



## **WHC Coalinga Vision Statement**

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**West Hills College Coalinga is committed to a relentless pursuit of student success.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Research has shown, and we have seen, that when you involve learners in the learning process and in the community, they feel inspired, empowered and are more likely to achieve their goals. Providing opportunities to be part of something bigger than their individual pursuit and encouraging one another is part of the West Hills culture. This is the Falcon family way. Falcons learn to love one another, study hard and give back to the community.

This spring, WHCC leaders, faculty, staff and students and community supporters have had multiple occasions to come together for the good of our community. We have raised funds for the battle against cancer as well as President's Scholars. We have raised awareness of the importance of healthy lifestyle choices.

This was our 5<sup>th</sup> year hosting the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. If you have recently driven through Coalinga, the many purple ribbons displayed throughout the city were a strong show of support of our efforts to host this 24 hour event. 23 teams and over 200 participants gathered to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer and remember loved ones lost. This event generated over \$34,000 – far exceeding our goal of \$24,000. Big thanks to Veronica Rosales and ASB for making this an inspirational and well organized event.

Al Graves and his voluntary crew (Linda Lewin, Mark Gritton, Mark Arce and Sherry Barragan and students from the Psych Tech program and football team) hosted over 100 riders in this year's West Hills Metric Century Bike Ride. Big thanks to Fresno Cycling Club for co-hosting! Initial accounting indicates that the event surpassed our fund raising goal of \$4,500. This event continues to spur enthusiasm for cycling as well as support for President Scholars.

Members of ASB, Supplement Instructors leaders, along with faculty and staff served as hosts for local junior high school students on campus to plant the seeds of hope among our future Falcons. And with only a few weeks remaining in the semester, we have been relentless in the pursuit of student success with our current students. Counselors, faculty and SI leaders are all encouraging our students to finish strong. This effort appears to be working as graduation participation is expected to break previous records with over 200 students scheduled to walk in the ceremony!

Innovation has been defined as "the introduction of new methods." West Hills College's Farm of the Future (FOF) is doing just that as serving as the inaugural location for the Apps for Ag hackathon. The concept is to bring growers together with software developers to build solutions to real-world challenges. Catherine J.K. Sandoval, Commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission gave the keynote address and a reception kicked off the three-day event. By all accounts it was a huge success! Kudos to Dr. Ellsworth, Aronne Hauki, Alissa Trevino and Clint Cowden!

Accreditation activities continue as we prepare for the college's 2017 self-study. The work is ongoing and has been divided by standard. Each standard has two co-leads, one faculty and one administrator. The rest of the membership is made up of faculty, staff and administrators from all constituency groups. Each standard team has begun the arduous task of writing narratives to address their standard and collecting documentation as evidence to support the self-study narrative. This summer, a first draft of the self-study will be completed. This draft will be forwarded to the College Planning Council, and then routed through the college's governance structure. Feedback from all constituency groups will then be incorporated into the second draft of the document.

Special thanks to the following team leads and support staff: Sarah Shepard, Andrea Pulido, Jeff Wanderer, Matt Magnuson, Anita Bart, Sandy McGlothlin, Arkady Hanjiev, Mark Gritton, Bertha Felix-Mata, and Clint Cowden.

Lastly, college employees and students are invited to take part in two upcoming open forums during the noon hour April 28<sup>th</sup> at WHCC and April 30<sup>th</sup> at NDC. There will be no set agenda. Rather this is simply an opportunity for open conversation regarding our student success efforts.

**Go Falcons!**

## FEATURED LEARNING AREA – ATHLETICS

The Athletic Department at WHCC currently services 6 intercollegiate sport teams: Men's Baseball, Basketball and Football; Women's Softball and Volleyball as well as Co-ed Rodeo. In addition to our sport teams we have a state of the art Athletic Training/Sports Medicine facility that services all of our student athletes in and out of sport seasons.

Our department as a whole emphasizes academics first...we monitor all of our student athletes academic progress on a monthly basis which aids in getting them academic help before things get out of hand for them. Over the last 5 years we have had an **81.80% success rate and a 93.79% retention rate with our women's athletic team members** and a 77.89% success rate and 93.62% retention rate with our men's athletic team members. We are determined to keep our high standards in all aspects of our young men and women's collegiate experience at West Hills College Coalinga.

Over spring break our Athletic Director Mark Gritton, Head Basketball Coach Mark Arce, Academic Advisor Erin Corea and Eligibility Clerk Gina Tollison (as well as the president of WHCL and their athletic administrative staff) attended the California Community College Athletic Association 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Ontario, California attending athletic workshops, voting on legislation and various business meetings. Our department is scheduled for program review with our conference that is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> which will aid us in all of the state

Baseball and softball are our spring sports. Baseball has 37 eligible athletes, plays 3 games per week and has had a successful fundraising year with a high number of individual as well as corporate sponsors. Softball has 13 eligible athletes and plays 3 games per week as well. They had a BBQ Cook-Off March 22<sup>nd</sup> that included the cook off and a Corn Hole Tournament that was all well attended and successful.

