College Board of Trustees to benefit Taft College Dental Hygiene students.

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Top: On October 30th, 2019, Taft College Student Trustee Whisper-Lynn Null served out pizza and set the stage for a discussion with Taft College Administrators about issues most important to Taft College students.

Above: Student Trustee Whisper-Lynn Null (in yellow and black) speaks to Administrative panel members, including (seated, facing the crowd of students, left to right) Vice President of Instruction Dr. Leslie Minor, Vice President of Student Services Severo Balason, Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels, Human Resources Vice President Heather del Rosario, and Information Technology Services Executive Director Andrew Prestage.

Taft College Student Trustee Whisper-Lynn Null Hosts “Pizza for Administrators”

On October 30th, Taft College Student Trustee Whisper-Lynn Null served pizza to Taft College Administrators and students and facilitated a discussion about campus safety, facilities, meals, and other topics. Vice President of Instruction Dr. Leslie Minor, Vice President of Student Services Severo Balason, Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels, Human Resources Vice President Heather del Rosario, and Information Technology Services Executive Director Andrew Prestage learned first hand what Taft College students think about most.

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A Taft College Halloween to Remember

Myriads of ghosts, goblins, lizards, witches, and princesses were warmly welcomed with oodles of candy at Taft College on October 31st. After a ride upstairs in "the magic box," pre-kindergartners followed "Queen Bee" Child Development Center Director Meghan Hall-Silveira to visit Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels and other Taft College staff on the second floor of the Administration Building. Upon completion of singing multiple rounds of the "Baby Shark" song, they descended to the first floor together in that magic box once more.



The ASO Costume Contest was in full swing in the Taft College quad at noon where judges awarded prizes for the best costumes.



Also, the Taft College TIL Program and Associate Students invited everyone to the 4th Annual Halloween Bash featuring trick or treating, a "Haunted Lounge" and a "Zombie Farm."



Top: Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels proudly delights all the children who visited the Office of the President on Halloween morning.

Above: ASO Costume Contest contestants line up in the quad to be evaluated by the judges.

Left: "Queen Bee" Child Development Center Director Meghan Hall-Silveira leads happy pre-kindergartners through the Taft College Administration Building.

Right: Dressed to thrill, Taft College TIL students welcome the community to the 4th Annual Halloween Bash featuring a "Zombie Farm!"



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Taft City Council Meeting

On November 5th, the City Council of Taft held its scheduled meeting at the Transit Center. Matt Tate, Consultant at Retail Strategies, engaged the crowd with his important presentation on the City of Taft's recent success in recruiting retailers to locate stores here. Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels provided Mayor Noerr and Council Members with an update on the student center construction and invited them to attend both the Hall of Fame Awards Banquet on November 17th and the Taft College Report to the Community Breakfast on December 13th. Former Mayor Randy Miller and Honor Flight Kern County Volunteer Janis Varner paid tribute to veterans, both lost and still alive, in reference to this coming Veteran's Day.



Top: City of Taft Mayor Dave Noerr and Council Members hear former Mayor Randy Miller's statement supporting Veterans this Veteran's Day.
Above: Taft Council Member Jeff Eveland watches as Mayor Dave Noerr receives a special commemorative Honor Flight flag from Janis Varner.

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Top right: Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels, Taft College Board of Trustees, The Taft College Foundation, faculty, staff, and students celebrate the receipt of a \$25,000 gift check from Phillips 66.



Lower right: The Taft College STEM trailer serves as the perfect backdrop for sixth and seventh Grade AVID students from Taft's Lincoln Junior High as they enjoy boxed lunches and contemplate possible future career paths in STEM fields.

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUGAR ROOM

"Ask an Administrator"
November 20th
1:00 p.m.

Annual Employee Thanksgiving Potluck
November 22nd
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Winter Extravaganza
December 13th
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Phillips 66 Lunch and Check Presentation

On November 7th, Phillips 66 presented Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels, the Taft College Board of Trustees, and The Taft College Foundation with a \$25,000 check to benefit the STEM Pipeline Achievers.