



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 – New Year Edition

Happy New Year, and welcome back for the Spring 2015 semester! January is traditionally a time for resolutions - a time for focusing on improving on healthy habits. WHCC doing just that! At the recent WHCC Women's Brunch, Tracey Jaurena challenged us all to **get healthy so we can do our best, personally and professionally**. Many of us have taken up that challenge. We pledged to encourage each other to make new habits. During our College-wide Professional Duty Day, I took that challenge to all in attendance...and added a slight twist on it. We are making a personal commitment to promote a healthy lifestyle for ourselves and our students. Additionally, we are re-committing our time and efforts in learning and leading with *Habits of Mind*. The "relentless pursuit of student success" is not just our vision, it will become our habit.

One habit we have started long ago is the **examination of data to inform** decisions. According to WHCCD Office of Institutional Effectiveness (2014), "students enrolling in 15 or more units obtained a degree, certificate or transfer at nearly twice the rate of those taking 12 – 14.9 units." (Research Abstract, p. 2). WHCC fulltime enrollment is trending upwards. I believe this is in part due to our message, "15 is full time." This message pairs well with our Commitment to Complete Initiative that we started last year. WHCC counselors, faculty, staff and administrators took this message and challenged our students to enroll in 15 units. **Fulltime enrollment is up 14.2% compared to last year.**

Retention, persistence and success continue to benchmarks we review. We started this academic year by examining students who were in "the fringe". These students were not the typical students who sought out tutoring or even those who were deemed "at risk" by faculty. Previously this group did not trip any alarms. With the advent of our Supplemental Instruction (SI) campaign, more faculty are referring students to this valued support service. The college will continue work closely with district office staff to examine our analytics in order to better identify students who are truly at risk of dropping out. What we do know now is that, "the students who end their first year with a G.P.A. between 2.0 and 3.0, and have Ds or Fs, make up nearly half of total dropouts" (Tyson, 2014). **Our Equity Plan takes a triage approach to targets this group to maximize retention and graduation rates.**

We also know that textbook affordability also impacts student retention. The college has responded to this by engaging faculty in drafting a new Affordable Educational Resource Policy that will be coming to the Board in the coming months. As part of WHCC Title V efforts, Dr. Barbara Illowsky, the current Basic Skills Director of the statewide Online Education Initiative, was invited to work with faculty in the development of Open Educational Resources models available now for student use.

During this time of resolutions, I am reminded of a quote from Aristotle, "Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit."

Go Falcons!

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Students decorated a Dia De Los Muertos Altar at NDC during the week of November 3-7, 2014. Several students brought pictures and items of their beloved to honor them during the annual event of remembrance.



TRIO, ASB, the North District Center in Firebaugh along with the International Students Program partnered with the President's Office and the Coalinga Huron Recreation Park District (CHRPD) for the annual lights of love event. West Hills Community College students and members of the community had the opportunity to request a gift by filling out a "light bulb" and ask Santa for a gift this Christmas for a child in need of a gift. West Hills College students/staff pitched in and purchased gifts for all needy students. A total of sixty two children will be receiving gifts this Christmas (18 at NDC, 33 at WHCC and 11 from the Coalinga Community).

President Goldsmith delivered a Christmas tree complimented with ornaments to NDC on December 4. The students and staff participated in the trimming of the tree. The students expressed their appreciation to Dr. Goldsmith for starting a new tradition at NDC.

On Saturday, December 06, 2014 over 65 high school students' Robotics teams comprised from Lemoore HS, Lemoore Middle College HS, Riverdale, Avenal, Edison, Central, and the CART Academy gathered in WHC Coalinga's conference center to compete. WHCL, WHCC and the WHCCD Foundation Office teamed up to host this year's VEX Robotics League, which is a series of robotics competitions. The top two teams advance to the state championships later in the spring. The Robotic competition was sponsored by donations from Chevron and P&G. The next WHC Robotic competition event will take place on Saturday, January 3, 2015.



