



## WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

California's drought is not a new story, now well into its fourth consecutive summer. Nonetheless nothing can substitute witnessing firsthand the impacts of the drought on some of California's hardest hit communities. On June 25<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to travel with representatives from the State Water Resources Board to see the effects of drought in our valley, specifically in the disadvantaged communities of Hanford, Porterville, and East Porterville. The purpose of the tour was to gain better insight into small drinking water systems since drinking water is a top concern with hundreds of families whose wells are already dry, and even more at risk.

Our first stop was a Kings County drug rehabilitation center, Champions, whose staff and clients are using filtration systems to address nitrates and contaminants in their water supply. In East Porterville we visited many homes with no water. A non-profit is working with residents to bring in temporary tanks which are installed by Community Services Employment Training (CSET) volunteers. The tanks are filled with water trucked in by United Way. The expenses incurred by each organization are reimbursed with funding from the Governor's Office through California Disaster Assistance Act. We also visited Iglesia Emmanuel, a local church working with the county to provide shower trailers, distribute bottled water and generally figure out what else is at the top of the urgency list. Sacramento and local supporters provide reimbursement for the expense of the showers and volunteers from CSET help hand out water.

The impression I came away from this experience with was that it is more important than ever to work collaboratively to find solutions to our complex problems. Whether the problem centers on drought response, or improving the time to graduate or working to get young children excited about education. We can't do this alone. We must work together with government, industry and our communities. We have a duty to strengthen and support these vital relationships. It is great to see that West Hills College is directly involved in dealing with many of these issues.



**Drought Relief:** West Hills College Coalinga is being responsive to the drought crisis in two meaningful ways. First, offering targeted training to workers negatively impacted by the drought and second, through increased campus/center conservation efforts. **New Employment Training Programs** housed at Farm of the Future and the WIT (Westside Institute of Technology) in Mendota are in high demand areas – Certified Agricultural Irrigation Specialist (CAIS) and Qualified Application License (QAL). These programs have received special funding from the state Chancellor's Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy initiative and have been featured in an English and Spanish brochure distributed statewide. Both programs have added ESL supports as well as hands-on lab time.

**Campus Conservation** has resulted in significant water usage savings. Shaun Bailey, Alex Villalobos and WHCC Athletic Director Mark Arce have been working to implement conservation recommendations from IGService conservation consultants for the City of Coalinga as well as AP Architects and Cenergistic. While WHCC and NDC are becoming less green and more “golden” our efforts have helped the cities in **meeting the state conservation requirements!** Campus and Center efforts will be shared in more detail next month.

**Accreditation News:** The most recent newsletter from our accrediting commission, ACCJC News, featured West Hills College Coalinga for our DQP project (Degree Qualifications Profile). Initially the project focused solely on Administration of Justice and Agriculture. Soon, faculty members from other areas also begin to examine student learning outcomes in a new manner by adopting outcomes aligned to industry standards. It improves the relevancy, which studies have shown improve student retention. The project also resulted in an improved sequence for course scheduling that **improves the time to complete**. The results proved to be a catalyst expansion of DQP process. Faculty and administrators on the Pathway Design Teams (DPTs) selected Geography, Political Science, Biology and Business Administration to undertake the process to improve the path for students.

Kudos - Arkady Hanjiev, Sarah Shepard, Clint Cowden, Anita Bart and Stephanie Droker for leading this effort!

**Inmate Education Program:** For several months' college administration have been planning with local and state prison officials to improve educational programs designed to reduce recidivism rates. With the new legislation, SB1391, the method of computing apportionments has changed. Previously, colleges were restricted to open courses in order to collect apportionment. SB1391 makes possible a sustainable method for reimbursement of services by waiving the open course provision. West Hills will now be able to serve incarcerated students in a sustainable manner. Kudos to Dr. Droker and Robert Pimentel for leading this effort.

**Jobs for the Future:** A report commissioned by The Wonderful Company examined how the Paramount Agriculture Center Academy (PACA) is changing the educational experience for students. West Hills College's efforts at Avenal High School as well as the Summer Ag Camp was prominently heralded as a success. PACA prepares youth for college and career success through a fundamental change in the educational experience. Using an “early college” model high school students are engaged in a rigorous and relevant program of study that allows them to earn college credit while in high school.

**Summer Camps:** West Hills was the first to offer a summer camp for middle school students and now it is the model that is being replicated throughout the Valley. Students experience college firsthand by staying in dorm for the week and participate in hands-on activities that focus on work-based learning. Students discover the power of heavy equipment simulations, conduct field surveying and plant science experiments as well as work in the computer-aided design (CAD) lab. From this experience, students get a firsthand look at a wide range of college and career possibilities. The camp starts July 19<sup>th</sup> and concludes on July 24<sup>th</sup> with a family picnic and student's presentations sharing their learning projects. Kudos to Clint Cowden, Tim Ellsworth, Zack Soto and Brain Boomer for continuing the tradition of success for these young learners!

