

# Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

## Sheri Horn-Bunk



Sheri Horn-Bunk has an innovative heart for Bakersfield in entrepreneurial success and expansion of foundational fundraising. She takes great joy in helping others to grow and flourish. Creative and ever-energetic, Sheri brings enthusiasm, zeal, and a spirit of warm collaboration to all her endeavors.

As director of the first foundation office for Taft College, Sheri formed strong sustainable relationships with community individuals and organizations, academic centers, corporate and governmental agencies. By using her business skills in developing relationships, she has secured foundational grants and private philanthropy for a broad range of educational fields, including people with disabilities, the arts, health (dental) education, and college athletics. Sheri has excelled in fundraising in Kern County for over 15 years and has raised over 10 million dollars for the Taft College Foundation since 2010.

Sheri and the Taft College Foundation board of directors and staff are the innovators and organizers of the West Kern Petroleum Summits. A memorable highlight from the 2015 summit was having Alex Trebeck as the emcee host, a friendship Sheri has cherished. These innovative and educational summits have given Taft College the opportunity to connect and grow their industry partnerships, philanthropy, student jobs and internships, but most of all expanded and engaged a multitude of new friends and alumni.

Sheri was honored to have met WWII veteran and Chevron retirees, Stanley and Madalyn Hutchison in 2011; a relationship that led to the formation of the Taft College Hutchison Engineering Promise program. An inventive program that is designed to wrap services for success around students interested in pursuing engineering, create academic excellence, and allow graduates to transfer or pursue employment; and promises to get them graduated or transferred debt free.

Sheri's passion for leadership has been expressed through over 30 years in management, marketing, and development/sales for CSU Bakersfield, the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra, Univision Television, Buck Owens Productions-KUZZ. Before she was 30 years old, she was one of the principal owners that helped build and take public the company, Data Dimensions.

Sheri has volunteered her time at Links for Life and has served as president of Bakersfield North Rotary.

Sheri holds degrees from California State University, Bakersfield – a BA in communications-public relations/marketing, a masters of public administration-non-profit management, graduating summa cum laude, and she is currently pursuing her EdD in the CSUB doctoral program in educational leadership.

Sheri, raised in Madera and the first female student body president of her high school, a rock-n-roll star in bands, pursued music into her early twenties, but found the business world a much better fit. Sheri is married to the love of her life, Gary Bunk, owner and president of Orion Safety Services, stepmother to Cody, and now a grandma to Bryceson and Kaylin. Gary and Sheri love to travel, play golf, sample wine and stay socially relevant and connected...and continue to remodel their 1963 home in Old Stockdale.

