



## WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

This year's annual CEO Symposium, held March 12-15, was one of the best I have ever attended. It was organized different this year. Presidents and Chancellors from both northern and southern California met to discuss topics such as: Dual Enrollment, State Reporting Requirements, Facility Bonds, Recommendations from the Workforce Taskforce, Status of the Bachelor's Degree program and Accreditation.

### **Accreditation**

As you may be aware, after hours of discussion at the Symposium, the CEO group reached consensus to work towards a change of the current accreditation structure. CEOs supported a two-prong approach that first attempts to improve the current operations and governance of ACCJC, our current accrediting body, and second, plan for a future transition to another accreditor that would include all higher education institutions in the Western region. CCC Chancellor Harris took the two-prong plan to Board of Governors where it received unanimous approval during their March meeting.

While the plan has been approved by the Board of Governors, this is not a plan that can be acted upon solely or swiftly. ACCJC accredits private and public colleges in California, Hawaii, and the Pacific Region. Therefore a broad dialogue throughout the Western Region must occur. Continued collaborative dialogue between ACCJC and California Colleges' Chief Executive Officers will occur keeping a focus on students.

With all this said, change will not happen overnight. It is important to note, that West Hills College Coalinga remains committed to the ACCJC accreditation process and we are in the midst of finalizing our Self Study.

**Spring Break:** I don't know about you, but I always enjoy returning to campus after Spring Break. The weather is fantastic and our campus looks great. In case you missed it, our M&O team was busy over the break. They replaced the tattered wind screens by the tennis courts with bright new blue screens with our logo. They also painted the student lounge in preparation for even more improvements to come. Plus they did several deep cleaning projects. Please join me in thanking our M&O staff, our campus really looks beautiful!

**Art project:** Speaking of campus improvements, you may have noticed that the hedges in the planter boxes by the theater have been pruned. This is in preparation for Melissa Holsonbake's art class project. They will be restoring the theater mural, "transformation" Please plan on joining me as we host the official unveiling of the restored mural will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm during the annual West Hills College Spring Student Art Reception.

**Agriculture in action:** On Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> I had an opportunity to drive Dr. Gornick and Clint Cowden to Sacramento to attend the AgTech Roundtable. This group is dedicated to building on the already significant success of the Farm of the Future by expanding our applied approach to teaching and learning to create the California Center for Applied Ag Technology at West Hills College Coalinga Farm of the Future. Stay tuned for more information on this development.

**Academics:** CCA CVHEC State Institute - Co Requisite Remediation at Scale – WHCC Math and English faculty recently took a deep dive in exploring the possibility of dramatically improving student success through the use of corequisite models. The implementation planning is impressive. My hat is off to all of you for your innovative thinking!

**Go Falcons!**



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## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

*Spring Bash Event (3/17/16) – Hosted by TRiO Club*

The Spring Bash Event was a big hit. Students had so much fun before they went off to their spring vacation. Students were able to enjoy games, music, food, and transfer representative information booths. Students received beneficial information from Brandman University, Grand Canyon University, and National University.



*March 10*, Olivia Vega, HEP Advisor, and Marivel Perez, Workforce Program Assistant, displayed an information resource table at the Mendota Unified Migrant Mini-Conference at Mendota High School. The West Hills College program joined over 25 other social agencies in this annual migrant parents meeting.

*March 14*, Dr. Felix-Mata and Maria Ceballos, Counselor, met with Kings View - Rural Triage Crisis Co-Responder Program Coordinator Gilberto Rivas. The Crisis Co-Response mental health services is a new federally funded program designed to address the mental health needs in the rural west side of Fresno County. The team of professional mental health providers divert individuals in crisis away from the criminal justice system and emergency rooms by providing assessments, clinical intervention, and linkages to appropriate treatment facilities. The team also provides case management for up to 30 days. The mental health staff is co-located in the Firebaugh Police Department building and regularly responds to crisis situations along with the police department's staff calls.

Firebaugh Promotores is a community based organization funded partially by the federal government to promote leadership development and provide soft skills trainings and resources/referrals to community members. Dr. Felix-Mata shared WHC NDC/Firebaugh materials on the free rural public transportation routes, the DACA workshop scheduled April 16<sup>th</sup>, HEP services, and academic support services in general.

### **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

West Hills College is joining with the Insure America Project, Nisei Farmers League, the San Joaquin College of Law and other area groups to hold a series of workshops for those who may be qualified for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and who are interested in low cost health insurance?

DACA grants temporary relief from deportation for humanitarian reasons. The benefits include a social security number, a work percent and potential eligibility for healthcare coverage.

NDC is hosting an enrollment event on April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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### ***NDC Student Engagement***



*March 16*, NDC/Firebaugh ASB Senator spearheaded a coloring activity. Students spent time relaxing and coloring their favorite motifs. The activity provided an opportunity for students to de-stress in between mid-term exams.

*March 17*, ANIME club members hosted a game of Loteria/Mexican bingo. The students enjoyed practicing their Spanish! A St. Patrick's theme basket was raffled with donations.

*March 18*, the TRiO, ANIME, and ASB clubs hosted a volleyball game in celebration of International Day of Happiness - Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and kick off to spring break.

