



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

Last month I was asked to join a small group at the California Community College Chancellor's Office to discuss an upcoming statewide initiative called the **Priorities Project**. The project involves of the "Step Forward" awareness campaign and student-customized website designed to inform incoming students about the steps needed to secure priority registration, encourage them to participate in campus orientation, complete their math and English assessment, and develop an education plan. Sound familiar? Well it should. Many of the project's goals are patterned after our trail-blazing efforts in priorities registration that incentivize positive student behaviors.

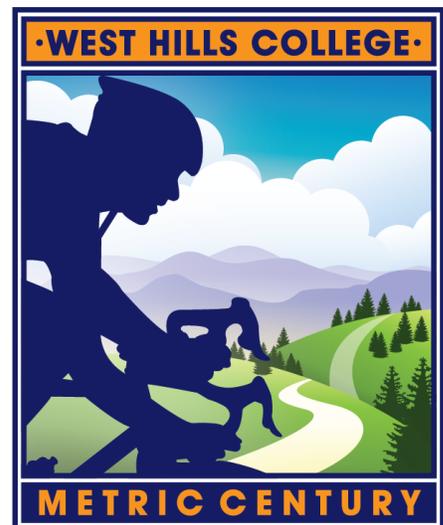
While I was there, the topic of marketing this project was also discussed. Their plan had focused on featuring students from colleges in urban areas. I am pleased to report that this project will now also feature students from West Hills College Coalinga! The video and photography crew will be out later this month. My thanks to the faculty and counselors have identified several students who will take part in the statewide marketing plan. We will be well represented!

A New Tradition

We are partnering with Fresno Cycling Club to host our first annual **Metric Century** on **April 12**. This fundraiser will actually have three rides. The *Fun Ride* is a 17 mile ride designed for beginners, youth and those just looking for a fun flat ride. The *Mini-Metric* is for more serious riders who will travel 40 miles. The third ride, the *Metric Century* is a 61 mile ride. All rides start on the campus, will pass by the Farm of the Future and all will enjoy scenic routes, rest stops, a tasty meal at the College Café and SAG support.

What is SAG support? SAG stands for "support and gear" and during a race, a SAG vehicle is a welcome sight if you become fatigued or encounter mechanical complications with your bike. If you are not a cyclist, you can support our event by volunteering to be a SAG driver or part of the SAG team.

Thanks to Al Graves, Tracey Jaurena and Alex Villalobos for leading our new tradition. Kudos to Coach Staci Mosher and her softball team along with Rob Skaggs and the new PTK Honor Society officers who have volunteered to help with registration, rest stops and SAG support.



For more information or to register go to:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-hills-metric-century-tickets-10707338939?aff=es2>

Go Falcons!

FEATURED LEARNING AREA – BASIC SKILLS

Basic Skills Initiative



West Hills College Coalinga offered Student Success workshops for its students in Coalinga during February. Students had the opportunity to attend three workshops for the month of February. The topics were Time Management, Financial Funds for College, and Career Café 101. Overall, student participation was 52 students. Thanks to the basic skills initiative and CalWORKs the students enjoyed a great lunch. Presentations were by Giselle Simon and Emma Santos. Students received a hands-on interactive workshop to learn ways to control and balance their time plus they got factual information as it relates to financial funds opportunities for students enrolled in college. Refreshments were served to the students as the workshops commenced at noon, in room P2. Special thanks are extended to Basic Skills task force, Dominica Sanchez, and to the facilitators who volunteer their time to set-up and lead the training for our students.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Student Services

Traffic in Student Services slowed down a little for the month of February but we kept busy with planning our counselor teams, getting ready to launch eSars online student appointments, contacting our progress/academic probation students for follow-up services and of course, developing student educational plans to get ready for REG365 – year round registration! The counselors are also busy with petitions to graduate for our May graduation and have over 168 petitions for spring, 165 for fall 2013 and 58 for summer so we'll have a great participation for our ceremony. The Foster Youth Alliance program hosted speaker Reginald Dunham whose topic on the grief and loss process after the tragic drive-by shooting of his son was well received by our students. The Career Center hosted their third monthly workshop on free website "Career Café" and students were introduced to other topics in January on time management and financial aid and scholarship information.

TRIO-Student Support Services, Upward Bound & CalWORKs

January 24-25, the TRIO Student Support Services program and CalWORKs staff hosted Peer-mentor and Career/Leadership Spring 2014 training. Twenty-five students from Coalinga (ASB officers, Residential Advisors, TRIO club officers) and North District Center (NDC) participated in the training which included basic mentoring techniques and leadership development initiatives. The participants also learned about TRIO/CalWORKs programs requirements and benefits. The day's agenda included a Career Café session, a career panel representing members from Farm of the Future-Sharon Freeman; Law Enforcement- Chris Hicks; counseling-WHC Amy Long; and team building and event planning. The student peer-mentors will be assisting other SSP/CalWORKs participants strengthen their academics, as well as, how to navigate through the college system successfully. The peer-mentor program is designed to provide peer to peer support in students' academic and leadership skills. The workshops were presented by Reyna Moreno, Valarie Walker, Domenica Sanchez, Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata and facilitators from the Educational Leadership Foundation.



