



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

March Madness

While I may not have my picks in for the NCAA Tournament, I am certainly proud of the WHCC's men's basketball team! They earned a spot as a 13th seed, are currently ranked second in their conference and will travel to Livermore on Saturday, February 27th to play Las Positas College at 7 p.m. in their first game of the post-season. **The Falcons finished the regular season with a record of 16-10 (9-3 in conference) for second place.** A big shout out to coach Mark Arce, assistant coach Travis Blackstock, and the entire Falcon men's basketball team!



Pictured from left to right with President Goldsmith and Coach Arce, Stephen Glassco, DeQuan Doyle and Stephon Gordon.

Dual Credit Summit

The summit provided an opportunity to our dual credit stakeholders at all of our feeder high schools (superintendents, principals and counselors) to actively participate in the implementation planning for the next two years. Discussion groups focused on topics such as: success data, enrollment patterns, how to increase awareness of dual credit offerings through our "Get Focused, Stay Focused" initiative as well as identify and assess barriers to participation and identify opportunities to increase participation and enrollment. Each high school team left the summit with an action plan in hand.

More information can be found be at the link below:

<http://www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga/about/documents/DualCreditSummit2016.pdf>

President's Scholarship High School Seniors Gathering

I had the opportunity to join the WHCC and NDC counseling and financial aid staff at Mendota High School and in Firebaugh to meet with students and their parents. The incoming President Scholars will make a great addition to the Falcon family! I am always impressed by the level of professionalism and caring demonstrated by our team. Kudos to Erin Corea, Mali Flood, and Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata for a job well done!

President's Community Coffee Hour at NDC and WHCC

In addition to facility topics, Dual Credit programs that provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit while still enrolled in high school was also a discussion point during both of these events.

Go Falcons!



WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Focus on Finances Workshops

Research has shown that financial health is fundamental to student success. This spring our Lunch and Learn Workshops at WHCC and NDC will focus on Financial Literacy. Students will learn money management skills that will help them manage debt and avoid financial trouble. The goal is to help students connect their educational and career goals to money management to ensure a bright future.

Special thanks are extended to our Financial Aid Department, TRiO staff, counselors, faculty, administrators and staff for serving as presenters.



Thousands of Dollars in Scholarships for Students

The West Hills Community College District Foundation is accepting applications now through March 1 for general scholarships and for the President's Scholar program. The College is promoting awareness and providing assistance to students through services offered at the library, tutoring center and UpGrade Supplemental Instruction efforts. Financial Aid and Counseling staff have also included this important information in our outreach and communication to students. It is our collective goal to expand the number of WHCC students receiving scholarships.

Last Day to Petition to Graduate! March 11, 2016

While much of our work centers around assisting students in the application process for financial aid and scholarship as well as counseling them to enroll in the right classes according to their Ed Plan. Our job is not done then! Counselors, faculty, staff and tutors continue to work with them in their relentless pursuit of student success. Our job is not done then either! As Amy Long, counselor, recently shared with me, **“Students often do not realize they had to do a petition to graduate!”** So in addition to signage, social media posts and emails, WHCC Counselors are reviewing student cases and calling students to assist them with this important last step.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE INSTRUCTION

Second 9-Week Classes = Mini-mester Courses

Mid-March marks the start of WHCC's second 9-week classes, or “mini-mester” courses as they are now being labeled. Mini-mesters make it possible to complete the same course with the same quality of instruction, but on a shorter schedule. Some mini-mester courses are offered in the traditional classroom setting and others are online. This spring WHCC is offering a total 21 mini-mester courses, with 9 online offerings. The popularity of mini-mesters is growing, as evident by the waitlist for almost half of our offerings. Our students report that they appreciate the opportunity to complete their courses outside the traditional semester timeline as well as the ability to take intense online classes. Our faculty also have shared that they enjoy shaping their courses for a more intense learning environment.



**WEST HILLS COLLEGE
COALINGA**

President's Monthly Message

Dual Credit

Through AB288, the new legislation that allows community colleges to offer courses at high schools without charging contract education prices. High school students enrolled in these classes can earn credit for both high school and college courses.

Currently, through our Ag Prep Academy, funded by the California Career Pathways Trust Fund, we are offering an Associate's Degree for Transfer in Plant Science at Avenal High School and we will soon offer a Manufacturing Career Pathways program at Mendota High School. Other projects include Elementary School Teacher pathway and Health Careers pathways at our other feeder high schools.

Dual enrollment programs are becoming increasingly popular throughout the state; however, WHCC is taking a different approach to dual enrollment by offering true career pathways with transfer degrees. This is important because we understand the potential fiscal impact. High school students, who opted for this opportunity, will be saving area families between \$5,000 and \$30,000 in college tuition at the university. This could be a game-changer for our region.

FARM OF THE FUTURE

Registration is now open for a March 5 FFA field day that will be held at the WHCC Farm of the Future. It will feature five different competitions, including agricultural mechanics, small engines, farm power, land judging and best informed Greenhand. Registration for FFA chapters interested in attending is available at <https://calaged.csuchico.edu/Registration/default.asp>





**WEST HILLS COLLEGE
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President's Monthly Message

New Ag Scholarship

California has a history of agriculture greatness. The future of agriculture depends heavily on science, technology and individuals who have a desire to apply new methods. West Hills College's Farm of the Future is commitment to preserving the tradition of agriculture by providing scholarships to high school agriculture students who have demonstrated a desire to pursue a career in agriculture.