*March 18*, WHCC NDC/Firebaugh participated in the 2016 Health Fair at Dunkle Park, 3:30 to 5:30 pm. NDC/Firebaugh joined over 25 other social service agencies in providing resources available to the community.

*March 24*, WHCC NDC/Firebaugh displayed an information table at the Central Valley Boys & Girls Club Resource Fair. The college was represented by Juan Rubio, Advising Specialist. Over 300 teens from throughout the valley attended the conference.

### ***Blood Drive!***

Coalinga residents, students at NDC and WHCC joined together to give blood. It was HUGE success!





## FARM OF THE FUTURE

The West Hills College 2016 Ag Mechanics Contest was attended by a total of 11 schools and 43 students. As part of the Ag Mechanics contest, students competed in 7 different areas which included Tool and Materials ID Arc Welding, Problem Solving, Electrical, Oxyfuel Welding, Woodworking, and Leveling and Land Measurement Skills. The students were given 35 minutes to complete each task. Once all the scores were tabulated the winning school was Atwater High School. The remaining teams that placed 2-5 were only separated by 50 points and the high individual was Boyd Fransen from Selma High School. The contest was a huge success that was both challenging and educational to the students.



Forty students representing 7 regional high schools competed in the Spring 2016 Land Judging contest at West Hills College on March 5th. Students were required to estimate soil profile, plant available water, and land capability classifications as well as identify optimal rangeland and agricultural management practices at each of four locations within the College farm. Despite light rainfall, students did remarkably well at classifying site characteristics, resulting in a very close competition with the winning team (Tulare High School) achieving 325 points out of a possible 400 while the second place team (O'Neal Minarets High School) obtained 324 points. This career development event enables students to develop and practice skills required for careers in agricultural management.

The objective of the Best Informed Greenhand contest, commonly referred to as B-I-G, is to understand the aims, purposes, history, and structure of the Local, State, and National FFA student organizations and know the opportunities it makes available as referenced in the current National FFA Manual and State Constitution.



BIG is for first year freshmen agricultural education students who are FFA members. The students are given a 200 point test: 50 Matching Questions; 50 Multiple Choice Questions; 50 True/False Questions and 50 Fill-In Questions. Five teams participated in the 2016 Spring Field day on March 5: Caruthers, Livingston, Selma, Tulare and Golden West. Selma won the team event with Tulare, Caruthers, Livingston and Golden West finishing the top five, respectively. Sierra Shoemaker from Selma took home the high individual buckle with Libby Jameson of Golden West, Maddie DeCoito of Tulare and Julian Guzman and Makil Saleh of Selma finishing

the top five individuals respectively.

This spring we had 6 schools compete in our Farm Power competition. Competitions included tractor operations, tractor safety, troubleshooting, machine tractor identification, and parts and tool identification. Each of the 21 students made a strong showing during the competition. Tulare won first place in the high team category, and Jared Faria, also from Tulare, had the top individual score and walked away with the belt buckle.



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## President's Monthly Message

### Social Media out at the Farm of the Future

Do you want to know what is going on out at the Farm? Check out our social media sites to stay up-to-date with the latest news from the Farm of the Future. Keep your eye out for weekly videos, pictures and updates.



[facebook.com/farmofthefuture](https://facebook.com/farmofthefuture)



[@farmofthefuture](https://www.snapchat.com/add/farmofthefuture)



[@WHCCFarm](https://twitter.com/WHCCFarm)



[farmofthefuture.tumblr.com](https://farmofthefuture.tumblr.com)



[@farmofthefuture](https://www.instagram.com/farmofthefuture)



[bit.do/FOFyoutube](https://bit.do/FOFyoutube)

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



### Maksim Zahorovskii

I'm Maksim Zahorovskii, I'm a first semester (Fall 2015) international student here at West Hills College Coalinga. I'm from Podolsk, Russia. My major is Business Management and I plan to transfer to UC Berkley. I chose to come to WHCC after attending a college fair in Moscow, Russia. I like reading and learn a new language. My favorite Russian dish is crepes with caviar. Here in the U.S.A. I like the smoked turkey leg.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### WHCC Athletics – Fall 2015/Spring 2016

Want to watch your Falcons and cheer for them? Click on a sport to visit our webpage for our Fall/Spring schedules:

[WHCC Basketball](#)

[WHCC Baseball](#)

[WHCC Softball](#)



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## **President's Monthly Message**

### **WHCCD FOUNDATION**

Golfers, start your engines. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual President's Scholars Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. This new date in June should allow more employees a chance to enjoy a beautiful morning at Kings Country Club while at the same time helping support the more than 130 President's Scholars we have attending West Hills. West Hills College Coalinga has 75 prospective incoming President's Scholars for 2016-2017 and WHCL has 79 applicants.

#### **[Register for the President's Scholars Golf Tournament](#)**

In addition to our President's Scholars' applications, each campus received 179 applications for general scholarships that are offered through the foundation. Scholarship committees run by each financial aid department will meet in April to select winners. In all, more than 500 students applied for a West Hills College scholarship for 2016-2017.

These scholarships are made available through the generosity of our donors. That list includes many employees who support scholarships through the Employee Philanthropy Program.

#### **[Learn more about the Employee Philanthropy Program](#)**

Thanks to all of our donors for supporting the efforts of hard-working West Hills College students.