

95TH ANNUAL TAFT COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT ON JUNE 3



Moving toward the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, Taft College honored its 95th graduating class in person at the Taft Union High School Marion Martin Memorial Stadium on June 3, 2021.

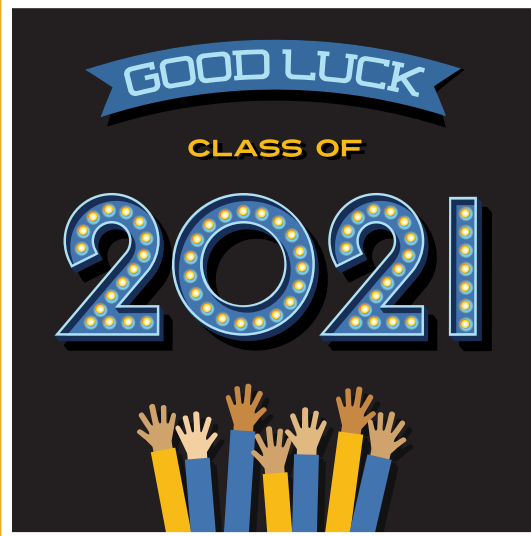


Even though the temperature climbed higher all day, the mood in the stadium was notably upbeat, full of both joy and relief that graduates and their families could share this milestone together.

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continued

Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels led the festivities, thanking Taft College faculty and staff for delivering their all to get 690 graduates over the finish line. As is tradition, she made her way through the field to personally congratulate the Class of 2021 before they were seated for the



ceremony. Dr. Daniels is quite proud of this graduating class for overcoming every conceivable obstacle of the pandemic. She would like to thank all who helped to make this event so successful, including TUHS staff and the Taft College graduation committee, "Well done, everyone!"



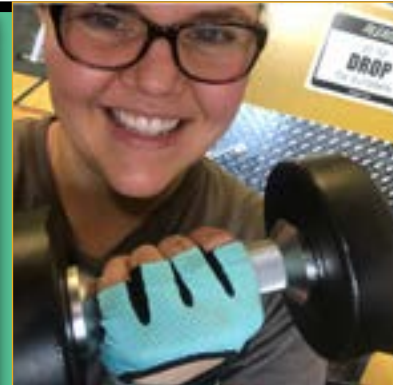
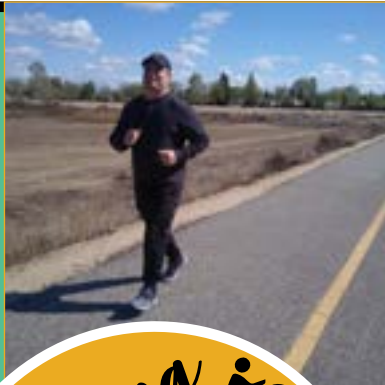
2021 Taft College Dental Hygiene Pinning Ceremony on May 21

On May 21, 2021, Taft College held a pinning ceremony on the college campus for the 26th graduating class of its Dental Hygiene program. Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels stated, "I am incredibly in awe of our hard-working students, faculty, and staff! You did it! Our students were able to graduate during this pandemic because of your tremendous efforts to get them to completion. I cannot thank all of our faculty and staff enough!" Taft College Dental Hygiene Director Dr. Vickie Kimbrough also celebrated her students' achievements, "These students not only survived during the pandemic, they thrived. Their inspiring perseverance and resilience led them to succeed in their course work and meeting graduation requirements. Best of luck, Class of 2021!"

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Taft College Superintendent/ President Dr. Debra S. Daniels Meets Next TUHS District Superintendent

On May 17, the Taft Union High School (TUHS) Board of Trustees named Dr. Jason Hodgson the next Superintendent of TUHS District. TUHS then introduced him to the community on May 19. Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Debra S. Daniels welcomed the chance to wish him much success in the new job. Joining Dr. Daniels were Taft College Trustee Dr. Kathy Orrin, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Leslie Minor (*on left*), and Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations Susan Groveman.



**Left: Gustavo Gonzalez
Middle: Heather del Rosario
Right: Brittany Belcher**



100-Day Activity Challenge Winners Announced!

Here are the winners of the Spring Forward 100-Day Activity Challenge:

Physical Activity Challenge

- 1st) \$250-Brittany Belcher**
- 2nd) \$150-Heather del Rosario**
- 3rd) \$100-Debbie Rios**

Mindfulness Activity Challenge

- 1st) \$250-Debbie Rios**
- 2nd) \$150-Brittany Belcher**
- 3rd) \$100-Maribel Montelongo**

Weight Loss Challenge

- 1st) \$250-Debbie Rios**
- 2nd) \$150-Gustavo Gonzalez**
- 3rd) \$100-Miranda Tofte**

The 44-member team racked up 272,968 minutes of activity, logged 40,707 mindfulness minutes, and lost over 250 pounds! Incredible!

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Taft College Faculty, Staff, and DEI Taskforce Welcome Dr. Frank Harris III

On May 25, Dr. Frank Harris III joined Taft College faculty, staff, and the DEI taskforce for discussions about his work. Dr. Harris prioritizes populations that have been historically underrepresented and underserved in education and is known for his expertise in racial [in]equity in postsecondary education. He is a Professor of postsecondary education and the Co-Director of the Community College Equity Assessment lab (CCEAL) at San Diego State University.



Above, left: Taft College Professor Dr. John Eigenauer; *above, middle left:* CSUDH Professor Dr. Laura Talamante; *above, middle right:* CSUDH Professor Dr. Doris Namala; *and, above, right:* participating CSUDH Student Jasmine A. Abang

Taft College Professor Dr. John Eigenauer and CSUDH Educators Co-Present Lunch and Learn Webinar

Taft College Professor Dr. John Eigenauer and CSUDH Professors Dr. Laura Talamante and Dr. Doris Namala jointly delivered an in-service webinar on May 4, dubbed a “trialogue,” that discussed ways for faculty to cooperate with undergraduate students to create scholarship. Dr. Eigenauer shared, “We hoped to inspire our faculty to create opportunities for undergraduates to enrich their lives, make them feel part of the academic world, and prepare them for the challenges of advanced college work.”