



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

I had the pleasure of being invited to participate in the Phi Delta Kappa, *Meet the Leaders Forum*, held last week. It was an opportunity to meet Dr. Joe Castro, the new president at CSU Fresno. He was very interested in learning how CSU Fresno might be able to partner with West Hills in future projects that advance student learning. During my portion of the presentation, I focused on our efforts to **expand** awareness of **agriculture education** at the K12 level with new area high school partnerships. The focal point of the message was that West Hills College is building on its success. With a new 24 million dollar facility, new and existing faculty are working to revamp and redesign program offerings to ensure our agriculture programs, at the Farm of the Future, are what employers and students need.

Rob Skaggs and Erin Corea are continuing the work to establish WHCC's own chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Our local chapter will provide opportunities for students to network with a group of scholars on campus and hone critical leadership and business skills such as researching real-life issues in our community. By working as a team to develop a plan to resolve targeted issues, students will practice effective active collaboration with fellow students, faculty, administration and local businesses to improve our community. The **Honors in Action** approach of our chapter will increase allow students to negotiate conflicts in a positive way. Kudos to Rob and Erin for working to make this happen!

Speaking of action, our Lumina **DQP Team** comprised of Arkady Hanjiev, Sarah Shepard, Anita Bart, Scott Sutherland, Clint Cowden, Matt Magnuson, and Stephanie Droker have begun the college wide conversation and even looking at assessment. I have enjoyed the lively discussion about rethinking SLO's and Program SLO's in terms of a much more comprehensive and intentional process. What struck me the most during the conversation was that while we are currently meeting accreditation standards, our faculty wants to **go beyond just meeting the minimum**. I was very impressed that the discussion focused on taking what we have learned and using the utility of the DQP as a framework for assessing and advancing student learning. Innovative, indeed...

Katelyn Vargas, current student in the Agriculture programs at the Farm of the Future, was recently selected from thousands of applicants to serve in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Virtual Student Foreign Service e-Internship Program. The USAID Agriculture Research project that she will be working with is housed in Madrid, Spain. There were 276 positions and 2,630 applicants. Of those, 13 applied for the Agricultural Research position, and 3 were chosen. The two students that Katelyn will be working with are from Princeton University and UC Davis. Way to go Katelyn! This is just one more example that **our faculty is dedicated to Student Success!**

FEATURED PROGRAM

TRIO

The history of TRIO is progressive. It began with **Upward Bound**, which emerged out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in response to the administration's War on Poverty. In 1965, **Talent Search**, the second outreach program, was created as part of the Higher Education Act. In 1968, **Student Support Services (SSS)**, was originally known as Special Services for Disadvantaged Students, was authorized by the Higher Education Amendments and became the third in a series of educational opportunity programs. By the late 1960's, the term "TRIO" was coined to describe these federal programs.

Student Support Services (SSS) programs provide tutoring, counseling, and remedial instruction to low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities. These programs enable students to successfully begin their college careers, persist in their studies, and ultimately earn their bachelor's degrees.

Currently, there are more than 945 programs serving nearly 200,000 students nationwide. During the grant renewal funding cycle, West Hills College Coalinga (WHCC) competed with over 1,500 other programs. The objectives of the program is to meet the academic needs of eligible participants, increase college retention, graduation rates, and transfer to four year college and universities.

The WHCC TRIO/SSS program has high student academic success expectations of its participants:

- maintain a >2.6 GPA
- agree to participate in program sponsored workshops, social/cultural activities, or fieldtrips
- agree to contact SSS office regarding any/all academic changes
- follow an education plan (Ed plan) with a graduation/transfer aim

The **West Hills College Coalinga/Firebaugh North District Center Student Support Services** grant was renewed in 2009. The funding allowed the college to implement a more focused approach to promote a student success initiative model, the *Leadership & Academic College Excellence (LACE) Initiative*. The initiative personalized services including academic, vocational, and personal advising; career assessment and planning; financial aid application assistance and financial literacy education; priority registration; comprehensive study program-individual and group tutoring, progress reports, bi-weekly contacts, and academic peer-mentoring/tutoring. The program serves 250 students a year.

Research shows that Student Support Services participants are more likely to: 1) Remain enrolled in higher education; 2) Accrue more college credits; and 3) Earn a higher grade point average.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

West Hills College Coalinga Remembers 9/11



On Wednesday, September 11, 2013, West Hills College Coalinga hosted its annual event on campus. Lizeth Hernandez, WHCC ASB President, gave the welcome and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Presenters included: Detective Juan Cisneros, Coalinga Police Department; Master Sergeant Tom Dahlenberg, California Air National Guard; Chief Steve Henry, Coalinga Fire Department; and President Carole Goldsmith, WHC Coalinga. This year's Emcee was Mark Gritton, Associate Dean of Student Services/Director of Athletics. Also displayed at this year's event was the "Flag of Honor" which contains every name of the individuals who were killed on that day in 2001.

NDC Remembers 9/11



NDC conducted a 9/11 Remembrance Event in front of its Center on Wednesday, September 11. Guest speakers included members of the Firebaugh Veterans of War; WHC Board of Trustee Jack Minnite; Firebaugh City Manager Ken McDonald; ASB President Erick Andrade; and NDC Director Dr. Marcel Hetu. Over 50 students, staff, faculty and community members attended this commemorative event.

