March 30, 2022

It is with great pleasure that the Allied Health/ Applied Technology and Learning Support Division nominate Tony Thompson, Professor of Health Education and Athletic Advisor for appointment of Professor Emeritus at Taft College. Tony Thompson has demonstrated exceptional service and significant contributions that span 34 years of service at Taft College.

Tony Thompson served as baseball coach and scout from 1988-2005, before stepping down due to tonsillar carcinoma. Tony was responsible for the restoration of the sport of baseball after the entire athletic department was dropped as a result of a financial shortfall in 1994. It took a lot of work and a great deal of resilience to survive during those difficult times. In 2007, Tony Thompson was inducted into the California Community College Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 2014, Taft College retired the #10 jersey in honor of his contributions to the baseball program.

After his recovery, Tony Thompson continued his work and passion for athletics by serving as Athletic Advisor where he worked at broadening academic guidance support systems for athletes at Taft College and within the entire California Community College System. Currently, Tony Thompson serves as President of the California Community College Counselors/Advisors Academic Association for Athletics- 3C4A. During this time Tony also taught in the Health/PE/Kinesiology department carrying a full load of courses. During the evaluation process it was noted that Tony constructed some of the best online courses we have here at Taft College. He was dedicated to those students and responded to them on weekends, holidays, whenever they needed help from their instructor. He is to be commended for his work in the classroom as well.

Tony Thompson served as Senate President from 2013-2015 helping the Taft College Academic Senate connect with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) to engage in local and statewide dialog to improve teaching, learning, and faculty participation in governance. Tony has continued his service to the ASCCC with his current membership in the Small and Rural College Caucus.

Lastly, his most impactful contribution has been to the countless students who have thrived academically and athletically under his watchful supervision. We commend his ardent approach to student advocacy in scheduling meetings which have provided an enduring model for course offerings and scheduling at Taft College…because at the heart of his students’ success, is Tony’s heart.