Education is a path forward.

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
Never lose hope.

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. Storms make people stronger and never last forever.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Never lose hope.”

Taft College Mission, Vision, and Values

Never lose hope.

Taft College Board of Trustees

Dawn Cole
President

Manny Campos
Secretary

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

Zachary Carter
2020-21 ASO Intercultural Commissioner

Desiree Salas
2020-21 ASO Social Media Officer

Zachery Carter
2020-21 ASO Interclub Commissioner

Desirae Salas
2020-21 ASO Secretary/Treasurer

Melanie Medina
Taft College Student Trustee

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

Despite continuous adversity, Melanie Media 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.”

Melanie Medina
Taft College Student Trustee

“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.

Joshua Vazquez
2020-21 ASO President

It is OK to ask for help.
"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.

Find a mentor to succeed.

Desirae Salas
2020-21 ASO Social Media Officer

"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.

"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."

Jamie Little
Community Relations Specialist, Synagro

"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.”

Megan Silva
Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Berry Corporation

"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 of 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."

"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

Jamie Little
Community Relations Specialist, Synagro

Megan Silva
Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Berry Corporation

"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.”

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Letter from the "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

Stories of Community Connections continued

Distinguished Contributor and Alumnus

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.

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

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

Celebrating Students’ Accomplishments continued

Nanette Michelle Perez
Highest Honors Student
Phi Theta Kappa

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

AS: Life Science

Karen Y. Sandoval
Highest Honors Student
Phi Theta Kappa

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

AS: Physical Science

Cherish Kay Wiebe
Highest Honors Student
Phi Theta Kappa

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

AS: Dental Hygiene

Hooray! You did it!

Emily Nicole Cundiff
Highest Honors Student
Phi Theta Kappa

TAFT COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

AA: Liberal Arts: Communication

Karen Sandoval*

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
Latriona Driessen
Edgar Cua Aguirre
Abandra Cruz
Ivy Crowe
Emily Cundiff*
Nanette Perez*
Nancy Dennis
Ava Dominguez
Alyssa Elliott
Kyligh Frost
Nicole Gee
Leticia Godinez
Ashley Gomes
Lucy Gourley
Dominique Hernandez Gil
Alyssa Hill
Allison Halton
Farris Jansher
Blake Johnson
Davidi Johnson
Cody Keeth
Sean Lynch
Christian Martinez
Isabella Martinez
Alicia Mas
Elizabeth Melkonian
Alyse Peters
Payt Patterson
Raquel Perez*
Jerry Pope Jr.
David Reynolds
Alan Rodriguez
Margaret Rodriguez
Madeline Romo
Rene Zelanko
Karen Sawinski*
Alan Szakal
Krista Smith
Jade Temple
Jacqueline Thompson
Selene Vargas
Lynette Ward
Dena Westbrook
Cherish Wiebe*
Nicholas Wright
Jason Wood
Dena Zelanko

*See graduate’s slide at 2020 Virtual College Graduation Ceremony.
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 focus. 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>24.51</td>
<td>27.34</td>
<td>27.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>6.78</td>
<td>6.56</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>10.08</td>
<td>8.46</td>
<td>8.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>41.76</strong></td>
<td><strong>42.77</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificated Salaries</td>
<td>10.64</td>
<td>9.59</td>
<td>9.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified Salaries</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>5.54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>7.35</td>
<td>9.27</td>
<td>9.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Materials and Supplies</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Services</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>3.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10.47</td>
<td>12.41</td>
<td>10.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>41.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>41.27</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Taft College Foundation**

**Taft College Foundation Governing Board**

Kirk Hesler, President  
Robert Duchace, Vice President  
Brock McMurray, Chief Financial Officer  
Carol Bennett, Secretary

**Taft College Foundation Board of Directors**

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Jacom Davis, M.D., Physician, Dignity Health  
Bakersfield Memorial Hospital  
Cathy Bennett, Attorney, Klein DeNatale Goldner  
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Richard Chapman, President, KEDC  
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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, West Coast Pipeline, Phillips 66  
Larry Crews, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Westside Waste Management  
Kirk Hesler, Vice President, Citizens Business Bank

**Taft College Foundation Staff**

Sheri Horn-Bank, Executive Director, Foundation & Institutional Advancement  
Melvin Moai, Development Associate  
Elizabeth Howard, Co-Owner, Howard Financial & Wealth Management  
Nate Jones, Operations Manager, Baker Hughes  
S G Company  
Dr. Loretta Lipscomb, Retired Vice President of Instruction, Taft College  
Jamie Little, Community Relations Specialist, Manager  
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, West Coast Pipeline, Phillips 66  
Larry Crews, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Westside Waste Management  
Kirk Hesler, Vice President, Citizens Business Bank

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"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
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

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We are your community college.