



## WHC Coalinga Mission Statement

---

**West Hills College Coalinga is committed to achieving student learning through the provision of educational, cultural, and economic development opportunities to our current and future students and the local and global communities that we serve.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope your holidays were full of joy and I'm wishing you a prosperous New Year!

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since my first President's Message. I continue to be amazed by the energy, passion, hope and sense of purpose that can be found at our institution. Anyone familiar with our college knows that this energy is a hallmark of the West Hills College Coalinga experience. This zest for education will be intentionally focused on ensuring our students' success as we enter 2014. **We will build from our 2013 successes.**

The Rodeo and Agriculture program at the **Farm of the Future** has planned several outreach events for the New Year to build enrollment. Faculty and administration have worked together to coordinate another FFA Field Day to be held on Saturday, January 11th. We expect to have several high schools on site. We will also be host to the District High School Rodeo on January 17-19. There will be approximately 200 contestants coming from Marysville to Bakersfield, from Monterey to Porterville, all competing in events ranging from roping, wrestling, cutting, bronc riding and bull riding.

We will expand collaborative efforts to meet business and industry workforce needs, such as the need for Psych Techs. Just a few weeks ago the **Psychiatric Technician** Department held one of the largest Completion Ceremonies in our history. It was definitely a "first" in terms of celebrating collaboration as students from WHCC and Modesto Junior College Cohort celebrated the completion of education and training. This spring we enrolled 80 students in this high demand field.

The WHCC Honor Society's **Commitment to Complete** efforts will continue this spring by having students and faculty at WHCC and NDC participating to pledge their support to complete their educational goals. We will continue to work with our high school partners by offering classes on site and online. 2014 will be the year that we enter into an agreement with Mendota High School to offer a Health Academy dual-credit program targeting juniors and seniors. WHCC Coaches are working to increase local recruitment efforts. In fact our **new Head Football Coach, Robert Tucker**, has pledged to "personally visit every high school locally and in the surrounding communities," and he has plans to host a Summer Youth Camp.

By working together, we can confidently predict that the best is yet to come in 2014. We can expect many more achievements in the New Year, along with our share of challenges. I know that working together, as we have over the past year, we will be successful and so will our students!

**Go Falcons!**



## FEATURED LEARNING AREA – FARM OF THE FUTURE

The Farm of the Future has gained momentum in several areas over the past few months. This fall three new instructors were hired: Norman Oilar, Sherri Freeman and Tim Ellsworth. This expanded our faculty to a total of seven with existing staff of Merlin Welch, Bruce Hunt, Clint Cowden and Chris Chaney (note: Merlin and Bruce are planning on retiring at the end of this academic year. They will be truly missed). The Farm hosted a FFA Field Day for all high schools on November 23 and received a request to hold an additional event. The second is planned for March 8. Additionally, we will be the hosting site for a Coalinga High School FFA Field Day on January 11 from 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Finally, we are hosting a three-day CHSRA District 6 high school rodeo on January 17, 18 and 19. This will be a large and exciting event! Be sure you make plans to attend.

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### TRIO-Student Support Services, Upward Bound & CalWORKs Activities



The TRIO club and SSS program sponsored a field trip to DeVry University in Fresno, on December 6. The students participated in a tour of the campus, received information on how to finance college education at a private university, and participated in career exploration exercise. The students were delighted to meet DeVry University's president, Joseph Coppola. The club members were treated to dinner and spend several hours at Boomers.

### CSU, Fresno



On December 7, the TRIO UB and SSS conducted a field trip to Fresno State. The participants received a tour of the campus which included areas of interest predetermined by a survey. The fieldtrip ended with dinner at River Park mall.

### Christmas Gift Wrapping Party

On December 9, the TRIO club held a Christmas Gift Wrapping Party. The club members purchased over 27 gifts for children participants in the College's annual Lights of Love Christmas event.



### Staff Training

On December 2 and 3, Bertha Felix-Mata, CalWORKs Director and Domenica Sanchez, Career Center Technician attended the 2013 CalWORKs Training Academy held in Sacramento. The theme of the conference was "Navigating Pathways Toward Self-Sufficiency." The workshops focused on creative and innovative strategies and solutions to ensure the CalWORKs County and partners (community colleges) continue to successfully assist California's most vulnerable families and children. The academy is hosted by the State Department of Human Services.

### WHCCD HEP

On November 11<sup>th</sup> WHCCD HEP students traveled to Fresno for a campus visit at California State University Fresno (Fresno State). Students had the opportunity to experience much more than any brochure could offer. They got a firsthand look at the real possibilities beyond a high school equivalency certificate. Lila Duran, HEP tutor and new student at Fresno State, shared information on admissions, financial aid, student services, and campus life. She led the group through several key buildings and areas on campus and answered several questions from the eager students. Lila also shared many new experiences, good and bad, during her first semester at Fresno State. Students came away very impressed with the university and felt inspired to continue their education. Since the trip, six students have completed the GED® and received their high school equivalency certificate and two have registered for classes at WHC in the spring. Congratulations and great job on all the hard work!