The Ag Camp isn't the only camp at WHCC this summer. Chevron sponsored 'Fun Physical Science Camp' is a week-long day camp designed for elementary students runs through the summer. Please Contact Angela Eldridge at 559-934-2221 for more information.

## Farm of the Future



(Photo of WHCC FoF Deep Well)

It's been a challenging summer at the Farm of the Future. In the beginning everything was running smooth, but then we began having some water issues. Our deep well went out at the worst possible time while we were in full swing irrigating and fertilizing our garlic, almonds, pistachios, and sugar beets. With the deep well being out of commission, we had to rely on our secondary well which only produces 200 gallons per minute. Our deep well was producing 1,100-1,200gpm. At this point we had to implement scientific deficit irrigation scheduling, which forced us to prioritize the crops. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June the foot valve that feeds the VFD pumps malfunctioned, so it had to be pulled out. After pulling it out and taking it apart, we cleaned it up and made sure everything was functioning properly. Once everything was put back together, we put it back in, primed all three pumps, and got the system up and running. We added enough copper sulfate to clean out the reservoir in order to prevent this from happening again.

Our garlic crop is doing really well. We turned the water off on the June 23<sup>rd</sup> and have been working on getting tumble weeds out of the field. The buyer is thinking about harvesting sometime between July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>. This has definitely been a learning experience for me and the students that were out here working on it as well.

Almonds are also coming along. We have been in a long battle with the squirrels and gophers but it seems like we might finally be getting somewhere with it. The middle of the rows are looking better and we have done away with most of the weeds. The almonds took a hit from not getting as much water as they should have and the result is visible. Given the circumstances, almonds are doing ok. Harvest for the almonds is scheduled around the 16-22 of July.

Our PCAs have shared that our pistachios are on track and doing very well. We have been fighting the squirrels and gophers in the orchard. So this is good news! The weather has had a big part in speeding up the pistachios. A lot of work by everyone at the Farm to improve the middles and they are finally starting to look like they should. We are about a month and a half out for harvest on these trees but that is subject to change.



The Farm has two students working this summer. Pedro Montes has a year under his belt at West Hills and has been working out here for a few months now. Pedro is from Steel Canyon High School in Dulcura, California. He is currently on the Rodeo Team for West Hills and is majoring in Agriculture Science. Jorge Gutierrez is the second student working on the farm. Jorge is also a graduate from Steel Canyon High School. He is also on the rodeo team and is majoring in Agriculture Science Technology. Both students are hard workers, quick learners, and motivated individuals. We are proud to have you working at the Farm of the Future and part of the Falcon Family!

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



### WHC Upward Bound Residential Summer 2015 Program

Congratulations to the 26 UB student listed below whom, based on their interest, grade point average, leadership skills and application credentials were selected to participate in the Upward Bound UB Residential Summer 2015 Program from June 15 through July 26, 2015.

Participants are living in the College Residential Hall during the residential component of the summer program for a total of 6-weeks. The UB model of the summer program at WHC includes: rigorous 6 credit college courses, service learning, leadership development, career exploration, cultural events, educational field

trips to 4-year colleges , intensive tutoring, skills development plus community- based days within the local communities of Huron, Coalinga, Mendota, San Joaquin, and Tranquillity. The Upward Bound students will be busy having fun, making new friends, and improving their academic skills before next school year. Students are expected to participate in the entire 6-week intense summer program.

#### **Coalinga High School**

Miguel Canales  
Mitzi Cruz  
Jazmin Lomeli  
Sabrina Martinez  
Emilia Sylva  
Ulises Angel Olayo

#### **Mendota High School**

Jocelyn Aispuro  
Jesus Avila  
Jose Avila  
Maria Baires  
Dayme Barrera  
Karla Barrera  
Fatima Escobar  
Blanca Martinez  
Ayde Mendoza  
Selina Montalvo  
Flor Moreno  
Elena Orozco  
Liliana Quezada  
Angelica Sanchez  
Lilia Torres  
Juan Villalobos

#### **Tranquillity High School**

Eduardo Arias  
Lorena Diaz  
Adrian Figueroa  
Maria Perez  
Dorian Rivas

NDC Student Services staff and student volunteers coordinated informational table displays at the TOMATEK Job Fair on Wednesday, May 27. The job fair participants received informational leaflets and brochures on college academic support services and financial aid.

Thursday, May 28 Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata represented West Hills Community College Coalinga/North District Center at the Firebaugh Senior High School Awards banquet. The college awarded one ASB scholarship and eight President's Scholars awards. This marked a new record of President's Scholarships provided to Firebaugh high school graduates!

Dr. Carole Goldsmith hosted the WHCCD Citizens Oversight Committee for School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) No. 1 Measure Q at NDC, on June 2. Dr. Goldsmith welcomed the participants and addressed the agenda items scheduled. The agenda items included; discussion on the By-Laws and membership, upcoming meeting schedule, review of the Draft Annual Report-Richard Treece, AP Architects, review of the 2013-14 Audit Report, an expenditure update on Measure Q/SFID-1 projects and cash-flow and the updated NDC building renditions on the center's expansion plan.

