



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

As we enter our season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of how thankful we are for our employees – they give me hope – and the incredible passion they have for our students. The month has been sprinkled with a consistent variety of activities that are designed to stimulate and serve our students. It is clear to me that higher education at West Hills is selfless community of service to all students. I've enjoyed having the opportunity to participate in numerous activities and am thankful for the event management efforts and attention to detail of our faculty and staff. It's been a productive semester. The upcoming Holiday break has been well earned and all of us are looking forward to a few days of rest and relaxation with family.

This month, strong progress was made on multiple initiatives across student services and teaching. We are presenting for your review and approval our revised Mission statement, our first draft of our Institutional Self-Study and our revised 2016-2020 Strategic Plan supplement to the district's five-year Strategic Plan. Our Quality Focused Essay narrative is coming along nicely and I am very pleased that it accurately reflects our reality. The core tactics identified in the plan are meaningful and when implemented hold promise of increasing the quality of our integrated processes.

The month launched with our fifth Essential Elements series. The series has done a remarkable job of extending the West Hills brand well beyond our service area and has positioned the district as an objective driver of seeking solutions to the challenges facing the valley. The event featured a very intriguing student panel, a hosted reception at the Farm of the Future, and culminated with a series of regional collaboration workshops. The Farm reported its largest yield of pistachios this fall – almost a ton per acre. Garlic crop reached nearly five tons per acre.

November is always a busy, compacted month with the Holiday. Having said that, it's remarkable the number of activities hosted at the Coalinga campus and at North District Center. Here's a sampling of some of them:

High school student visits, meetings with high school counselors, first Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) student 'pinning' ceremony, International Education week forum and multi-cultural food sampling event, transfer and financial literacy workshops, an emergency preparedness drill (California Shake Up) activity, Central Valley Promise event for Mendota and Firebaugh high schools, inaugural meeting of a new student athlete advisory council club, Workforce Connections job training workshops in Coalinga, Firebaugh, Mendota, and Huron, a stop sexual misconduct month-long pledge campaign coordinated by Associated Students, an art exhibit at NDC, River Park conversations with community based organizations, deployment of a campus and community member ad hoc task force to reengineer English as a Second Language curriculum, a Blood Drive. Associated Students' popular Haunted House, early data outcome meeting with faculty of our pilot Co-requisite program and variations in English and Math, hosted an SFID meeting with our North District Center local bond committee, hosted president's scholars dessert reception at the Coalinga campus and the area high school students and parents at our North District Center, and launched our men's basketball season to compliment the success of our Rodeo, Women's Volleyball and Football teams.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Go Falcons!



**WEST HILLS COLLEGE
COALINGA**

**President's Monthly
Message**

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

**STUDENT SUCCESS WORKSHOPS FALL 2016
At 12:00noon**

DATE	TOPIC	ROOM
Wednesday, November 16	Financial Literacy/ TRIO Lunch provided on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact student services at 559.934.2174	R10 A/B

October 16, WHC-NDC/Firebaugh staff and students participated in the Migrant Head Start Health Fair at Mendota, Rojas Pierce Park. The WHC representative provided information on the colleges programs and free services- transportation, dual enrollment, and work training.



October 22, WHCH-NDC/Firebaugh staff and students participated in the FERIA de la EDUCACION hosted by UNIVISION at Fresno State University. WHC-NDC/Firebaugh displayed an information table and Dream students from Firebaugh, Mendota, and San Joaquin attended college/university transfer workshops.



Activities around Halloween and Mexican Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead. October 26 through November 4, the staff and Mr. Elias, Art Instructor, hosted the fall 2016 Art Exhibit. The students in Art 5A Introduction to Drawing and Art 5B Advanced Drawing displayed their artwork in the Firebaugh lobby. The students' art work were created around the Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead theme. This Mexican traditional holiday focuses on reuniting, praying and honoring beloved ancestors, family and friends who have passed and help support their spiritual journey. It is a festive, joyous time of celebration.





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October 27, the library hosted a Mexican Bingo/Loteria game for free gift baskets.



October 28, the ANIME club hosted a pumpkin scavenger hunt game for CDC children. All the children were given pumpkins.

October 31, ASB, TRIO club, and ANIME club hosted a Halloween festival. The event included games, free treats, and a custom contest.

FARM OF THE FUTURE

It's been another busy month at the Farm of the Future! We are just about halfway through the semester and classes are going well. Weeds and Poisonous Plants (CRPSCI-32) is off to a great start. Students have been learning about various types of weeds including how to identify them as well as treat them. Most recently, they participated in a spray calibration lab, learning how to calibrate pesticide application equipment. The WT 72 students are currently working towards structural steel certification and fabricating (in the picture Caleb Johansson is welding together a smoker).



