



## WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **New Grant! Career Pathways Trust Grants \$10 Million to West Hills College**

Future students will reap the benefits of learning the importance of math and science in careers in the business of agriculture. WHCC will work with industry partners in the new program, including the Roll Global family of Paramount Farming and related entities, along with Olam International, Cal-Organics and Grimmway Farms. West Hills and Reedley will partner on programs to be offered in Avenal and Sanger. The project will also expand summer camps for youth.

### **WHCC to Host Computer Programming Camp in Huron**

West Hills will host an interactive technology camp for middle school students this summer. "It is designed to help inspire the next generation of programmers, inventors and entrepreneurs, the camp is a technical, hands-on experience to introduce students to programming and entrepreneurial skills" said Robert Pimentel, associate dean of student learning and project lead. He is working closely with the State Chancellor's Office Deputy Sector Navigator for Information Computer Technology, Mr. Dennis Mohle. For more information, call Angela Eldridge at 559-934-2221. The camp is sponsored by the *Doing What Matters* Initiative provided by California State Chancellor's Office.

### **Technology in Action**

Faculty continue to focus honing their instructional and technology skills. On June 12, 2015 I had the pleasure of joining several West Hills College faculty and Fresno State President Dr. Joseph Castro to learn how a new K-20 partnership that will increase the college going rate among students in our region through the use of technology. WHCCD is a proud partner in the K-20 Promise Partnership project, now under development.



Pictured Right to left: Kevin Wilds, Dr. Goldsmith, Steve Wright, Joy Cowden, Kurt Sterling  
Back Row: Shawn Jackson, Jameson Birrell, Scott Wilson, Jeff Wanderer, Dr. Tim Ellsworth, David Babb, Dr. Joseph Castro

Dr. Stephanie Droker, vice president of educational services, has been asked by the CCC CIO Association to be one of four CIO representatives on the California Community College Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Curriculum. This advisory committee provides a collaborative forum for system level discussions pertaining to curriculum to inform related Chancellor's Office policies and practices. The committee discusses and makes recommendations on such topics as course and program approval processes, training the field about curriculum policies, title 5 changes, and related curricular issues. Congratulations Stephanie!

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Commencement 2015 marked an epic point in our history. We conferred 663 Associate Degrees and Certificates of achievement. This is an all-time record for West Hills College Coalinga!

We awarded 400 Associate of Arts and Science and conferred 263 Certificates of achievement. The gymnasium hosted 196 students who walked across the stage on to receive their diplomas.

Students earning industry recognized certificates are well prepared to enter into the workforce. Many students receiving degrees have already been accepted to universities in California and across the nation. We wish them the best!



The high completion number speaks volumes. The numbers reflect our students' dedication to their goals and our commitment to the relentless pursuit of student success.

Parents commented on how enjoyable the ceremony was and that it was a fitting celebration of success. Many watched it streaming in the theater. One student had 25 family members sitting there to watch him walk across the stage – along with his boss!



It's summer time and everyone at WHCC and NDC are gearing up for the new 2015-16 academic year! Financial aid is busy processing new files and assisting the incoming student-athletes with their financial planning. In an effort to increase our PELL numbers staff is encouraging all students to fill out their FAFSA applications. In the month of May we conducted workshops to assist students in filling out their missing paperwork and conducted exit loan counseling. Staff members are also making additional attempts to follow-up with students who are missing documents by sending e-mails, texts and making phone calls. This is one of the financial aid department's top priorities to ensure that we are helping student's overcome any barriers they may face financially by educating and informing them of their financial aid eligibility and responsibility.

Summer online courses started June 1<sup>st</sup> and face-to-face classes in Coalinga and Firebaugh started June 8<sup>th</sup>. The intensive six-week session begins June 15<sup>th</sup> so it will be a busy time on campus.



NDC students in the Supplemental Instruction (SI) and TRIO mentors programs hosted a cake and refreshments get together to show their appreciation to the WHC SI team on May 12, 2015. All the participants shared their gratitude for the academic support provided during the semester and gave kudos to each SI team member.