NDC

ASB hosted Amanda Renteria as guest speaker on February 6. Ms. Renteria is the first Latino to ever serve as the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Senate. She also attended Stanford and Harvard Business School. Her topic was about her various experiences being raised in the San Joaquin Valley and how she has overcome so many obstacles in her life to find success.



The NDC staff hosted a "Thank you Counselor Marlese" luncheon. Marlese Roton is retiring at the end of this month. We will miss you Marlese!

Residence Halls

With help from Sandy McGlothlin, Vice President of Student Services, residence halls staff will be incorporating an online judicial educator module for students that have low level policy violations and/or disciplinary meetings. These educator modules are created to help the student learn and understand the importance of living in an on-campus setting. Some of the modules that students can be assigned are: *Community Living: from Me to We*; *Personal Decision Making*; *Fire and Safety*; and *Civility* just to name a few. With the addition of these online interactive learning modules, the college hopes to educate students on the importance of following the residence hall, college, and district policies.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT(S) OF THE MONTH

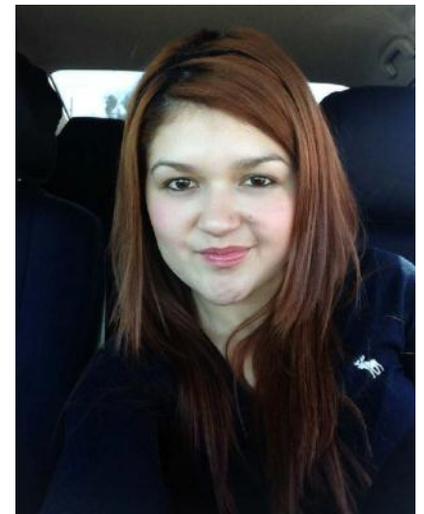
Claudia Salgado

Claudia is the epitome of perseverance. Growing up in El Salvador was a constant struggle for her and her sister. Seeking an opportunity for a better life, they migrated to the United States when she was 15. They settled in Mendota and quickly began working as seasonal farm workers. Although a significant improvement from her life back home, Claudia was not content.

Claudia joined the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) with a positive attitude and plenty of drive. From the beginning she has been very dedicated to her studies, attending class on a regular basis, and continues to make progress towards earning her High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate. Claudia is quick to ask for assistance when having difficulty understanding concepts. She has been a great team player and works to encourage her fellow students who feel ready to give up.

Claudia plans to improve her English skills and enroll at West Hills College Coalinga. She would like to study Child Development and work at a child care facility. One of her biggest goals is to be a role model and inspire her daughter, Catherine, to strive for more than temporary field work. In Claudia's words, "Yo le quiero poner un buen ejemplo a mi hija. Quiero que vea y aproveche las oportunidades que nos brindan." (Translation: I want to set a good example for my daughter. I want her to see and take advantage of the opportunities provided).

Claudia has been a model student and an amazing mother. By continuing her education and working towards a career she is setting a great example for daughter and others. She has persevered and learned to balance both aspects of her life quite well. We look forward to great things from Claudia. Keep up the awesome work!



WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT(S) OF THE MONTH

Zachary Mcguire



Zachary is a first year student from Miami, Florida. When asked how is he is adapting to living in a small community like Coalinga compared to living in a metropolitan area like Miami, his answer may surprise you.

“It was hard at first, but Coalinga gives you a chance to catch your breathe. It slows things down as compared to the fast life back at home, where everything is a blur. The best thing about WHCC is the tight-knit community feeling.”

He came to West Hills College Coalinga to play football and sees it as an opportunity to be better prepared in life because, “it instills that hard work and character are essential to being successful.”

Once Zachary completes his studies at WHCC, he plans to transfer to a university and ultimately earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. His goal is to open a vet clinic and a non-profit organization that will help provide shelter to homeless animals. Back home he has multiple snakes, reptiles, and dogs. He hopes that his love of all animals will help him become a successful veterinarian.

COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Jim Brixey

Mr. Jim Brixey started his adventure with the Farm of the Future at West Hills College in 2002. Jim retired from the local oil fields and said he wasn't ready to simply be at home. Mr. Brixey says he has been in Coalinga for “a long time”, has been very happily married to his wife Minerva for 54 years, and raised three great boys (James, Craig, and Doug).

Over his years at the Farm, Jim says he has seen many changes; the biggest changes include moving to the new Allen Farm location and growing lots of stuff this past year. Jim says he has learned a lot about farming as this was new to him when he started at the college.

