

MARCH 2023



Taft College Employee of the Month

Athletics Trainer **Bruce Ferguson** (above) was named February Employee of the Month. *Congratulations!*

Taft College Leaders Welcome California Senator Shannon Grove to Campus



On March 10, Taft College Superintendent/President Brock McMurray and Trustees Mike Eveland and Jeremy Gregory welcomed Senator Shannon Grove and Field Representative Dominic Heiden for a Chef Geoff-catered lunch and a tour of the Taft College campus. She visited the ASO Office to speak with 2022-23 ASO President Angelissa Garza (*left, far left*) about all the great things the ASO has done this year. *Below*, Vice Presidents Dr. Leslie Minor (*left*) and Dr. Damon Bell (*right*) join the tour.

GO BRUCE!



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TAFT DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Taft District Chamber of Commerce Holds Installation and Awards Dinner

At the Westside Recreation and Park District Auditorium on February 24, the Taft District Chamber of Commerce installed its 2023 Board of Directors and recognized the following for their contributions to Taft in 2022:

- **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**
Bangs and Tangles Salon
- **BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR**
DeAnna Jacobs, Every Penny Counts
- **BUSINESSMEN OF THE YEAR**
Jeff Cooper and Eric Cooper, Cooper's True Value
- **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
Rene Adamo
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**
Fred Holmes
- **YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD**
Athena Campos



FRED HOLMES, COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



JEFF AND ERIC COOPER, BUSINESSMEN OF THE YEAR



MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY

MARCH 2023 page 3



First-Ever Black Student Union Meeting Takes Place

On February 15, black students convened for the very first “unofficial” Black Student Union (BSU) meeting on the Taft College campus. Dubbed the “Meeting of the Minds,” students discussed the mission and focus of this still unsanctioned Student Club, as well as how to gain student interest. Taft College student Maiah Watkins leads this discussion, as she has had leadership roles in her high school’s ASB, BSU, swim team, and theatre club. *Below*, ASO Advisor Myisha Cutrona guides the group discussion.



EOPS Student Appreciation Lunch

On February 28 in the Cougar Room, EOPS team members held a lunch to show their sincere appreciation to EOPS students for choosing to attend Taft College to pursue their educational goals. Over a two-hour time frame, students enjoyed Mexican food, played some bingo, and received a gift courtesy of the EOPS department. On display were great examples of swag available exclusively to EOPS students on the Taft College campus. EOPS Student Worker Breanna Vazquez led the bingo game (*above*) and called out the numbers. She soon heard students yell out the long familiar, “Bingo!!”

**MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY**

MARCH 2023 *page 4*

First-Ever Male Summit: You Belong Here!

Taft College Vice President Dr. Damon Bell and High-Tech Access Specialist Dr. Amar Abbott invited male TUHS students to our campus for a chance to hear directly from 12 male mentors! Budget and Fiscal Analyst Manny Campos shared his great story as the keynote speech. Breakout sessions and lunch came with the program. More summits are now in the works!

**MAKE A STUDENT'S DAY**



TUHSD SUPERINTENDENT DR. JASON M. HODGSON AND BROCK MCMURRAY

WKCCD and TUHSD Board Members Hold Joint Meeting on March 13

Taft College Trustees joined TUHSD Trustees for a special meeting and presentation from Dr. Damon Bell, Dr. Vicki Jacobi, and Cecilia Alvarado on "Creating Pathways from Taft High to Taft College."

Board President Billy White Throws Out First Pitch

On February 14, the Taft College Baseball Team welcomed Board President Billy White to the baseball field. President White offered inspiring wisdom and good luck to the players and coaches before throwing out the game's first pitch that day.





Taft College Recognizes Book of the Month Club Centennial Volunteers

At the Regular Meeting on March 8, Superintendent/President Brock McMurray formally recognized Taft College alumni Zachery Carter and Desirae Salas, as well as Kiwanis of Taft member Robyn Melton for their **12 months of volunteerism** fulfilling the 2022 ASO-sponsored, United Way of Kern County Book of the Month Club mailings to Taft's youngest residents, ages zero to eight. *Thanks for helping to raise our literacy levels!*

Board of Trustees Holds 2022-2023 Retreat

The Board of Trustees held its annual retreat on March 1 in the Cougar Room. Administrators Dr. Todd Hampton, Dr. Leslie Minor, Dr. Damon Bell, Heather del Rosario, Dr. Xiaohong Li, Susan Groveman, and Dr. Sheri Horn-Bunk gave presentations to the Board about how their work during the year satisfied the Board's Goals. Superintendent/President Brock McMurray said the Board Members were pleased by the reports.



This is a monthly publication by the Taft College Office of the President. If you have feedback, comments, or questions, please contact Susan Groveman, Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations at (661) 763-7942.