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata attended the UC Davis Advisory Council meeting held in Firebaugh, at the Housing Authority offices, on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Council is a committee of community leaders working in partnership with UC Davis' Obesity research project.



WHCC North District Center staff representing Student Services, Workforce and Farm of the Future participated at the Mendota High School Careers and Job Fair on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The fair was hosted by CalSOAP in Mendota. Over 500 sophomore from the Westside (Firebaugh, Mendota, Kerman and Tranquillity high schools) attended the event. WHC staff did a great job with various table displays and equipment demonstrations.

Thursday, May 21 Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata attended the Mendota High School Annual Awards Ceremony. Dr. Felix-Mata represented WHC Coalinga in the presentation of several WHC scholarships including ten \$1,000.00 scholarships donated by First Solar to 10 MHS seniors enrolled at WHC Coalinga for academic year 2015-16.



On Friday, May 8, 2015, TRiO/SSS took students to UC Santa Cruz for a campus tour. The students got to see a campus event with various clubs participating, including cultural dances, informational awareness, and a variety of music was played. Students were able to see the sports complex, the classrooms, and talk to students on campus. UCSC students shared information about taking the right steps to transfer, how to find housing, and what they liked best about their school. WHC students were very appreciative that UCSC students took the time to give them a tour of their school.

After the campus tour, TRiO/SSS students enjoyed an afternoon at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk sponsored by the TRiO Club. These students have been planning campus activities and raising money to tour universities, visit new places, and help other students.

Students reflected about how their semester went, as well as what they learned about today's trip. Fernando Escandon said that he can picture himself going to this school.

**Go Falcons!**

## 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.westhillscollge.com/coalinga](http://www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga) under Announcements – Fitness Lab.

### **June 14 – June 20 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association National Finals**

Jacob Lees will be competing in Bareback Bronc Riding at the finals in Casper, Wyoming. “WHCC Rodeo is very proud of Jacob and his accomplishments this year,” said WHCC Rodeo Coach Justin Hampton. “He finished the regular season with a riding percentage of 80 percent, which is phenomenal. He is very deserving of this opportunity and we are looking forward to great things from him.”

### **Summer Ag Camp Co-Sponsored by Wonderful**

The Wonderful Education Camp (formally Paramount Sumer Camp) will hold staff training July 13-16. The camp will run July 19-24. The cost for this residential camp is free to participants. It is funded by a grant from California Department of Education and sponsorship from the Wonderful Company (formerly Paramount Farms). West Hills College Coalinga's Farm of the Future is also a proud co-sponsor.

### **Chevron Fun Physical Science Camp**

Three (3) camps will be offered this year. The camps are being sponsored by WHC, WHCF, and Chevron with 20 students and 5 alternates being accepted for each camp. Chevron donated \$18,000.00 with the focus on Stem for 60 elementary students (20 students and 5 alternates will be accepted for each camp).

The 3 camps will run for 1 week each and the instructors are Mayra Vargas (lead) and Norma Carpenter:

Camp 1 – 7/6/15 – 7/10/15 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Camp 2 – 7/13/15 – 7/17/15 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Camp 3 – 7/20/15 – 7/24/15 6<sup>th</sup> grade

The goal of the Chevron Fun Physical Science Camp is to stimulate elementary school students' interest in the Physical Sciences using familiar object that operates by important, basic physical principles. Elementary school age students will have the chance to ask and answer questions, do investigations and learn to apply problem-solving skills. For more information and to obtain an application: please contact Angela Eldridge at 559-934-2221 or [angelaeldridge@whccd.edu](mailto:angelaeldridge@whccd.edu).

### **WHCC Community Ed Offering**

High Cardio Boot camp runs July 1 – July 31, 2015 (excluding holidays) with classes held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5-5:50pm, at the WHCC Aerobics/Dance Room. Cost is \$45 per month. For more information come by the Community Education Office at WHC Coalinga or email [angelaeldridge@whccd.edu](mailto:angelaeldridge@whccd.edu).

For registration please go to [www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga](http://www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga) under Academics - Community Education.