



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

INSTRUCTION

Expanding the Concept of Basic Skills: Community of Practice and the Principles of FLIGHT

This summer, English faculty Nick Andrews and Scott Sutherland along with Stephanie Droker, attended the Basic Skills Leadership Institute. This institute was a six day conference which was focused on assisting our campus to develop student success initiatives and create a Community of Practice to support those initiatives. A Community of Practice (COP) is a team of professionals committed to a common goal who engage in collective learning to improve their practice and to work toward achieving common goals. This is one way we can relentlessly pursue student success. We realize that faculty, staff, and administrators all have opportunities to foster student success. Therefore, the relentless pursuit of student success must be campus-wide and include our students. Through our Community of Practice, we have identified six core behaviors which help students to be successful in school and in life. They are our core principles of FLIGHT!

F- Flexibility

L – Listening with Empathy

I – Impulse Management

G – Gathering Data

H – Humor

T – Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition)

It our desire that all falcons learn to fly at WHCC! Each month faculty, student leaders/peer educators, administrators, and staff will focus on one of the core principles of FLIGHT. Our Community of Practice will include informal COP meetings and collaborative professional learning. We have dedicated room Q3 (The Nest) as our professional development lab.

Our change narrative – If we provide collaborative professional learning opportunities, then this will strengthen the campus-wide support for all students and lead to increased student success. Ultimately, we are providing a pathway for transformative learning among all WHCC student, faculty, staff, and administrators. The ultimate goal is to positively transform our campus into one that deliberately cultivates our Principles of FLIGHT in our students, faculty, staff, and administrators with a shared vision of the relentless pursuit of student success.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

On Tuesday, August 4 NDC staff and students manned an information table in partnership with local police departments (PD) at Maldonado Park in Firebaugh and Pierce Rojas Park in Mendota respectively. The community joined their local PD in observance of National Night Out. National Night Out is a yearly event hosted by police departments as a drugs and crime community prevention program.

NDC staff and students volunteered to pass out fliers at Firebaugh and Mendota farmers markets on August 5 and August 6, 2016. The flyers were distributed to community members as a last push to inform the community about open enrollment for 2015-16 and Year Round 360 Registration at WHC-NDC.

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata and Counselor Maria Ceballos met with the Anime Club members to be planning activities for 2015-16 on August 6. The club members want to increase their participation and join in more activities this year. They are planning to lead several activities in celebration of Hispanic Month.

Both the NDC EOPS and TRIO/SSS programs hosted their fall 2015 orientations on August 11, 2015. The speakers included Sylvia Leyva-Advising Specialist, Maria Ceballos-Counselor, Mali Flood-Financial Aid Coordinator, Sara Avila-Library Assistant, Tiffany Hernandez-Tutoring Coordinator and Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata. The orientations are designed to welcome the students/participants, provide an update on rules and regulations of the program, review academic merit processes, and handout educational materials.

WHCC TRANSFER CENTER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FALL 2015

At the last WHCC Transfer Center Advisory in Spring 2015, it was proposed to have a monthly Transfer Day that is coordinated with other campus events to maximize student outreach and participation. The following institutions have been invited to participate:

Brandman University, Columbia College, DeVry University, Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Fresno Pacific University, CSU Fresno, Grand Canyon University, National University, Touro University, UC Merced, Beijing Jiao Tong University, Walden University, and more...

Participation will vary from month to month and representatives will also have other scheduled dates and workshops outside of the monthly Transfer Day. Please let your students know about these events and opportunities to learn more about transfer.

- Wednesday, Aug. 19th – Welcome Week, 11:30-1PM in Quad
- Wednesday, Sept. 2nd – Welcome Week Part II, 11:30-1PM in Quad
- Wednesday, Sept. 16th – Mexican Independence Day, 11:30-1PM in Quad
- Friday, Oct. 30th – Halloween, 11:30-1PM in Quad
- Tuesday, Nov. 3rd – Day of the Dead, 11:30-1PM in Quad



ATHLETICS

Baseball Update by Coach McGovern

We're excited to bring 30 new players this upcoming season to West Hills College Coalinga, and one former player, Eric Graley, in to be our new assistant coach. Our primary focus this past year was to bring in character student-athletes who are great athletes, but even better people, and we feel we have succeeded in accomplishing that. We have made several upgrades at Keith Scrivner Field, and have turned our home field into a great playing facility. Our fall schedule is up to date on our website (www.westhillfalcons.com), so we encourage the community to come show your support at an upcoming home game this fall and/or spring. We will be helping out in the community this fall through several community service opportunities, and will be holding our first Jr. Falcons Baseball Camp (14 and under) on September 26-27 from 9am-1pm. If you have any service opportunities for our team in mind, or have any questions about our upcoming baseball camps, please contact head coach Stefan McGovern at stefanmcgovern@whccd.edu.

