



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Taft College Student Center Completion Projected for Spring 2021**

Taft, CA – Taft College is envisioning opening the new Student Center this spring after many months of difficulties with the original contractor, Cal Averland Construction. Colombo Construction Company, the new contractor, picked up the pace, has maneuvered through the pandemic as best as possible, and is now nearing completion on the highly-anticipated project.

The excitement of opening this brand new facility is palpable, especially for those who are working on campus and can witness the project's daily transformation. Finishing touches, such as ceiling panels, ceramic tile in the restrooms, wooden cabinetry, and light fixtures are being carefully installed in the new Student Center. The building's energy efficiency and temperature controls are also being monitored, and concrete has recently been poured at the north and east locations, to name a few current activities.

Taft College terminated Cal Averland Construction for default on the original Student Center contract and hired Colombo Construction Company. Cal Averland Construction has since permanently closed. In the meantime, a settlement was reached between the Taft College/West Kern Community College District (WKCCD) and Allied World Insurance Company, the insurance company for Cal Averland Construction.

The college is looking forward to welcoming students and the community back to an enhanced campus experience. Amenities in the new Student Center will include a student lounge, student game room, cafeteria, bookstore, and print shop, as well as meeting rooms and offices. The Taft College Bookstore will be relocated from 515 Finley Drive in Taft.

### About Taft College

*Established in 1922, Taft College is one of the oldest California Community Colleges. Located in Western Kern County, Taft College provides continuous learning opportunities for over 6,000*

*students through more than 50 vocational and professional degrees, transfer programs, and certificates. These innovative programs are made available at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges. Proud to transform the lives of highly-diverse students and adult learners, Taft College delivers vital pathways to advanced education and enhanced employment. In 2022, Taft College will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of student success.*