“Most memorable moments,” he said were working with Merlin Welch (Heavy Equipment instructor) and Bruce Hunt (Rodeo Instructor), saying they shared a lot of fun times. He recalls working with Coalinga HS teacher Nancy Birdwell whose students built the owl boxes that are still in place at the farm. Finally, Jim shared that he especially liked working with the various students over the years, from locals to foreign exchange students.

Jim will be retiring this June and has plans to focus on horse completions including Roping, Team Penning, and most importantly Honey Do's around the house.

Mr. Brixey has helped to build a solid foundation at the Farm, we're glad he will have time to do more of the activities he loves once he retires, but we are sad to see him go. Good Luck Jim!

WHCCD FOUNDATION

It's time for golf! The regular operating expenses for the President's Scholars Program have been provided for the last 18 years by the annual foundation golf tournament at Kings Country Club. It's scheduled for Monday, May 5th. Players and sponsors are needed. The number of President's Scholars has grown dramatically over the years. In the fall of 2000, we had 13 President's Scholars enrolled. In the fall of 2013, we had 94 President's Scholars. We need more golfers and more sponsors. Please consider supporting this important program. For details: http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/golf_tournament/index.asp

ATHLETICS

CCCATA Athletic Trainer of the Year

Tracey Jaurena was named Athletic Trainer of the Year by the California Community College Athletic Trainers' Association. She will be honored during the 17th annual California Community College Athletic Association Convention in Los Angeles on April 3. Jaurena has been an athletic trainer at WHCC for 15 years.



Jaurena was nominated after responding to a medical incident during a WHCC basketball practice earlier this season. According to the incident report, the student stopped breathing during practice and was in a state of seizure. Jaurena responded accordingly and helped the student begin to breathe before the ambulance arrived.

"I am extremely grateful for the nomination, and it came as a complete surprise in a good way," said Jaurena. "I have kept in touch with the athlete and he will hopefully be back here playing basketball soon, which is more important than this honor of course. I am so blessed to have been given gifts to share with others. I am fortunate to be working in the same field that I went to school to learn, and I have loved it my entire career."

"Tracey is being recognized for one incident that could have had a catastrophic and perhaps fatal outcome," said Mark Gritton, athletic director and associate dean of students at WHCC. "Her experience and knowledge enabled her to act swiftly and effectively. I have been involved in teaching, coaching and administration in higher education for 30 years. She is the best I have ever been associated with. Her proactive approach to the prevention and care of athletic injuries goes way beyond most professionals in her field."

2014 Spring RODEO SCHEDULE - WEST COAST REGION

DATE	DAY	HOST	LOCATION
March 20	Thursday	Fresno State University	Clovis, CA - Contact Art Parham 559/260-1887
March 21-22	Friday-Saturday	West Hills College	Coalinga, CA - Contact Bruce Hunt 559/816-8351
April 10-12	Thursday-Saturday	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo, CA - Contact Ben Londo 805/459-7764
April 25-26	Friday-Saturday	University of Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV - Contact Ric Griffith 702/498-5585
June 15-21	Sunday-Saturday	College National Finals Rodeo	Casper, WY - Contact 509/529-4402

President's Monthly Message

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Date/Time	Day	Location	Opponent
3/11 @ 2pm	Tue	Coalinga	*Merced
3/13 @ 2pm	Thu	Fresno	*Fresno (DH)
3/18 @ 2pm	Tue	Coalinga	*COS
3/20 @ 1pm	Thu	Taft	*Taft (DH)
3/25 @ 2pm	Tue	Coalinga	*Porterville
3/27 @ 1pm	Thu	Coalinga	*Reedley(DH)
4/3 @ 1pm	Thu	Merced	*Merced (DH)
4/8 @ 2pm	Tue	Coalinga	*Fresno
4/10 @ 1pm	Thu	Visalia	*COS (DH)
4/15 @ 2pm	Tue	Coalinga	*Taft
4/22 @ 1pm	Tue	Porterville	*Porterville (DH)
*CONFERENCE GAME			HOME GAMES IN BOLD

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Day	Location	Time
3/11	*COS	Tuesday	Home	2pm
3/13	*COS	Thursday	Away	2pm
3/15	*COS	Saturday	Home	1pm
3/18	*Reedley	Tuesday	Away	6pm
3/20	*Reedley	Thursday	Home	2pm
3/22	*Reedley	Saturday	Away	1pm
3/25	*Merced	Tuesday	Home	2pm
3/27	*Merced	Thursday	Away	6pm
3/29	*Merced	Saturday	Home	1pm
4/1	*Taft	Tuesday	Away	2pm
4/3	*Taft	Thursday	Home	2pm
4/5	*Taft	Saturday	Away	1pm
4/8	*Merced	Tuesday	Away	6pm
4/10	*Taft	Thursday	Home	2pm
4/12	*Reedley	Saturday	Home	1pm
4/13	*Porterville	Sunday	Home	1pm
4/22	*Fresno	Tuesday	Away	6pm
4/24	*COS	Thursday	Away	2pm
	*Conference Games			Home games in Bold

You can download the electronic version of this newsletter at:

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