In fall 2014, there were several Student Success Workshops sponsored by the Basic Skills Initiative and CalWORKS. Topic included:

- Tips for Successful Studying
- Career Café
- Substance Abuse
- Financial Literacy
- Relationship 101
- Final Preparation

Overall, participation of student attendees was 121. Students gained useful insights at these workshops including tips to help them study, information about the career café website, and the great tools it has for their educational/workforce journey. They also learned about the consequences of substance abuse, along with the awareness and reality of sexual assault in educational institutions. And finally, tips to prepare them for their final exams. Thanks to the Basic Skills Initiative & CalWORKS, students were also treated to a delicious lunch at all workshops.



Reflecting back, thanks is to be given to the TRiO Club for putting on some awesome events during the past semester at both WHCC and NDC. Events included the 16th of

September – Mexican Independence Event in September, the Halloween Festival in October (in collaboration with all clubs on campus), Day of the Dead Event and the Sweet Bread and Hot Chocolate Sale in November. They were also active in the Welcome Back Barbeque in August.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Stephanie Sandoval

Stephanie Sandoval is 18 years old and a first-year student at West Hills College Coalinga. Originally from Houston, Texas she moved to Caruthers when she was 13. She came to West Hills to play softball and to major in Kinesiology. Her future goal is to eventually play at a Division I college and use her Kinesiology degree to work in the sports field. Stephanie has gotten first hand training on working in the sports field helping the Athletic trainer, Tracey Jaurena, this football season, along with softball practices and going to school Stephanie has kept very busy this semester. Stephanie has other passions that include singing and playing the guitar. That singing passion had her sing the National Anthem at West Hills College Coalinga's annual 9/11 Remembrance event this year. From that day, Stephanie caught the ear of Athletic Director, Mark Gritton, and he asked Stephanie to sing the National Anthem at all the home football games. Without hesitation Stephanie agreed and did a phenomenal job. On football game days, Stephanie had to do

double duty in that she was helping out the athletic trainer before, during, and after the game and also singing the National Anthem before the start of the game. Stephanie has also joined the newly formed Glee Club at West Hills College and will be performing at the Glee Club's Christmas concert on the weekend of December 13.

WHCCD FOUNDATION

The deadline for foundation scholarship applications is March 1, which is just around the corner. In addition to our President's Scholars Program, of which there were more than 30 participants during the fall at WHCC, we have many other scholarships that are provided by our donors. Please encourage all students to apply.

As the New Year begins, now is a good time to consider engaging in the Employee Philanthropy Program if you are not already doing so. Many of our scholarships are provided through the generosity of our employees. Thank you to those who are already participating.

ATHLETICS

Football 2014 Golden Coast Conference



WHCC All Conference Recipients

Front row left to right - Tashad Charity (DL), Jeremy Hudson (DB), Michael Talilulu (LB), Maurice Daniels (DL & MVP-D), Andrew Evans (LB), Arizona Ala OL)

Back row left to right - Robert Brown (RET), Anthony Mahoungou (WR), Marquis Wells (HM WR), Coach Robert Tucker (Co-Coach of the Year), Freddy Talilulu (QB), Tyron Jones (RB), Albert Crichton (OL)

President's Monthly Message

Volleyball

Central Valley Conference Recipients



Rafaela Macias 2nd team



Angel Soutsavang Honorable Mention

Men's Falcon Basketball Schedule 2014-14

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Jan-14	Wednesday	BYE		
Jan-17	Saturday	*Fresno City College	Fresno	5pm
Jan-21	Wednesday	*College of the Sequoias	Coalinga	6pm
Jan-24	Saturday	*Merced Jr College	Merced	5pm
Jan-28	Wednesday	*Porterville College	Coalinga	6pm
Jan-31	Saturday	*Reedley College	Coalinga	6pm
DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Feb-4	Wednesday	*Columbia College	Sonora	6pm
Feb-7	Saturday	BYE		
Feb-11	Wednesday	*Fresno City College	Coalinga	6pm
Feb-14	Saturday	*College of the Sequoias	Visalia	5pm
Feb-18	Wednesday	*Merced Jr College (Coaches vs. Cancer)	Coalinga	6pm
Feb-21	Saturday	*Porterville College	Porterville	5pm
*Central Valley Conference Games				

Go Falcons!