Rodeo Update by Coach Hampton

Our Student Rodeo Athletes are excited about being here and are a great group; 40 strong. We have been working on all of the housekeeping and membership completion. Also, all the student horses and rodeo practice stock are settled in for a great year. We are fully implementing our Academic Gameplan this year and are getting acquainted with the program. As a faculty member, it is nice to see all of our students acclimating well in this educational environment we call WHCC!

Softball Update by Coach Mosher

Softball is looking forward to another promising year. We have a great group of returners and a very promising group of freshmen to round us out. We will be running the concession stands at all the home football games as usual. And in addition to that we will be participating in the city of Coalinga October fest Oct. 3rd and then putting on a clinic and tour of our campus to a local travel ball team and their parents. We will also be selling softball t-shirts and stuff as we have for the past few years for those who want to show their support.

Football Update by Coach Olson and The Coaling Recorder's Tyler Takeda

The Falcons opened the 2015 season with a 21-0 victory over San Jose. Coach Olson said, "Shutouts are always good. It's definitely a benefit right now. It's a good accomplishment for our defense."

Olson and his coaching staff will turn its attention to Contra Costa College, whose only loss last year was to the mighty Falcons. This will be the opening home game held at Coalinga's Memorial Bowl on Saturday, September 12 with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

"We are looking forward to playing at home and we are excited to be in front of our fans," Olson said.

2015-16 WHCC Falcons Football Schedule

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Saturday, September 5 | @ San Jose | 7PM |
| Saturday, September 12 | Contra Costa | 7PM |
| Saturday, September 19 | @ Los Medanos | 6PM |
| Saturday, September 26 | @ Monterey * | 6PM |
| Friday, October 2 | Gavilan * | 7PM |
| Saturday, October 17 | @ Reedley * | 6PM |
| Saturday, October 24 | Mendocino / Homecoming | 1PM |
| Saturday, October 31 | Cabrillo * | 1PM |
| Saturday, November 7 | @ Merced * | 1PM |
| Saturday, November 14 | Hartnell * | 1PM |
| * Conference | | |
| Bold: Home event | | |

2015-16 WHCC Women's Volleyball Schedule

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Wednesday, September 23 | Sequoias * | 6PM |
| Wednesday, September 30 | Merced * | 6PM |
| Friday, October 2 | @ Taft * | 6PM |
| Wednesday, October 7 | Porterville * | 6PM |
| Friday, October 9 | Fresno * | 1PM |
| Wednesday, October 14 | @ Reedley * | 6PM |
| Friday, October 16 | Columbia * | 5PM |
| Wednesday, October 21 | @ Sequoias * | 6PM |
| Wednesday, October 28 | @ Merced * | 6PM |

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Friday, October 30 | Taft * | 6PM |
| Wednesday, November 4 | @ Porterville * | 6PM |
| Friday, November 6 | @ Fresno * | 6PM |
| Wednesday, November 11 | Reedley * | 6PM |
| Friday, November 13 | @ Columbia * | 5PM |
| *Conference | | |
| Bold: Home event | | |

FARM OF THE FUTURE

On the Farm

The well is back up and we planted 11,000 pumpkins, 5 acres, for this year's Harvest Festival. As long as the weather and growing conditions remain optimal, we should have a large harvest to share with the community. As seen in the picture, the silage corn has been planted for the Harvest Festival maze and is coming up strong. The kids enjoyed winding their way through the corn at last year's event. The almonds are coming along and will be harvested around the end of August. Keep your eye out for upcoming news regarding the pistachio harvest over the next several weeks.

Non-Traditional Course Offerings

Chris Chaney has joined the Farm of the Future and is offering the Industrial Maintenance Technology program, starting with IMT 60 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and all day Saturday. The students, with the majority calling Avenal home, are excited to be in the program and working their way to a productive career.



Rick Diaz, Avenal High School agriculture teacher, is teaching the second course in the welding series for the Huron cohort. Students completed the introductory course in Huron and are being transported to Avenal to complete the welding portion. They are excited to be getting "down and dirty" and learn industry grade welding skills that align with their 60 hour per week work schedule. Clint Cowden is teaching CPRSCI 6, Introduction to Precision Agriculture, in a six-week intensive format and the students have already driven tractors, completed three-point hitching and have mapped the Farm of the Future. Students have shown great interest in completing mapping projects with local growers in our area.

The Avenal High School Wonderful (formerly Paramount) Agriculture Career Academy has started its second year and is in full swing. Zach Soto and Joy Cowden are team teaching the AGBUS 15 course in which students are learning Microsoft Office on their Chromebooks. All 64 students are eager and ready to learn and already have a great rapport with Zach from their 8th grade summer academy. Way to go Chris, Zack and Joy on a successful start!