Administration, staff and faculty of the Farm of the Future are proud to announce a new Ag Scholarship for incoming students. The multiple awards given will be considered a full scholarship of \$7,500 per year.

The funding source for this plan will be from the rebates realized through the Solar Farm.

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

ATHLETICS

Since 1983, the WHCC rodeo program has produced at least one competitor at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

"It is important to keep the tradition of rodeo alive. West Hills College has had a nationally ranked college rodeo team for over two decades. Rodeo is a sport and we aim to keep the standards high and have competitive top-notch teams." said WHCC Rodeo assistant coach Brooke Jackson. Please join us March 10 and 11 at the WHCC Rodeo Arena.





WEST HILLS COLLEGE
COALINGA

President's Monthly Message

The rodeo opens at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 10 with a calf dressing contest featuring students and staff from West Hills College Coalinga. Applications for participation in this event should be directed to Gina Tollison at ginatollison@whccd.edu. An additional calf dressing contest will be held at 6:30 p.m. the following day.

For more information about the WHCC Rodeo contact Justin Hampton at 559.934.2702 or justinhampton@whccd.edu.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Gonzalo Melchor

Gonzalo is currently a first year student at West Hills College Coalinga. He graduated from Coalinga High School in June 2015 and has been attending WHCC ever since. Gonzalo grew up in the City of Huron where he currently resides. Gonzalo is currently working as a student assistant in the Office of Educational Services where he has demonstrated his skills in customer relations and technology. When he is not attending class, or performing his duties as a Student Worker, he volunteers at Tzu Chi Medical Clinic in Fresno and volunteers his time helping his classmates with their course work. He is currently working on completing an Associate Degree for Transfer in Biology. He has proven to be a great student along with a great worker. Gonzalo hopes to transfer to a four year university and pursue a career in the medical field so that he can achieve his dream of helping low income families and join Doctors without Borders.



WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Guadalupe Espinoza



Guadalupe Espinoza is one of the newest members of the WHCC Falcon Team. As the Director of Special Grants managing the California Career Pathways Trust Fund Projects (CCPT) and the Mendota Agricultural Pathways (MAPS) grant, she is currently working with most of our feeder high schools to promote dual enrollment programs. The CCPT Projects promote college attendance while students are still in high school while the MAPS Projects promote the Get Focused Stay Focused initiative. Through both of these projects we hope to increase college enrollment and success for incoming college freshman soon after graduation from high school. Guadalupe's background

in Ag education, high school teaching, and working with at-risk youth makes her a valuable asset to the WHCC



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Last Day to Petition to Graduate! March 11, 2016

Paint Nite Fundraiser Scheduled for Feb. 26 at West Hills College Coalinga

WHCC's softball team will host a Paint Nite fundraiser on February 26, in the WHCC dance room, at 6 p.m. Paint Nite will feature a local artist guiding participants step by step through the process of creating a painting. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at <https://paintnite.com/events/1046539.html>. All supplies are included in the ticket price and proceeds from the event will go toward new equipment for the team.

Rodeo Boosters Fundraiser Dinner February 27, 2016

Tickets are now on sale for the WHCC Rodeo Booster's annual fundraiser dinner. The dinner is Feb. 27 at Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant and will feature a carving station with New York steak, grilled chicken breast, bacon roasted potatoes, vegetables, salad and cheese rolls. Dessert is included. A silent and live auction and Cowboy Calcutta auction will be held. Proceeds from the event will benefit scholarships for rodeo students. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and a dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased from any rodeo student or by calling Justin Hampton at (559) 934-2702. A Calcutta rodeo featuring the WHCC rodeo team will also be held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 28. The public is welcome to attend.

WHCC Athletics – Fall 2015/Spring 2016

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

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

WHCC Baseball: <http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/sports/bsb/2015-16/schedule>

WHCC Softball: <http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/sports/sball/2015-16/schedule>

WHCCD FOUNDATION

It's scholarship season! Over the course of the last two weeks of March, the foundation and financial aid offices at the campuses will receive almost 500 scholarship applications with about one-third being from potential President's Scholars and the remainder for our general scholarships. Once those applications are uploaded and processed, interview committees on each campus will review the candidates and award scholarships. All qualified President's Scholars are accepted. Letters to scholarship winners usually go out at the end of March in time to invite the students to awards ceremonies at each campus. Donors are invited to these receptions. Meeting the students who receive their scholarships makes a huge impression on donors and is just one more way of thanking them for their support of West Hills and our students.

As we roll into April, watch for entry forms for the 20th Annual President's Scholars Golf Tournament. We moved the event date to Monday, June 13th at 8:30 a.m. In the past, many employees who wanted to participate were limited by a date in May that was too close to graduation. Hopefully, more employees will be able to participate (and encourage their friends and families to join us). This is our biggest fundraiser of the year for President's Scholars. For details visit:

http://westhillscollege.com/district/foundation/golf_tournament/index.asp