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Students Adrian Jenkins, Brent Skaggs, Jacob Davis, and Alex Avalos as well as Farm Director Clint Cowden attended the Western Growers Careers in Ag Program last month. The program, which originally started with CSU/UC students, was developed to fill the ag workforce gap and shape the next generation of ag pioneers. Throughout the trip, 14 students from Reedley College, College of the Sequoias and West Hills College toured our member companies to learn about the various career opportunities in ag -- and to hopefully get jobs/internships!



Our Pistachio Orchard got its second shake. Our trees are producing a good quality crop this year and Farm Manager JR Velazquez and Director Clint Cowden are both pleased. Our 3rd Annual Harvest Festival was held on Oct. 22 and Oct. 29. We had a 5 acre corn maze that participants could wander through, as well as 5 acres of pumpkins planted. The Harvest Festival was one of our ways of giving back to the community, and thanking them for all of their support.





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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



Orlando Hernandez

This month's student spotlight is Orlando Hernandez. This is his second year at West Hills. Hernandez first began welding his sophomore year at Coalinga High School. "When I first burned rod, I fell in love with it. I comprehended what I wanted to do with my life right then and there. Now I'm chasing my dreams and it's an amazing feeling to do what you love." His passion for welding helps him stay driven, and keeps him looking forward to coming to class. One of his favorite things about West Hills and taking classes at the farm is his instructor, Chris Chaney. "I like how my professor, Mr. Chaney, gives me that extra push to become better every day and how he's helpful at any time. In addition, he knows his material and gives good advice."

Hernandez encourages people to come to West Hills and take classes at the Farm of the Future. "West Hills has wonderful resources. If a student is struggling, there is always help available. In addition West Hills is a great place to get a great education."



**WEST HILLS COLLEGE
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WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Alissa Trevino

Alissa Trevino first started working for West Hills College when she was just a sophomore in high school. After finishing her community service hours, she then got hired on as a student worker. After working in several different departments in the district office including Human Resources, Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Grants, she graduated from West Hills with an AA in Computer Information Systems in 2012. Once her time at the grants office was complete, she was hired as the Program Assistant at the Farm of the Future. She has now been working there for 3 years, and just got moved to full time. Trevino enjoys her position at the farm, and considers her coworkers to be more like family. Even when she's not working, she spends much of her time here taking classes and learning as much as she can about agriculture, a subject she knew nothing about

when she first came on board. Her favorite part of the job is getting to do something different, and learning something new every day.

"It's awesome to see a person that was such a cornerstone of the Ag Department be moved to full time. Since working at the farm, the organization of the farm has greatly improved. Because of Alissa, our social media presence has been more than we could have dreamed of back in 2007." – Director, Clint Cowden

WHCCD FOUNDATION

As the holidays approach, please keep the West Hills Community College Foundation in mind for your year-end gift. You can direct where the funds go—President's Scholars (we now have over 130), other scholarships, athletics or support for programs. The choice is yours. No matter where, it benefits some great students. <http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/donations>

One of the highlights of my year is the retirees' luncheon, which will be held at Harris Ranch on Thursday, December 15th, at Harris Ranch. We have worked to develop a list of retirees (I recently met Warren Ayers, who retired in 1983 - yes, 33 years ago!). If you know a retiree, please make sure to let them know about this wonderful reunion and ask them to share their current address with us. They can call me at (559) 934-2134 and I'll take care of getting an invitation to them.

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>

Thanksgiving Day: The athletic department will host its Thanksgiving Day lunch for WHCC students, at 2:00 p.m., in the Residence Hall Lobby. This annual tradition provides meals to students away from home for the holidays. To make a donation, please contact the Falcons athletic department.

Football: The Falcons were tied for first place heading into the homecoming game against Monterey Peninsula College. The team was ranked No. 4 in the Northern California American Division.



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Volleyball: With one more victory, WHCC recorded the most season wins since 2011. The team hosted High School Recruit Night on Friday, Oct. 21, when local players, coaches and parents toured the campus, watched the team's match against Cerro Coso, and enjoyed the homecoming football game.

Men's Basketball: The Falcons hosted its annual Blue-White Scrimmage on Wednesday, Oct. 26. The night also included a free basketball clinic for local youth. The regular season begins on Nov. 4 at the Cuesta College Tournament. The team's first home game will be Nov. 16 against William Jessup University junior varsity.

Rodeo: The WHCC men's and women's rodeo teams enjoyed a successful weekend at Feather River College and Lassen College competitions Sept. 30-Oct. 1. The men's team was the high point team at the Feather River event, led by the All-Around Champion Cowboy, Edgar Machado (photo) and Reserve All-Around Cowboy Brushton Minton – while Jacob Lees was the Bareback Bronc Riding Champion at both events. The team hosted its annual Fall Rodeo on Nov. 3-4 at the Rodeo Arena.