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Guadalupe Verdugo Lopez

After Guadalupe graduated Mendota High School in 2003 at 17 years of age, he decided to attend WHC/NDC Firebaugh. Quietly he states, "Back in those days, I was not really ready for college," but he considered WHC/NDC on a whim. He added that as an English learner he felt anxious because he believed his speaking and writing skills were not good enough to succeed; his life situation was in turmoil and he just couldn't focus-

Go Falcons!

-he decided to leave school and moved away. A year later he tried college again and again he left to work in the fields.

At 19 years of age, while working at a local grocery store, he decided to get married. He thought that even though his, "...salary wasn't much, it supported me and wife." A year later, when his family grew with the first child, and a second on the way, he realized that he needed to supplement his household income. He continued to work odd jobs until 2012 when he landed a more steady job working as a security guard at a local farming company; he determined to continue his education with the birth of a third child.

Guadalupe returned to WHC/NDC in 2013 to pursue his dream to become an elementary school teacher. He added that he decided to continue his education to break the cycle of farm work as the only viable income option and to be a role model to his children. "I want my children to have a better life and be able to say 'my dad is a teacher'."

This time, Guadalupe is determined to complete his educational goal successfully after almost a decade. In fall 2013, while holding a full-time job and caring for four dependents, in his first semester at WHC/NDC he achieved a 3.11 GPA. He topped his successful GPA comeback with a 4.0 GPA in spring 2014. Proudly he adds that, "Nothing is going to stop me this time!" He has been on the Dean's List every semester since his re-entry to college.

Guadalupe is the sole provider for his family of three-Alexander, 9, Franco, 6, Francesca, 3 and stay-at-home wife, Jessica. He credits the WHC/NDC faculty (Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hampton) for his academic success with their support and patience. English and history have become his favorite subjects. He will be transferring to Fresno State to pursue his teaching degree with an emphasis in Special Education. He feels that his first-generation, low income, farmworker circumstances make him uniquely prepared to work successfully with young children of similar background.

Join me in congratulating Guadalupe for his academic and personal success. He is a true example of the motto at WHCCD for those individuals who persevere: "Once You Come Here, You Can Go Anywhere."

WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Hermelinda Barrera

first came to West Hills College as re-entry student pursuing her desire to learn to use computers in 2000. As a working adult, Hermelinda managed to support a family with odd jobs while taking classes at the college and holding a student work-study job on campus. Once she completed an AA degree with an office management certificate she applied and was hired part-time as a student services assistant at West Hills College, North District Center (NDC) in Firebaugh. However, as the head of household, she needed to supplement her salary to make ends meet. Hermelinda took on a second part-time job at Mendota Unified working with elementary grade students with special needs.

After working as a part-time student services technician for 10 years, a full-time position opened at NDC. Hermelinda applied and was hired as a full-time employee in 2013. In this position she helps students with the admission, registration, records, and special admission applications. Additionally, she assists in the maintenance of completing student records that include grades, residency, and transfer degree certificate status.

Hermelinda added that she has seen many changes in student services during her tenure at NDC. As the first contact with the public, she feels that it is vital to include front desk staff first in training in aspects of enrollment and registration procedures. She added that she learns better by practicing.

Hermelinda stated “During the beginning of the semester, it has now become second nature to assist faculty process add/drops and wait lists while attending to students wanting to see their advisor/counselor on ‘same-day appointments’, assist newcomers register to college and help current students reset their passwords.” She recalled fondly that her workstation is the “hub” of the center, so she gets to know many students. Being a first-generation, low-income, farmworker student she identifies with the struggles of many students on the West side. It is not uncommon to see Hermelinda take time to approach students encouraging them to “hang in there-things will get better.”

Hermelinda is a role model to family and friends. She proudly added that she always has loved education. As a student at NDC she exceeded academically, being on the Dean’s List and a President’s Scholar recipient. Hermelinda completed a second AA degree in business and bookkeeping. She continues to do what she likes best--work with computers.

Her face lit up with a smile when asked about what she likes best about her job; she answered, “I enjoy helping students.”

WHCCD FOUNDATION

Our donors provided many wonderful opportunities for children in our communities this summer. Chevron sponsored three weeks of physical science at West Hills College Coalinga and supported the robotics training offered during WHCL’s 5C Camp. The Wonderful companies helped sponsor a week-long camp for Avenal students entering eighth grade that allowed them to experience college life and take a look at professional careers in agriculture. The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, a partner with our district on efforts in Firebaugh, offered four weeks of River Camp for children in that area. A number of North District Center students and former students are involved in that program. Creating a college-going culture in our communities is a vision shared by all involved. Thanks to our donors and to our employees who put together these outstanding programs.

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 - August 17-December 18, 2015. 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.

For registration please go to www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga under Announcements – Fitness Lab.