EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs celebrated its students and successes at the End of the Year Celebration on May 16th at the Fort. These programs are proven programs for student success/equity and retention. Our students have overcome challenges with determination and optimism.

Congratulations to Wendy Berry, professor of life science, the recipient of The Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award. Congratulations also goes to Ruthie Welborn, Financial Aid Office Manager and former EOPS student, the recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award. Our Keynote Speaker, Emmanuel Campos, Board Member Secretary, delivered an inspirational message on “The Greatest Story Ever Told”. Medallions were presented to the graduates of 2018-2019.

We were joined by Superintendent/President, Dr. Debra Daniels; Vice President of Student Services, Severo Balason; Dean of Student Success, Dr. Windy Martinez; and Board of Trustee members: Emmanuel Campos, Dr. Kathy Orrin, and Billy White. Congratulations and best wishes to current and former EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs students for the work that you do every day as professionals and as students!
I began teaching at the age of 22, fresh out of college. I had originally planned on attending medical school to become a pediatrician, but life happened and my journey led me into education. Since I landed my first teaching job I have never wavered from this profession. I love learning and especially love helping students learn. I spent the first part of my career coaching and teaching at Taft Union High School. It gave me so much satisfaction to help shape young minds and encourage a continued education whether it be at a 2 or 4 year college.

While teaching at the high school I spent several years as an adjunct professor at Taft College, teaching the night Fundamentals of Biology course. My experience as an adjunct college professor gave me the desire to teach at Taft College full-time. In 2010, Taft College gave me the opportunity to join the science department as a full-time life science professor. I am currently teaching Anatomy, Physiology, Botany, and Fundamentals of biology and will be wrapping up my ninth year at TC in a few days! In total, I have 20 years of teaching experience and can honestly say that teaching was my calling!

Thank you for the honor of being voted in as this year’s EOPS Outstanding Faculty of the Year. It means more than you know receive an award centered around student perspective!

**Congratulations, Wendy,**

**on your receipt of the 2018-2019 EOPS Outstanding Faculty of the Year award!**
Ruthie Welborn

Ruthie is a single mom with 4 children and 3 grandchildren. She obtained her Associate of Science Degree in General Business and an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts from Taft College. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Policy and Administration and a Master of Science Degree in Education Counseling.

Ruthie first started working for Taft College as an EOPS student worker in the Fall of 2001. In 2005 she became a temporary part-time employee as the EOPS Eligibility Technician and then became a permanent part-time employee for another year. In 2007 Ruthie started working in the Financial Aid department and a permanent full-time employee.

During her time as a Taft College student she was also part of the CARE Program and knows first-hand how difficult it is to fulfill the requirements for both programs, the Department of Human Services, obtain good grades and still raise a family.

Ruthie has been chosen by our students as the most outstanding staff member at Taft College! It was a pleasure to get to honor her with this award.

Congratulations,
Ruthie, on your receipt of the 2018-2019 EOPS Outstanding Staff of the Year award!
“The Greatest Story Ever Told”

Emmanuel Campos was our keynote speaker this year and delivered an energetic and inspirational message to our students about writing your own success story. Mr. Campos shared his life story about growing up with challenges as a first-generation student and how he navigated his own path to success with the help of many people along the way—most importantly his family. He didn’t have an easy road but found his way and overcame many challenges. Many of our students are, themselves, in a similar position and can glean inspiration from someone who’s walked in their shoes. Writing your own success story takes courage and failing from time to time!

Thank you to Mr. Campos and his wife and children for joining us at our event!
It is a privilege to honor our EOPS Scholars!

Fall 2018
Jennifer Fain

Spring 2019
Idalia Estrada
Maria Lopez Gonzalez
Francisco Espinoza
Megan Wade

Vanessa Uribe
Delyn Callaway
Sabrina Garza
Nicole Sahagun

These students were nominated for overcoming academic and personal challenges and barriers. Many of these students are first generation students, being the first ones in their families to graduate from college. Their top grades and can-do attitude have brought them to degree completion and the honor of being the 2018-2019 EOPS Scholars.
EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs graduates

degrees and certificates of achievement

Janet Aguirre-Ortiz  Erik Mendoza
Marriya Alaya  Maria Meza
Teayana Alcala  Cristo Miranda
Susana Alfaro  Danielle Monge
Veronica Alvarez  Gabriela Moran*
Delyn Callaway  Desirae Navarro
Vincent Casumpang  Dominique Olivares*
Hazel Cruz  Leonardo Orellana
Heather Cruz  Jasmin Ortega-Rivera*
Kaylee Cummings  Cindy Padilla Romo
Esmeralda Diaz Orozco  Kierstin Peltz
Francisco Espinoza  Alondra Perez
Idalia Estrada  Sonia Perez
Jennifer Fain  Valeria Perez*
Kailey Fornof  Mariah Piercey*
Alanah Garcia  Bailey Powers
Karina Garcia  Anastasia Prado
Isabel Garcia-Ambriz  Diana Reyes Bravo*
Kelsey-Kya Garcia-Moreno*  Jacqueline Robles
Nancy Garza*  Maria Rosas*
Cecilia Gavino  Brenda Santiago
Sergio Gonzalez  Maritza Schertz*
Flavia Guitron  Terry Schertz
Shelby Jacobson  Britney Serrato
Leslie Jimenez  Tracy Stewart
Annika Knudsen  Raziel Silva Morales
Carina Lara*  Bailey Tarver
Irvin Lara-Gaytan  Jose Torres-Benitez
Yailene Lemus  Candice Toten
Brittany Long  Jasmine Turner
Luis Lopez  Brenda Uribe
Maria Lopez Gonzalez  Vanessa Uribe
Breanna Lowe  Cassandra Villasenor*
Bertha Machuca  Megan Wade
Danielle Martin  Morgan Waller*
Fatima Mendez  George Witt

*Graduates also receiving certificates of achievement
EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs

Peer Mentors
Breanna Lowe, Breanna Orozco, Delfina Ojeda, Breana Morris, Selene Vargas, Charity Festervan

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Summer Office Hours | Monday-Thursday | 7am-5pm

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