Basketball and Rodeo are our 2 semester sports. Basketball began with 14 eligible players on the court ended their season with an overall record of 12 wins and 17 losses. Their annual fundraiser the Big Monday Bash was well attended as always and raised more funds in their 50/50 drawing than ever before with President Goldsmith winning the grand prize of a trip to the 2015 NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis. Rodeo with 7 women and 13 men competing kicked off their spring season with their annual home rodeo March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They had their largest public attendance ever on Friday night with the Annual Calf Dressing Contest fielding 14 teams. Team 'Bull Me Over' (comprised of WHCC staff members Brian Boomer, Pedro Garcia, Omar Mendoza & Zachary Soto) "dressed" their calf and crossed the finish line first winning the completion with Team 'Ninja Turtles' (comprised of WHCC students Valerie Cazarez, Sydnee Cisneros, Kayla Day and Valerie Romero) winning the Best Costume category.



Our fall sports are football and volleyball. Volleyball had 8 eligible players on the court and finished up a tough season with no wins. It was a learning year and we all look forward to this fall. Football ended their season with 76 players, an overall record of 10 wins and 1 loss, earned the title of Co-Conference Champions and won their American Division Bowl Game. They hosted 2 youth football camps recently in Coalinga and a first ever football camp in Hanford.

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

UB students came to West Hills College, Coalinga on Saturday, March 14, 2015 for the third Saturday Session of the 2014-2015 academic year. Only freshman, sophomores, and juniors were required to attend this time, there were a total of 36 participants from the three local High Schools (Coalinga, Mendota and Tranquillity). When students arrived on campus, they were directed to the classrooms to take the PSAT and the WHCC placement test. Why Upward Bound students took the PSAT? Well, "The SAT is the nation's most widely used college admissions test, a distinction that it has held for more than seven decades. The SAT is taken by more than two million students every year and is accepted by virtually all colleges and universities. The SAT measures knowledge of subjects learned in the classroom, including reading, writing, and math, and how well students can apply that knowledge outside of the classroom. The SAT helps colleges get to know you better by giving them insight into how you think, solve problems, and communicate." The placement test is required by the program to help Upward Bound participants to check their academic skills levels in math and English. The placement test results will show the Upward Bound staff the participant's strengths and weaknesses so they'll know where they need to focus. The placement test scores will increase our student's chances of academic success in college. Overall, the sessions received good evaluations and students felt like the material presented was all something they could use in their future educational experiences.

On Friday, March 20, 2015 the TRIO/SSS Tutors and Peer Mentors attended the Tutor Expo Conference at Pierce College in Los Angeles. Our students learned about new ways to approach student learning within the Tutoring Department. There were several workshops the students were able to select from: rethink tutor training, exploring innovative tutoring practices, making connections across the campus. In addition, the Tutor Expo provided success stories from the SI practice and former Tutors that have transfer to 4-year school. The tutors and mentors expressed their appreciation for this conference and made connections with professionals from other community colleges. Thanks to WHC Equity Funding for making this trip possible.



Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata attended the Firebaugh Rotary club breakfast meeting on March 4, 2015. The Rotary club president, Steve Burcham expressed interest in joining with WHC/NDC to develop a community-based volunteer Rotaract club in the Firebaugh and outlying communities. Rotaract club is a club for adults ages 18-30. While the Rotary clubs serve as sponsors, Rotaract clubs decide how to organize and run their club and what projects and activities to carry out. Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata will conduct research to find out information on developing a joint volunteer endeavor between WHC/NDC and the local Rotary club.

Anavel Perez, Workforce Program Assistant and Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata coordinated an information table at the Mendota Unified District-Migrant Mini-Conference at Mendota High School on Thursday, March 5. The Migrant Mini-Conference featured Folkloric dancers and recognition awards to volunteers. Jose Ochoa, Mendota Unified District-Director of State & Federal Programs discussed parents' academic involvement strategies, district requirements on positive discipline measures and update on Common Core regulations. The conference was well attended with over 20 agencies providing information on resources available to families.



Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata attended the Mendota Youth Council meeting in Mendota on March 11. Dr. Felix-Mata shared her background growing up in Mendota, education and professional achievements. She also shared the upcoming college's activities hosted by West Hills College Coalinga/NDC including the 2015 Metric Century Ride, Rodeo event, as well as programs and benefits available to all college students.

NDC Counselor Maria Ceballos and Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata presented a workshop on March 12, titled Title IX-Know your Rights. The workshop was the first one of a series in celebration of Women's History Month. The presentation included a hands-on exercise discussion to increase awareness and prevention on sexual harassment and harassment in general. The presentation concluded with a video on college harassment prevention and Q & A.

NDC hosted the second workshop in celebration of Women's History Month on March 18, 2015. The featured speaker was Monica Blanco-Etheridge-Trainer with the Rios Company. Ms. Blanco-Etheridge shared her background, educational and professional successes as a young Latina growing up in the central valley. She presented on the topics of community and civic engagement as well as political issues affecting the Latino community.



## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Sophomore, Erica Hernandez, has lived in Res halls for the past few years. This year, Erica serves in the capacity of Resident Assistant (RA). Her major is Health Science, and wants to transfer Fresno State to earn a Degree in Nursing. She came to WHCC from Bakersfield CA, where she attended West High School. While in high school, she participated in ASB, Cheerleading and Wrestling. She came to West Hills College Coalinga for the small environment, friendly people and helpful instructors.

While at WHCC she has participated in Relay for Life over the past two years. This year, she has taken on the responsibility as the Relay for Life Event Coordinator. She has also participated on the cheer-leading squad, other areas of Student Activities.

Veronica Rosales, Women's Residence Halls Coordinator, says "Erica has been a huge help with putting together activities for Relay for Life, while still performing her job duties as and RA and being a student". "Erica has done an outstanding job for us in the Residence Halls and has been very positive impact on our campus," says Alex Villalobos, Director of Residential Life/Student Activities.

When she transfers from WHCC two things she will miss the most will be the beautiful area and the friendly environment. Her life's ambition is to become a nurse and help those who can help themselves.

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Assistant Softball Coach, Gabrielle Brixey is in her second season as assistant softball coach. Gaby was a student/athlete at WHCC playing softball for two years ('09 & '10). She was an all-conference player for both seasons. Brixey transferred to Lesley University where she made the all-conference team both years as well. After graduating from LU, she worked as a graduate assistant softball coach at Ottawa University, while earning Master's Degree in Business Administration.

"Gaby has been a tremendous asset to our program since she has come on board. She is very hard working and dedicated to get quality players into our program," says Staci Mosher, head softball coach.

Currently, the women's softball team is enjoying it's most successful season in nearly 20 years. The Lady Falcons had 12 wins this season. Coach Mosher stated, "Gaby is a big part of that. She worked tirelessly last spring and all summer recruiting these ladies."

"Having the opportunity to return to West Hills and coach has been awesome. It has provided me a chance to impart what I learned as a player and a coach at the four year level, to our players."

Go Falcons!

## WHCCD FOUNDATION

The West Hills Community College Foundation 19<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Scholars Golf Tournament will be held at Kings Country Club on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Many serious golfers play in the tournament but the picture shows that some people are there for fun and to support the President's Scholars Program.

The President's Scholars Program was first offered in 1998, since that time more than 700 students from Kings and Fresno counties have received free tuition and up to \$250 a semester in books. This scholarship has allowed them the opportunity to complete the first two years of college at virtually no cost if they were able to continue to live at home. The annual golf tournament has provided most of the support for the program. If you are interested in playing (or supporting), please visit:

[http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/golf\\_tournament/index.asp](http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/golf_tournament/index.asp)

As you interact with our sponsors, please thank them for making this unique opportunity available to our students. Special thanks go to our primary President's Scholars Program sponsors: Pepsi, AP Architects, EECU, Keller Automotive Group, Dixie and Brian Welborn Estate, Chevron and Borba Farms. Other major sponsors of the scholarship program include: Stone Land Co., TCM Investments, Edward and Sheilah Kreyenhagen, Mid Valley Disposal/Jay Kalpakoff, Buckman-Mitchell Inc., Aera Energy LLC, Dale Scott & Co., Pacific Gas & Electric, Nicholas and Edna Ivans, Keenan & Associates, James G. Parker Insurance, Boeing, Leprino Foods, Marderosian, Cercone & Cohen, Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, and San-Tran Lions Club. For more information contact Frances Squire at 559 934-2134 or [francesquire@whccd.edu](mailto:francesquire@whccd.edu).

## ATHLETICS

### March/April Scheduled Games

#### Men's Falcon Baseball Schedule 2015

TUE	4/21/2015	<b>Merced College</b>	<b>Home</b>	2:00pm		
THU	4/23/2015	<b>Fresno City College</b>	<b>Home</b>	2:00pm		
FRI	4/24/2015	Porterville College	Away	2:00pm		
TUE	4/28/2015	Play-In Game Playoffs	TBD			
	5/1-5/2/2015	JC Regional Playoffs	TBD			
	5/8-5/10/2015	JC SuperRegional Playoffs	TBD			
	5/15-5/17/2015	Sectional Playoffs	TBD			
	5/23-5/25/2015	State Championships	TBD			

#### Women's Falcon Softball Schedule 2015

<b>Apr 21</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>*Porterville</b>	<b>1PM</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>
<b>Apr 21</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>*Porterville</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>
May 8-9	FRI-SAT	Regionals	TBA	TBA
May 15-16	FRI-SAT	Super Regionals	TBA	TBA
May 22-24	FRI-SAT	State Tournament	TBA	TBA
*Central Valley Conference Game				



WHCC Softball Fundraiser, March 22, 2015

This year's WHCC Softball fundraiser went great! It was well attended and the team was able to raise \$1,800.

Go Falcons!