

*Dr. Daniels' monthly update for faculty and staff*

**Happy  
2020!**



*Left: At the 2019 Report to the Community Breakfast on December 13, Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels (right) discusses Taft College's significant impact on the local economy with Taft Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Blanca G. Cavazos (left).*

## 2019 Report to the Community Breakfast

On December 13, Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels spoke with community leaders about the economic impact the college makes locally and regionally in Western Kern County. In FY 2017-18, Taft College's total impact was a \$42.9 million contribution to the regional economy, the equivalent of supporting 422 regional jobs. Locally in FY 2017-18, Taft College paid over \$45,000 to local caterers, \$500,000 to local vendors for services, and \$100,000 in no-cost student internships at local businesses. In addition, the college contributed over \$225,000 in dental hygiene services to local community members.



*Above, left to right: Aera Energy Public Affairs Specialist Jamie Swetalla, Synagro Plant Manager Jamie Little, Taft College Foundation Executive Director Sheri Horn-Bunk, Omni Family Health Physician Jasmeet Bains, and Taft College Board President Dawn Cole attend the 2019 Report to the Community Breakfast on December 13.*

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## 2019 Winter Extravaganza

On December 13, Taft College held its 2019 Winter Extravaganza holiday potluck, ugly sweater contest, and TC Promise Program fundraiser. Taft College staff and faculty donated over 20 beautifully-wrapped holiday gift baskets to the fundraiser at which tickets were sold and used to bid on winning each basket. 2019 ticket sales were \$2,130, \$300 over last year. When Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels matched the \$2,130, a total of \$4,260 was raised to help TC Promise Program students get through their first year of college. Congratulations, everyone, for a job well done!



*Top right:* Women's Softball Assistant Coach Andrea Garner, Women's Softball Head Coach Gabrielle Brixey, and Women's Softball Assistant Coach Christine Hipa are happy to have savored so many delicious dishes at the holiday potluck.

*Above:* Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels welcomes everyone to the 2019 Winter Extravaganza holiday potluck.

*Right:* Accounting Technician Sheila Green (*left*) and Outreach Coordinator/Advisor Joanne Dumbrigue (*right*) compete in the ugly sweater contest. We think they are both "winners," don't you?



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## 2019 Winter Extravaganza *continued*

Once again, the Celebration Committee did an outstanding job putting together this event! Many thanks to Celebration Committee members Sarah Criss, Justin Madding, Danielle Vohnout, Norberto Lopez, Diana Duran, Morgan Sanchez, Makayla Payne, and Brandy Young!

*Top:* All holiday gift baskets are displayed outside the library for ticket bidders to evaluate the morning of the event.

*Right:* Instructional Tech Jeanene Robertson (*right*) expertly assists Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels (*left*) as she announced the lucky winner of each holiday gift basket.



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*Above: TIL student friends celebrate the holidays with a hug on December 18.*

## **Transition to Independent Living Program (TIL) 2019 Holiday Party**

On December 18, the Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program held its annual Holiday Party in the Cougar Room. Preceded by a pizza dinner in the TIL kitchen, the evening's festivities included line dancing, singing, contests, prizes, and holiday games. TIL Transition Specialist Susan Wells and TIL Senior Secretary Debbie Rios served as chaperones for the night, with Susan leading some of the games. Even TIL Director Aaron Markovits led an encore dance performance of "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree" that he and TIL students debuted at the Taft Christmas Parade this year. All who attended had a wonderful time!



*Above left: At the TIL 2019 Holiday Party, Transition Specialist Susan Wells (left) leads TIL students in a hilarious game of drawing holiday trees on paper plates that students hold on their heads.*

*Above: Listening to holiday party music that abruptly started and stopped, TIL students play a game at their 2019 Holiday Party of quickly passing and unwrapping a holiday gift covered in oodles and oodles of clear cellophane.*

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*Right, left to right:*  
Taft College  
Foundation Executive  
Director Sheri  
Horn-Bunk,  
Taft College  
Superintendent/  
President Dr. Debra  
S. Daniels, Norm  
Daniels, and Taft  
College Board  
President Dawn Cole.

