



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

WHCC is quickly coming to the end of its current accreditation cycle. The current cycle will culminate in a campus site visit March 6-9, 2017. The External Evaluation Visit will be conducted by a body of our peers that consist of faculty, staff, and administrators from California Community Colleges. The Team will be chaired by Dr. Keith Snow-Flamer, Interim President/Superintendent of College of the Redwoods. I want to extend a HUGE "Thank You!!" to Sandy McGlothlin who has been serving as the Accreditation Liaison Officer for the College. Sandy has led the development of our Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and worked closely with former Interim President Dr. Van Horn on the WHCC "What You Need to Know" Accreditation Information Guidebook. Sandy has also been working with the Team Chair on the logistics for the site visit as well as developing our planning agenda for the next four weeks to prepare us for the visit. Our planning agenda has included a presentation and training on accreditation at the WHCCD Board Retreat, Professional Development Days, Leadership Retreat, and with campus governance committees.

As part of the self-evaluation process the College is asked to prepare a Quality Focus Essay (QFE) which outlines areas that the College has identified for further study and/or action plans for areas that need broad institutional change, development, or improvement and have the potential to impact student outcomes. Our QFE contains two Action Projects. Action Project #1 focuses on Institutional Effectiveness and Action Project #2 focuses on Educational Pathways. The College has already completed several tasks related to continual quality improvement in both of these areas and will be providing the Team with a list of these accomplishments prior to their arrival in March. This responsive attentiveness to our self-identified areas for improvement conveys our commitment to achieving the goals and objectives we have established for institutional effectiveness, integrated planning, and educational pathways for students in the QFE.

I would like to end on a personal note by expressing a word of "thanks" to Chancellor Gornick, the WHCCD Board of Trustees, and the entire WHCCD family for the very warm, genuine, welcome and reception. You should know that you received exceptional references and recommendations from several people I know and trust who have been working in California Community Colleges for a very long time. I was repeatedly told "they're good people in that District" and I want to let you know that you have lived up to your reputation.

In his address on one of the Professional Development days Chancellor Gornick offered a few words of wisdom along the lines of "don't begin with a list of the things that you want to do....start with an idea of who, how, and what you want to be". I'm going to follow that advice as I begin my tenure of service to WHCC and the Coalinga community.

– "If a better society is to be built, one that is more just and more loving, one that provides greater creative opportunity for its people, then the most open course is to raise both the capacity to serve and the very performance as servant of existing major institutions by new regenerative forces operating within them." – Robert K. Greenleaf

Go Falcons!



WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

West Hills College Coalinga (WHCC) Administration and faculty have been working closely with our 12 regional colleges to explore and create new programs that could help increase enrollment and serve the employment needs of local industry partners. Through the Chancellor's Office Strong Workforce Initiative, our board approved WHCC to begin to work on creating a Truck Driving Program and a Diesel Technology Program. The board also approved WHCC to work on local and regional workplace internships for our career technical training programs and expand our CTE dual enrollment at our feeder high schools. The development of a Truck Driving Program and Diesel Technology Programs were also vetted through an advisory committee in December 2016. We anticipate curriculum to start moving through our local and regional process within the next few months and we hope to begin to offer the programs as soon as possible. WHCC faculty and administration will continue to explore new CTE Programs that will allow our students to enter full time employment with meaningful wages.

FARM OF THE FUTURE

Working with Leica, an international positioning company, a SmartNet cellular RTK base station was installed at a site northwest of the Farm of the Future reservoir. This base station serves as a high accuracy positioning for the Farm of the Future, learning tool for West Hills' students, and a community service to area construction and agricultural businesses. In exchange for site placement, West Hills receives an annual subscription to the service worth \$180/year.

An Ag Leader control system which includes a cab monitor/display, control switchbox, rate controller, flowmeters, and flow manifolds was used to teach students about variable rate application systems. Plans include cooperation with AET, PCA, and Welding students to design and build a sprayer for mounting and using on the Farm of the Future fields reducing custom costs of application. The monitor/display was also used in class to teach the setup and operation of assisted guidance and field coverage maps.