2013-2014 President's Scholars

This year's President's Scholars met on September 4th for a mandatory orientation and pizza luncheon along with President Carole Goldsmith, Counselor Erin Corea and other administrative staff. Students were reminded about the criteria for maintaining this scholarship, services available, and community service commitments and about upcoming priority registration opportunities. This scholarship is awarded to district and area high school students who demonstrated superior academic achievement.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Marlese Roton



Counselor Marlese Roton has been selected Employee of The Month. Mrs. Roton has been a West Hills College employee since 1994, when she started as a part-time counselor for our North District Center (NDC) in Firebaugh. In 1997, she became a full-time counselor as well as a faculty member. During her tenure at NDC, she has taught many different courses such as Leadership, Marriage and Family Relationships, Career Planning, College Success and Speech. Additionally, Mrs. Roton has served on various committees including the Instructional Service Council, Academic Senate, and Accreditation.

Marlese has been instrumental in serving as the advisor for our Associated Student Body (ASB), representing the college at local high school outreach programs, and participating in numerous conferences and workshops related to the Basic Skills Initiative, serving disabled students, leadership and Standard Learning Objectives (SLO).

Some of Mrs. Roton's hobbies include collecting sea glass, painting and cooking. She loves to spend time with her children and grandchildren, traveling to Santa Cruz and Hawaii, and spoiling her husband of 39 years!

Marlese is absolutely loved by her students, colleagues, and community members. She, of course, loves all of them and every day she works diligently at helping everyone find success and happiness.

Our entire college, Center, and the West Hills College District are so fortunate to have such a professional leader among its ranks. She is a model of excellence in education, a truly caring person, and Counselor Marlese Roton certainly deserves this honor.

STUDENT SERVICES IN ACTION

CalSOAP College and Career Fair Day



West Hills College, Coalinga participated in the CalSOAP College and Career Fair Day, at Tranquillity High School, on August 30. Over 800 sophomores from Firebaugh H.S., Mendota H.S., Tranquillity H.S. and Kerman H.S. attended this event. WHC had a full staff to greet these students and talk with them about different academic programs, college events, and the advantages of attending West Hills College after graduating from high school. WHC staff included Director of Title IV Programs, Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata; Upward Bound Advising Specialist, Juan Rubio;

Grants/Planning/Research Advising Specialist, Olivia Vega; Workforce Connection Sr. Employment Readiness Specialist, Ruthie Martinez; Career Center Technician, Domenica Sanchez; and North District Center Director Dr. Marcel A. Hetu. It was an exciting and positive event, and gave everyone an opportunity to meet students, counselors, and administrators from our Westside feeder high schools.

INTERESTING INSIGHTS

Foundation

Frances Squire, Executive Director of the WHCC Foundation reports that she had the great pleasure of addressing the WHCC President's Scholars on September 4th. She said "They looked like a great group of highly motivated students and there are over 100 President's Scholars registered district-wide this semester at West Hills College." This is one of the most comprehensive scholarship programs anywhere. ALL qualified California high school graduates are accepted. Our numbers have grown significantly from about 15-25 a year when the program started in 1986. During the fall of 2011, 56 students were enrolled. If you know of potential donors who might be willing to support this program, please forward their names and contact information to Frances and she'll take it from there. The WHCCF golf tournament is no longer able to provide all of the funding we will need. Also, don't forget the Employee Philanthropy Program as a simple way of making a tax-deductible contribution.

Please email Frances Squire at francesquire@whccd.edu if you are interested in participating.

ATHLETICS

Fall 2013 Football

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept 28	Saturday	San Jose City College	San Jose	3pm
Oct 5	Saturday	Gavilan College	Gilroy	5pm
Oct 12	Saturday	Bye		
Oct 18	Friday	*Laney College	Oakland	7pm
Oct 26	Saturday	*Siskiyou (Homecoming & Hall of Fame)	Coalinga	1pm
Nov 2	Saturday	*Reedley College	Reedley	1pm
Nov 9	Saturday	*Chabot College	Coalinga	3pm
Nov 16	Saturday	*Merced Jr. College	Coalinga	1pm
		* Conference Games		

HOME GAMES IN BOLD

Fall 2013 Volleyball

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept 25	Wednesday	*Merced Jr. College	Coalinga	6pm
Oct 2	Wednesday	*Taft College	Coalinga	6pm
Oct 4	Friday	*Reedley College	Reedley	6pm
Oct 9	Wednesday	*College of the Sequoias	Coalinga	6pm
Oct 11	Friday	*Columbia College	Sonora	5pm
Oct 16	Wednesday	*Fresno City College	Fresno	6pm
Oct 18	Friday	*Porterville College	Coalinga	6pm
Oct 23	Wednesday	*Merced Jr. College	Merced	6pm
Oct 29	Tuesday	*Taft College	Taft	6pm
Nov 1	Friday	*Reedley College	Coalinga	6pm
Nov 6	Wednesday	*College of the Sequoias	Visalia	6pm
Nov 8	Friday	*Columbia College	Coalinga	5pm
Nov 13	Wednesday	*Fresno City College	Coalinga	6pm
Nov 15	Friday	*Porterville College	Porterville	6pm
		* 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>