*Below, left to right:*  
Taft College  
Foundation Executive  
Director Sheri  
Horn-Bunk, Omni  
Family Health  
Physician Jasmeet  
Bains, Synagro Plant  
Manager Jamie Little,  
Aera Energy Public  
Affairs Specialist  
Jamie Swetalla,  
Chevron Community  
Engagement Advisor  
Gina Pettit, and Taft  
College Development  
Associate Mahea  
Maui.



## **Taft College Foundation Celebrates Milestone 10-Year Anniversary at 2019 Holiday Party**

At its Holiday Party at the Stockdale Country Club on December 18, the Taft College Foundation marked its 10th year of philanthropy benefiting Taft College students and programs. Staff celebrated with Foundation Board Members, Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels, Taft College Board President Dawn Cole, and Taft College Trustee Billy White.



## Santa Makes a Special Visit to Taft College Child Development Center

On December 18, Santa took time out of his busy holiday schedule to visit with children at the Taft College Child Development Center. Speaking with parents and children for an hour, Santa learned about certain items on holiday wish lists this year. In addition, Taft Correctional Institution Officer Ashmore delivered wooden toys to Child Development Center Director Meghan Hall-Silveira who instantly knew what to do with these special gifts! Inmates at Taft Correctional Institution annually craft the toys by hand for the Taft College Child Development Center.



Top: Taking a break from his workshop duties, Santa sits down and says hello to a shy little girl being coaxed by her mother at the Taft College Child Development Center.

Above, left to right: Taft Correctional Institution Officer Ashmore presents several large boxes of wooden toys handmade by prison inmates to Director Meghan Hall-Silveira for distribution at the Taft College Child Development Center.



Above: At the Taft College Child Development Center, Santa reaches out to welcome a little boy who jumps on his lap to tell him what a good boy he's been this year and what specific items are on his holiday wish list. A shy little girl (also in above photo) watches all of this very intently.

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## Taft Union High School Jazz Band Brings Holiday Cheer to Taft College Child Development Center

On December 19, Taft Union High School Jazz Band and Band Director Amanda Posey shared their special blend of holiday magic with children and adults alike at Taft College Child Development Center. Musicians and soloists had the crowd clapping and singing along to classic holiday songs in record time!



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## Taft Union High School Jazz Band *continued*

*Top, page 7, far left:* Taft College CDC Director Meghan Hall-Silveira and Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels enjoy holiday classics with the diverse crowd on December 19.

*Bottom, page 7:* Taft Union High School Jazz Band horn soloists perform selected musical classics.

*Above:* Taft Union High School Band Director Amanda Posey asks the audience to participate in the holiday sing-along.

*Left:* Band Director Amanda Posey leads Taft Union High School Jazz Band in a performance at Taft College Child Development Center.





*Above, left to right:* At his farewell party on December 19, Distance Education Instructional Aide Steve Richards proudly shares his award commemorating 17 years of service at Taft College with TRIO/SS Director/Counselor Jill Brown, Distance Education Coordinator Nicole Avina, Distance Education Aide Heather Cash, Distance Education Aide Rebekah Morales, Distance Education Director and Business Professor Adam Bledsoe, and Student Success Counselor Chris Flachmann.

## **Taft College Celebrates Steve Richards' Lasting Service to Nontraditional Students**

On December 19, Taft College and Distance Education bid farewell to Steve Richards who retired after 17 years of dedicated service to Taft College student inmates at Taft Correctional Institution. Steve made sure these students received the same education as our traditional students. We wish him all the best in his retirement. He will be missed.

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## Taft College Hosts 2020 Region 6 Summit for Chief Instructional Officers

On January 10 in the Cougar Room, Taft College Vice President of Instruction Dr. Leslie Minor (*in gold sweater*) and Taft College Dean of Instruction and CTE Dr. Jessica Grimes (*in black and white checked vest*) welcomed Region 6 Chief Instructional Officers for an in-depth discussion on developing and implementing 2020 curricula to boost completion rates and student success, as well as factor in current demands of regional industry.



## New Taft College Dental Hygiene Plaques Properly Recognize Historical Program Contributors

As the Taft College Dental Hygiene Program opened its doors in 1991, financial contributions specifically earmarked for this program were made to the college. While contributors have been historically recognized, it was time to upgrade the system on which contributors are listed. Installed in the Dental Hygiene Clinic, new plaques highlight all the program's current, former, and new contributors.