



## WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

The holiday season is here and final exams are quickly approaching. As the college prepares for the Winter Break, I am excited by all of the innovative initiatives that our college has undertaken and the groundwork we are laying for a very exciting future. We have expanded our high school dual credit partnerships and created a new career training program that will allow students interested in a computer programming career to become job-ready in less than a year.

Equipped with the District's Strategic Plan, we are finalizing the College's Strategic Plan that aligns with the District's and will serve as our North Star for many years to come. Shaped by a bold entrepreneurial spirit and our history of community service, the college has a laser focus on student success by fostering a spirit of learning excellence that is reflected in the Strategic Plan. We acknowledge that by creating a challenging yet supportive environment in which students (and staff) are encouraged to take intellectual risks, pursue academic and creative interests, contribute to the community, and explore diverse career paths, West Hills College Coalinga will continue to be "a college that accomplishes goals" and will leave a legacy.

We have long standing ties to the communities that we serve. When you consider the myriad of difficulties that our communities' face, such as language acquisition, access to affordable health care, financial challenges brought on by high unemployment and the drought, and homelessness, our commitment to inspire learners for success by ensuring students have the opportunity to achieve their educational and career goals becomes even more important. With expanded educational opportunities in many of the towns in our service area, proposed new partnerships with employers along with improved transportation to West Hills College Coalinga and North District Center we are helping to equip residents to rise above the challenges.

To do this, it takes more than just a few people willing to "go the extra mile" If we are to be truly successful, it will take all of us, working together and giving it our best. During this reflective time of year, it is critical that all members of the college community see themselves as the leaders we are. We respond to our communities and our students. West Hills College Coalinga empowers people and transforms communities. Empowering and supporting our community is part of our mission.

One example of going the "extra mile" is found with our athletic department's **20<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving dinner** for college students who were unable to go home for the holiday. The group also delivered to needy families in our community. Thanks for generous donations made by: The Elks for their kitchen, Claudia Call for turkeys, Ron and Unmi Ruggles for more turkeys, Sandy and Dave McGlothlin for stuffing, Mark and Kat Gritton for potatoes and hosting a potatoes peel, Phillip Bragg for gravy, John and Annie Clatt for frying the turkeys, Tony Avila for bread and desserts and Cam Olson, Mark and Sharon Arce, Linda Lewin, Gina Tollison, Gaby Brixey, Staci Mosher and Cory Minter. Thanks go out to all who not only participated, but sponsored this year's meal once again! Your participation made this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary a remarkable event!

The West Hills spirit of community leadership also shines through acts of kindness like our annual **Lights of Love**. Special thanks go out to Alex Villalobos, WHCC director of residential living and Daniel Tamayo, director of the international students program; Juana Tapia, WHCC's student services assistant; Bertha Felix-Mata, director NDC; Sara Avila, NDC's student services assistant/library tech; and Christina Arana, NDC's student services assistant, who coordinated this year's toy drive. It should also be noted that the



generosity of those students and staff who sponsored a child at WHCC or NDC. This year presents for 75 children were collected and distributed.

I encourage you to participate in the countless opportunities for service in our community. Please consider volunteering at a local charity, serve as a tour guide on campus, participate in a college night at a local high school, or represent WHCC at a community event. This interaction allows us to share WHCC's good work with our community, and in turn allows us to learn more about the communities we serve.

Service to one another is the highest calling, and WHCC has embraced this commitment. You can be proud to work at WHCC, and proud to be a student at WHCC for being part of its history, and especially for the significant impact you will have on the world and our communities in the future.

### **Psychiatric Technician Completion Ceremony**

Lastly, I hope you will join me and the faculty from the Psych Tech Program on Thursday, December 17th, 2015, at 6 PM, in the WHCC Theater when students and their families will celebrate the completion of education and training.

# Happy Holidays Falcons!

Go Falcons!

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

West Hills College Coalinga's TRiO Program staff and students recently conducted community outreach at the Westside Institute of Technology in Mendota and also at the San Joaquin Center. Outreach activities included workshops on the financial aid process for high school seniors and for California Dream Act AB 540 students. Additionally, information was provided regarding technical and academic programs to the participants.