A Trimble AutoPilot was purchased for use by students to learn the installation, calibration and use of an auto guidance steering system. It will be used on the Challenger MT55 for class use and also for the Farm of the Future to reduce the cost of custom field listing. It will be used in conjunction with the Trimble RTK base station that was previously purchased and two FMX1000 displays that were donated by Trimble.

Two multispectral cameras that capture visible and near infrared light waves were purchased to be used by students. One camera is designed for use as a handheld device, while the other is designed to be mounted in a UAS fixed wing drone. It will be adapted to fit the AgEagle UAS that is being loaned to West Hills by Matt Rossow of California Ag Solutions Inc. Also purchased were three thermal cameras that were used by students to learn the concepts of capturing thermal images of plant tissues.

West Hills now has five DJI rotor UAS, all provided by the California Doing What MATTERS initiative. Four DJI Phantom 2 were used to provide students with experience in setup and capture of imagery by a UAS. The DJI Phantom 4 was used by the instructor to demonstrate the creation of a high resolution (1.3" pixel) orthorectified mosaic of the pistachio orchard.



WEST HILLS COLLEGE
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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



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



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



farmofthefuture.tumblr.com



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



bit.do/FOFyoutube

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Ledetie Lakenie

Ledetie Lakenie was born in Ethiopia. He has two brothers and two sisters. His mother was a stay-at-home mom with no formal education, and relied on his older siblings to provide financial stability at home. He was able to come to America by way of a lottery visa which allowed him to stay in the US for 10 years. He arrived at Los Angeles International Airport in February 2016 and began working for a construction company as the “on-site” security. The same construction company came to Coalinga to build the new Senior Living Apartments on Jayne Avenue. When the job ended, Ledetie wanted to stay in Coalinga and attend the college. He completed an application for admission then met with a counselor. During a conversation with his counselor, Mark Matteson, it was discovered that he had no place to live. Mr. Matteson assisted him with finding housing, eventually ended up securing a room in the residence halls. Currently, he works in the residence halls as a work study student. Director of Residential Life, Alex Villalobos states, “Ledetie is a very hard worker, self-driven and needs very little direction to complete assigned tasks. He may struggle with the English Language, but it’s not something that holds him back from accomplishing his goals.”

In his first semester at the college he earned a 4.0 GPA. “Ledetie does what we hope all students do; seek out help and utilize campus resources and services to overcome life’s obstacles before they become unconquerable barriers. From Counseling, to Financial Aid, to the Residence Halls; he has found the support he needs from our helpful staff,” says Mark Matteson, Counselor. His goal is to become a registered nurse, and his recent academic success in the midst of such challenges speak to the nature of his character and ability to persevere. “Another thread that was important to his success was the interaction by other class members to skillfully and tactfully collaborate with Ledetie in completing the tasks that were required in class”, says Steve Wright, instructor. Wright goes on to say, “Whether it was a DSPS female, an early high school graduate from the private school ranks, a football player of color, or a Hispanic single parent male, the interaction of students all contributed to his and their success. We had a blast and LL was a large part of that!”



**WEST HILLS COLLEGE
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President's Monthly Message

Ledetie says he has had a great experience at the college, and that his instructors, and the financial aid and student services offices have been there when he needed assistance.

WHCCD FOUNDATION

It's time to start thinking about applications for next year's scholarships. President's Scholars and general Scholarship applications are due March 1.

Please encourage all students to apply. Each year we have a number of scholarships that are unclaimed due to lack of qualified applicants. It seems that each year we also have a potential President's Scholar who missed that opportunity because they were sure they were going to enroll elsewhere and didn't bother to fill out of our application. At the last minute things change and they enroll at West Hills but have missed the opportunity for a scholarship valued at \$3,760. Please encourage ALL qualified high school students to apply.

Applications for 2017-2018 have been posted to the website at:
<http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/scholarships/index.asp>

Also, please remember that a number of scholarships are supported through Employee Philanthropy. If you're not currently participating, please consider enrolling today by call the foundation office at 934-2134.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WHCC Athletics

Want to watch your Falcons and cheer for them? Visit our WHCC Falcon Athletics webpage for schedules:

<http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/landing/index>