(Pictured Above: Lila Duran, Florinda Garcia, Maria Zavala, Liliana Grajeda, Margarita Sanchez, April Duarte, Maria Andalon, Martin Valdovinos, Jose Salomon, Bianca Aguirre, Genoveba Arreygue, Fabiola Barrios, Emma Santos, Olivia Vega)

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



### Terryeon Robinson

January's student of the month is Terryeon Robinson. Terryeon came to West Hills College Coalinga in fall of 2011 in an indirect way. He traveled by bus from St. Louis MO and caught a ride from the I-5 bus station to Coalinga. Apparently the person who gave him a ride thought WHC campus was on Cody Lane and dropped him off in the middle of the night at the Claremont Custody Center. Terryeon didn't know where he was dropped off was not the location of the campus. He spent the night on a bench out front of the return to custody facility! Around 6:30 in the morning, Keith Stearns, our Associate Vice Chancellor, came in to work and saw Terryeon by the office and asked what he needed. Terryeon told him he was enrolling in school and needed to get to his first class! Keith took him to the Coalinga campus where Terryeon could get settled into the routine of school now that he was at the right place! Terryeon has been very involved in college activities as the vice-president of ASB where he sat on the Board of Trustees as the student representative, he is employed as an RA at the

college residence halls and worked in our library where he has shown to be a very responsible, reliable worker. He is one of our students in the Foster Youth Alliance program, a new grant that helps former foster youth with transitioning to college and is completing his Associate of Arts in Arts and Humanities this past fall. Next semester Terryeon will be leaving to attend college in the Los Angeles area and applied to CSU Northridge for the fall. His smiling face will be missed on campus. Congratulations on graduating this past semester and we wish you the best of luck next year!

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

### Pedro Garcia



Coach Garcia serves as equipment coordinator and assistant football coach for West Hills College. He is a local product starting in football at Firebaugh High and for West Hills College Coalinga. In addition to his duties in the athletic department, Pedro works with the summer youth programs on our campus and serves as a van driver for many of our student trips.

## STUDENT SERVICES IN ACTION

### Foster Youth Alliance



The new Foster Youth Alliance grant program sponsored the first annual banquet honoring our foster students. This grant allowed the college to provide book services for students at the beginning of the semester in the amount of a \$300 credit in the bookstore. In addition, Aronne Hauki, Senior Secretary for student services took the lead on organizing monthly lunch meetings where the students could share ideas they had for providing additional support to them and check in on important college deadlines. They also were required to make an appointment with their counselor for their educational plans to get priority registration (they are in the first group for early registration). Students were encouraged to go to workshops, meetings and activities on campus and earn points for the incentive prizes. The awards for fall 2013 semester were 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Kendra Vale \$100 Visa Gift Card, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Terryeon Robinson (\$100 Visa Gift Card), and Grand Prize

winner Dominique Hill who lead the group for both GPA and incentive attendance and won a Microsoft Surface with keyboard. All students in attendance were given gift cards to use at restaurants like Taco Bell/KFC, Subway, Burger King and Little Caesars pizza. The event was a great success thanks to our students!

## INTERESTING INSIGHTS – Foundation

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual President Scholars Golf Tournament

Please mark your calendar for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Scholars Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, May 5, 2014, at Kings Country Club in Hanford. Since the program started in 1996 more than 600 students have received the scholarship with most of the funds being provided by the golf tournament. Entry fee is \$200 per player. There is a limit to the number of players we can accept so please form your teams and register early: [http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/golf\\_tournament/registration.asp](http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/golf_tournament/registration.asp).

Many thanks to our major sponsors in the past: AP Architects, Pepsi and EECU.



### Sequoia Council of Boy Scouts of America

Dr. Goldsmith held out during a live auction to outbid local farmer Ross Borba for a John Deere bicycle at a charity event benefiting the Kings River District of the Sequoia Council of Boy Scouts of America. WHCCD IT Department employee Mark Millett is the district chairman for the Scouts.

Pictured left to right: Tyler Evans, Trey Pietsch, Leo Millett, and President Carole Goldsmith.

## ATHLETICS

### Spring 2014 Basketball

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Jan-18	Saturday	*Fresno City College	Coalinga	6pm
Jan-22	Wednesday	*College of the Sequoias	Visalia	7pm
Jan-25	Saturday	*Merced Jr College	Coalinga	6pm
Jan-29	Wednesday	*Porterville College	Porterville	7pm
DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Feb 1	Saturday	*Reedley College	Reedley	7pm
Feb-5	Wednesday	*Columbia College	Coalinga	6pm
Feb 8	Saturday	BYE		
Feb-12	Wednesday	*Fresno City College	Fresno	7pm
Feb-15	Saturday	*College of the Sequoias	Coalinga	6pm
Feb-19	Wednesday	*Merced Jr College	Merced	7pm
Feb-22	Saturday	*Porterville College (Coaches vs. Cancer)	Coalinga	6pm
*Central Valley Conference Games		<b>Home Games in Bold</b>		

You can download the electronic version of this newsletter at:

<http://westhillscollge.com/coalinga/about/presidents-monthly-message.asp>