**Go Falcons!**

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata attended the bi-monthly CalSOAP consortium meeting on June 11, 2015. The CalSOAP consortium is the Governing Board that governs the work of the program. The Governing Board consists of at least one representative from each entity in the consortium (Fresno State, Fresno City, Fresno Pacific, WHC, Mendota High School, Firebaugh High School, Kerman High School and Tranquillity High School) and establishes management policy, provides direction to the project director, and sets priorities for budgetary decisions that reflect the specific needs of the project. Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata was elected interim Vice-Chair for the 2015-16 year

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



### **Robert Pimentel**

Robert Pimentel has been working for the West Hills Community College District for over 15 years. Robert is currently serving as Associate Dean of Educational Services at West Hills College Coalinga. His primary responsibilities include scheduling and staffing all adjunct related courses, working with the local and private high school, scheduling dual credit courses, and managing all Career Technical Education Programs. He is also responsible for managing the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act Programs, Trade Adjustment Act Community College Career Training Grant, Career Pathways Grants, and Industry Driven Collaborative Grants. As part of the duties of the Associate Dean, Mr. Pimentel works with industry partners and community agencies to evaluate career technical education on campus and ensure that West Hills College Coalinga is offering programs that will lead to jobs for our students. Based on input from our

employer partners, Mr. Pimentel and faculty have revised curriculum. Several new and modified courses will be offered this spring.

The recent passage of SB 1391 provides a sustainable model for California Community Colleges to offer courses in California Prisons. The goal is to assist with the recidivism rates across the state by expanding access to community college courses that lead to degrees or certificates that result in enhanced workforce skills or transfer to a 4-year university. Mr. Pimentel has begun working with prison officials to develop programs for inmates that will allow them to obtain a degree or transfer to a university once they are released. We project an interagency agreement will soon be reached and classes will be offered in the spring.

Early education outreach activities is part of his responsibilities as well. Mr. Pimentel has been busy this summer coordinating a host of youth summer camps. This summer the college, in partnership with Chevron, will again host three science camps for 3-6<sup>th</sup> Graders. Robert has been working with Coalinga-Huron School District to offer a NEW summer boot camp at Huron Middle School. The focus will be on computer programming and business entrepreneurship.

## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (HEP)

WHCCD was recently awarded a new 5-year High School Equivalency Program (HEP) grant. HEP is an educational program that serves students from migrant or seasonal farmworker families. HEP helps students who have dropped out of high school get their High School Equivalency (HSE) Credential, and serves more than 6,000 students annually. HEP is funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education and is administered by universities, colleges and non-profit organizations nationwide.

To be eligible to participate in a HEP project a person, or his or her immediate family member, must have spent a minimum of 75 days during the past 24 months as a migrant or seasonal farmworker; or the person must have participated or be eligible to participate, in programs under 34 CFR part 200, subpart C (Title I—Migrant Education Program) or 20 CFR part 633 (Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor—Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs).

Implementation of HEP activities is currently underway. The WHCCD HEP grant will provide up to 100 qualifying students with high quality HSE instruction, books and supplies, college and career advice, and financial assistance. HEP will serve students in the Coalinga, Lemoore, and Firebaugh areas. For more information, please contact Javier Cazares at (559) 934-2176.

## **WHCCD FOUNDATION**

A total of over \$500,000 in scholarships has been awarded to over 300 students throughout the West Hills Community College District, ranging from partial scholarships to complete tuition coverage.

The scholarships, for the 2015-2016 school year, were awarded to students on both campuses based on academic achievement. The students were recognized during awards ceremonies on each campus.

District-wide, almost two-thirds of the students who received a scholarship received one that will offset all of their tuition costs and cover most, if not all, of their book costs while attending West Hills.

At West Hills College Coalinga, more than 70 students received a WHCC Foundation President's Scholarship, which pays for tuition and covers most book costs.

A total of 118 students earned WHCC Foundation scholarships at West Hills College Coalinga with a total value of \$157,740.

"The generosity of our donors makes this possible," said Frances Squire, foundation executive director. "Without their help, we would not be able to provide our President's Scholars Program or the many individual scholarships that are awarded to our students."

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

### **WHCC Fitness Lab – Summer 2015**

Hours of Operation, Monday thru Friday, 5am-6:30am and 11am-1pm, June 8-August 12. Cost is \$40 per person (\$25 for WHCC students & staff) and includes the use of fitness lab equipment, workout towel, and locker room/shower facilities. For more information stop by the Community Education or Athletic Offices at WHCC. For further questions send an email to [angelaeldridge@whccd.edu](mailto:angelaeldridge@whccd.edu).

For registration please go to [www.westhillscollege.com/coalinga](http://www.westhillscollege.com/coalinga) under Announcements – Fitness Lab.