



## **WHC Coalinga Mission Statement**

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**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 – Holiday Edition**

This month the college has a lot of reasons to feel very proud. The BIG news is that West Hills College Coalinga hosted our first bowl game since 1982...and won! Please join me in congratulating the Falcons for their 24-14 victory over Yuba College in the 2014 NCFC American Division Bowl. Cheers to Coach Tucker and Associate Dean of Student Services and Director of Athletics, Mark Gritton for providing the leadership to our student champions. A big thank you to all WHCC coaches, faculty and support staff who have helped our students stay academically eligible and athletically skilled to do their best. We are proud of all of you.



The Falcon spirit of a winning heart is not only shown on the field or on the court, it also shines through by acts of kindness. For the 19<sup>th</sup> year, the athletic department provided a Thanksgiving dinner for college students who are unable to go home for the holiday and also delivered to needy families in our community.

Students at both NDC and WHCC have continued the Lights of Love campaign to provide gifts to children who are less fortunate. This year the project has been expanded to aid more community families.

Steve Jobs once said, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do." I am certainly blessed to be surrounded by people who love what they do.

**Happy holidays Falcons!**

## FEATURED LEARNING AREA – STUDENT SERVICES

Students from Coalinga, Mendota and Tranquillity high schools have been on the Coalinga campus to do their fall outreach visits. We have hosted approximately 250 students and assisted them with completing their applications for admission, orientation and their placement tests to prepare for REG365 and priority registration! These are a great group of students and we hope to have them enrolled and see them on our campus in the fall of 2015.

The online orientation for Coalinga is still a work in progress but will be a great tool for student success! There are five video components with links for all the information a student needs to know to prepare for college. It will be ready before the end of the fall semester for students to view before priority registration begins in April.

This time of the year, all student services staff are encouraging our students to FINISH STRONG! Even though the semester has flown by, for our students facing finals, they look like they are ready for winter break. We are their biggest cheerleaders and continue to ENGAGE and NURTURE their success through finals week.

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

TRIO/SSS has conducted numerous workshops in November. They included: Money Management; Tech Savvy Job Application; Financial Literacy; and, Career Café's How to *Navigate the Website*. Presenters were Sylvia Leyva and Domenica Sanchez.

ASB/TRIO S/NDC Staff are conducting the Lights of Love event that will take place in mid-December. Sara Avila is leading the charge at NDC on this important annual holiday event.

NDC staff held a Thanksgiving Potluck on November 21. All staff members brought various foods and ate to our hearts content while enjoying each other's company! Dr. Hetu and Dr. Felix-Mata attended the UC Davis Advisory Meeting in Firebaugh.



The International Students Program conducted a field trip on October 25, 2014, to Universal Studios Hollywood. Students from the Foster Care Youth Program & General population also participated. It was a great turn out!

The Student Support Services (SSS) program hosted the Relationships 101 workshops respectively at Coalinga and North District Center (NDC) on October 7-8. The presentations

were conducted by Rape Crisis Center staff. The workshop included ways to identify conflict triggers, strategies to de-escalate an argument, and understanding the real issues to practice safe behaviors.



The SSS program presented the Financial Literacy workshop at Coalinga and NDC on October 14 and 19. The workshop is the second of a series of 3 designed to educate TRIO students' participants on basic finance management. The topics included showing student how to open direct deposit accounts, balance basic budgets and checking accounts and how to avoid bank fees on various banking services. The presentations were facilitated by TRIO Advisors Reyna Moreno in Coalinga and Sylvia Leyva in NDC.

The CalWORKs staff hosted a West Hills Community College and Department of Social Services Roundtable meeting (DSS) at WHC campus on October 21. Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata and Gabriel Silvestre co-chair the meetings designed to strengthen the relationships between various services department at DSS and the West Hills Community College Coalinga CalWORKs program.

The Upward Bound Program hosted its October Saturday Academy at the Coalinga campus on October 25. The Saturday session topic involved science subjects and making the hot air balloons airborne. UB instructor Sexton set up his hot air balloon lesson plan to teach students the science involved in making hot air balloons. The UB target high schools are Coalinga, Mendota and Tranquillity.



## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



**Denise Gritton**

I am truly thankful to have been given the opportunity to attend the West Hills College Psych Tech Program. I have worked at Coalinga State Hospital for 7 ½ years. When I felt my options for promotion were limited, I decided to apply for the Psych Tech Program. My intention was to just get the education I needed to promote. It didn't take long for me to come to the realization that I wasn't just pursuing a larger paycheck, but a career that I have found to be very interesting and enjoyable. The past year has been filled with learning, challenge, humor, and many heartwarming moments that I will remember forever. I appreciate each of the Psych Tech Instructors, as their knowledge and uniqueness have kept the program fresh, and helped me stay motivated. I could not have asked for a better group of classmates than the ones I have spent the last year with, and was blessed to be able to share this experience with my daughter.

## WHCCD FOUNDATION



Pepsi has long been one of the main supporters of the President's Scholars Program. Pepsi representative Brett Freitas visited the WHCCD Board of Trustees November meeting to present an oversized check representing this year's donation.

Pictured are (l. to r.) Mark McKean, president of the board; Don Warkentin, president of WHCL; Frances Squire, WHCC Foundation executive director; Freitas; Dr. Carole Goldsmith, president of WHCC and Chancellor Frank Gornick.

The foundation remains focused on major donor contacts and is planning a donor breakfast in the North District area in December.

A number of year-end mailings are in process including one that is going to alumni of the WHCC ag program. We have 1,000 names of former students who have taken 12 or more units in agriculture since the early 1980s. We are attempting to update their contact information and create awareness about current happenings at Farm of the Future.

**ATHLETICS**

**Men's Falcon Basketball Schedule 2014-14**

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Dec 12-14	Friday-Sunday	Quinn Henry Memorial Tournament	Los Altos	TBA
Dec 28-30	Sunday-Tuesday	San Diego Mesa Tournament	San Diego	TBA
DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Jan-7	Wednesday	*Reedley College	Reedley	5pm
<b>Jan-10</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>*Columbia College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Jan-14	Wednesday	BYE		
Jan-17	Saturday	*Fresno City College	Fresno	5pm
<b>Jan-21</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>*College of the Sequoias</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Jan-24	Saturday	*Merced Jr College	Merced	5pm
<b>Jan-28</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>*Porterville College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
<b>Jan-31</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>*Reedley College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Feb-4	Wednesday	*Columbia College	Sonora	6pm
Feb-7	Saturday	BYE		
<b>Feb-11</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>*Fresno City College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Feb-14	Saturday	*College of the Sequoias	Visalia	5pm
<b>Feb-18</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>*Merced Jr College (Coaches vs. Cancer)</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Feb-21	Saturday	*Porterville College	Porterville	5pm
*Central Valley Conference Games				