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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Taft College Student Center Construction Work Resumes**

Taft, CA – Construction on the new Student Center at Taft College has begun again. Upon its completion, Taft College students will be able to use a state-of-the-art facility that houses food services, student activity offices, and meeting rooms. To give students easier access to books and supplies, the Taft College Bookstore will also be relocated to the new facility from its present location on Finley Drive.

On September 21, the Taft College Board of Trustees approved the award of a new \$16,265,234 construction contract to Columbo Construction to finish the project. Construction stopped last year after the College terminated the previous contractor for repeated delays and shoddy work.

Closely monitored by a Citizens' Oversight Committee since its passage in 2004, construction bond Measure A funding is being used to build the new Student Center. The refinancing of \$11,235,000 Measure A funds on November 26 by Taft College will save property owners within the West Kern Community College District \$2.8 million over 13 years. Any additional funds needed to construct the new facility are coming from other District funding.

### **ABOUT TAFT COLLEGE**

*Established in 1922, Taft College is one of the oldest California Community Colleges. Located in Western Kern County, Taft College provides continuous learning opportunities for over 12,000 students through more than 50 vocational and professional degrees, transfer programs, and certificates. These innovative programs are made available at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges. Proud to transform the lives of highly-diverse students and adult learners, Taft College delivers vital pathways to advanced education and enhanced employment. In 2019, Taft College was ranked 5th best Community College in California by Niche.com. In 2022, Taft College will celebrate its 100th anniversary of student success.*