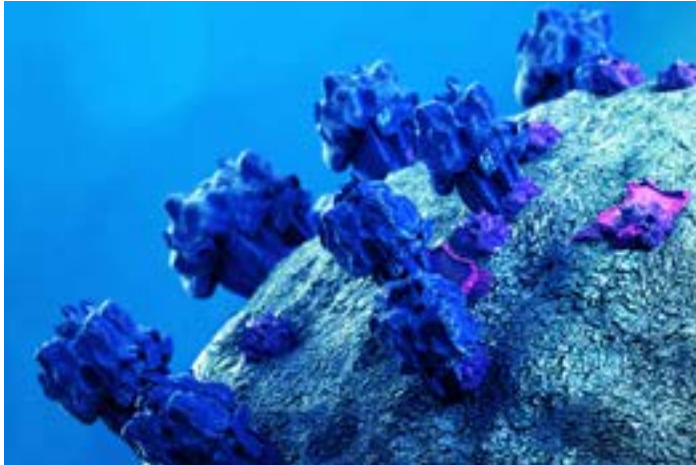



MARCH 2021 *update for faculty & staff*

West Side Health Care District Conducts COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic for Taft College Employees



On Wednesday, March 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 75 Taft College faculty and staff members received their first shot of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Partnering with the West Side Health Care District in Taft to bring their vaccination clinic to campus, the college agreed to set up the sizable clinic in the gym. At this time, only full- and part-time employees, current temporary employees, and student workers were eligible to receive shots. Appointments were required in order to best ensure adequate supplies and staffing. A link was provided to employees to make their appointments using the West Side Health Care District's preferred scheduling tool. In about four weeks, the West Side Health Care District will determine the appropriate plan to administer second shots of the Moderna vaccine to those who received their first shot on March 10. Dr. Deb Daniels stated, "I am thrilled to be able to bring the team from the West Side Health Care District to Taft College so our employees can get vaccinated. *The vaccine brings us one step closer to opening up this fall.* The more people who get vaccinated, the safer we all will be."

MARCH 2021 update for faculty & staff, page two



Taft College Philosophy Professor Dr. John Eigenauer Set to Facilitate Workshop at NISOD Annual Conference

At the NISOD Annual Conference being held virtually on March 19, Taft College Philosophy Professor Dr. John Eigenauer will facilitate a workshop that provides participants with specific tools they can use to teach critical-thinking skills in an online environment. An emphasis will be placed on using the tools in Humanities and Social Sciences classes to improve students' reading and writing skills.

2021 Spring Forward Activity Challenge Builds Momentum

On March 1, *Spring Forward* Activity Challenge participants turned in their second logs of physical activities, mindfulness activities, and weight loss so far in the 100-day challenge. Dr. Deb Daniels cheered everyone on, "I give you big KUDOS for putting yourself out there, committing to moving more than you have been, concentrating on what you are eating, and taking some time to calm the mind." Good luck to all the participants as we pursue better health together. Heads up! *Third activity logs are due on March 15.*



MARCH 2021 *update for faculty & staff, page three*

Taft College Student Center Inches Closer to Completion in Spring 2021

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 nearing completion on the highly-anticipated project.

The excitement of opening this brand new facility is quite 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.

Taft College Superintendent/President Dr. Deb Daniels shared, "I am really looking forward to welcoming everyone 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.



First photo, above: Wood cabinetry has been installed in the Bookstore's shipping and receiving area.



Second photo, left: High ceiling panels and lights have been installed in the student lounge area.



Third photo, above: Site concrete has been poured on the north side of the building.



Fourth photo, left: Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) block wall footing is being prepared.

MARCH 2021 *update for faculty & staff, page four*

MARCH Student Life Program Virtual Events

March 12—Dental Hygiene National Board Exam Preparation

Oral B's Bernadette Schlaefer will be presenting a scientific review to prepare Dental Hygiene students for the national board exam.

March 16 through March 22—Taft College Faculty and Staff Members of the Year Nominations and Voting

The deadline for nominations and justifications for Faculty and Staff Members of the Year is March 16. Voting begins March 17 at 7:00 a.m. and ends on March 19 at 5:00 p.m.

March 16 through March 24—"Hearts of Glass" Streaming

The community will have the opportunity to watch the "Hearts of Glass" film through the streaming window of March 16-24. A Live Panel Discussion on the "Hearts of Glass" film will be held via Zoom on March 23 at 3:00 p.m. The film follows the tumultuous first 15 months of Vertical Harvest (VH) of Jackson, Wyoming, a state-of-the-art greenhouse that provides meaningful employment for people with disabilities.



Executive Vice President of Administrative Services Brock McMurray Celebrates 20 Years of Service at Taft College

When asked to reflect on his long-standing tenure, Taft College Executive Vice President of Administrative Services Brock McMurray said, "Wow! It has been an amazing 20 years! I have made many great friends and such wonderful memories. I really love Taft College and this community. And, I am looking forward to the future."