North District Center staff and students joined with RCS/Carmen Meza Center, and Firebaugh High School to observe the national annual event - "Stop the Violence." The event coordinator, Sylvia Leyva WHC-NDC Firebaugh advisor stated, "We hope to help share the message that domestic violence must stop." The entire Firebaugh High School football team came out to support the event. Several speakers shared their experience and urged the audience to speak up when witnessing any type of violence. Light refreshments were provided. The Firebaugh Police Department lent its support by leading the procession and directing traffic from the WHC-NDC plaza to the courthouse building.



North District Center's financial aid coordinator Mali Flood and student leaders volunteered at the Firebaugh Food Bank on November 5. The students helped setup and served food to the participants. (Pictured left to right: Mariana Torres-Navarro, Deysi Reyes, Maria Ochoa, and Alexa Allison)



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## FARM OF THE FUTURE

The Farm of the Future recently held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Festival. They offered a free hay ride that took a quick tour of the farm, a 5 acre corn maze, and pumpkins of different shapes and sizes. This year Tim Ellsworth, one of WHCC's Ag instructors, came up with a way to make the corn maze more interactive. At the entrance of the maze, everyone received a punch card with four pumpkins on it. The objective was to find 4 different shaped hole punches (a heart, a star, a circle, and a rectangle) hidden within the maze. If you exited the maze with a completed punch card, you would receive a 50% discount on your pumpkins. This was a big hit with kids and parents alike, many of which turned this challenge into a competition. They also had visits from the Bishop Elementary After School Program and Tessa's Tiny Tot Learning Center during the week. The kids also got to race through the corn maze and take home a small pumpkin. Staff and students saw many of the children return with their parents on Saturday to tell us how much fun it was and how excited they were to do it again. There were about 520 people who walked through the maze and the FOF easily sold out all of their pumpkins. Without the help of WHCC's students, none of this would have been possible. Many thanks to Edgar Pimentel and Dillon Knight for designing the maze. An even bigger thanks to our student workers Jorge Gutierrez, Pedro Montes, Fabian Escandon, and Brent Skaggs for maintaining the maze and helping out both weekends with the event.



Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. For our First Inaugural National Manufacturing Day event, FOF staff asked local companies to come and talk to our students about what they do. In the quad of the West Hills College Coalinga campus, each company set up a booth with informational material that students could take home with them. We also had our excavator and motor grader simulators out, as well as a welding station where students could see what our programs had to offer. A free lunch was provided to all participants as well as a raffle that you could earn tickets to by talking to the companies. Items raffled off included gift

cards, hats, and even big blocks of cheese! We had good involvement from our student body, but plan to make next year's event much bigger and better. A big thank you to Bennett & Bennett Irrigation, Leprino Foods, Harris Fresh, Wonderful Pistachios and Almonds, PSC Industrial Outsourcing LP, Greenleaf Ag, and Harris Woolf Almonds for coming out! None of this would have been possible without their support.

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## WHCCD FOUNDATION

As the holidays approach, now is the time to thank each and every one of our donors for all that they have done for the students at West Hills College. During the spring, we announced that over \$500,000 in scholarship value was awarded to students. We currently have 135 President's Scholars and 36 Osher Scholarship recipients.

In running a report, we found over 1,000 names of individuals and businesses who have donated \$500 or more since 2012. A complete list of 2015-2016 donor names is available at:

<http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/index.asp>

If your name isn't on that list, please consider donating today. It's very easy. You can sign up for a monthly payroll deduction, mail a check to the foundation or give online. The Tuesday after Thanksgiving was Giving Tuesday. We hope you were able to join our efforts to provide educational opportunities to students throughout our region.

To give online, visit: <http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/donations.asp>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### WHCC Fitness Lab – Fall 2015

Hours of Operation, Monday thru Friday, 5am-6:30am & 11am-1pm, and evenings Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 6-8pm & Tuesday/Thursday, 6-7:30pm – through December 18th. 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 Office 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.

### WHCC Athletics – Fall 2015/Spring 2016

Want to watch your Falcons and cheer for them? Visit our webpage for our Fall/Spring schedules:

Men's Basketball: <http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/sports/mbkb/2015-16/schedule>

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