



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

On April 6th, I had an opportunity to participate in the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education team visit to CSU Fresno. What struck me the most about the visiting team was their interest in the high level of collaboration and civic engagement found in our Valley. This is a good reminder that we are all part of something bigger than our individual efforts to improve student achievement and increase the economic and living conditions of our residents. It will be through our combined efforts that we will cause an increase in the educational success across the Valley. We all have an important role to play to make certain our students and our colleagues know how special their contribution is and that it is essential to reaching our goal.

Ag News

For the last two months, faculty, admin and I have worked closely with our K-12 partners at Reef Sunset and employer partners, Paramount Farms, Grimmway Farms and Olam International in the development of an Ag Academy at Avenal High School. This innovative linked learning partnership will offer an integrated academic program for dual credit. The AG Academy will use an early college model combined with the California Partnership Academy focusing on Learning by Doing to fundamentally change the educational experience of hundreds of students once fully implemented. The goal of the Academy is to improve student success by designing college offerings so graduates will concurrently earn a high school diploma and an AA degree in Agriculture. This project builds off the success of our Paramount Ag Summer Camp which will be held again this year.

Professional Development

On Friday, April 11th, 26 fulltime faculty, five college administrators, along with Dr. Stu VanHorn took part in iPad training. The purpose for this initiative is to give faculty an additional tool for teaching and learning. As we have visited our feeder high schools, we know that students will be coming to us as experienced mobile device learners and we are preparing for this transition with the latest technological advances and instruments.

Events

"April showers bring May flowers." Although we may not have had much rain, we certainly have held many events this month, with more planned for May! It is all part of WHCC's commitment to student success. We promote and enhance all aspects of our students' life – academic achievement, artistic expression and athletic wellness.

Seven Keys to Baldpate, a play first written in 1913, is still an enjoyable and zany production. Kudos to our director Harold Wiest, director and Ily Lopez and Jamine Perez who played the lead characters! Audience members were heard giving praise to the entire cast and crew for making the WHCC return to theatre productions a hit!

ASB at WHCC and North District Center held **Central California Blood Center** blood drive. We set a new record with 124 pints and 62 donors at each site! Thanks to all who gave the gift of life! We would like to give a special thanks, to Olivia Vega at NDC!

Relay for Life was well attended by community members and students. Members of the football team, baseball team, softball team along with TRIO and PTK were in attendance. The Residence Hall Association team and the Faclonetts

President's Monthly Message

raised \$3,275.00 placing them in 1st place in the school category. Thanks to all of the students who participated and special thanks to Veronica Rosales, Linda Lewin, Cassandra Herrera and Alex Villalobos for serving as team captains for this 24 hour event. All of our student athletes contributed in some manner – serving meals, helping participants set up camps, and providing activities. While all of our students deserve recognition for their volunteerism, Josh Maino, James Campos and Cody Tiley, stayed all 24 hours! A special thanks to Mark Gritton for coordinating the Relay for Life with all of the teams and creating a family-friendly environment for the entire community.

A very special thank you goes out to Dennis Ball, President of the Fresno Cycling Club and to our very own Al Graves, Coach Arce, Coach Tucker, Coach Mosher and all of the student athletes who supported the **West Hills College Metric Century**. At the end of the day, we had over 100 riders and strong interest by many in the community to start a cycling chapter for Coalinga residents. We all hope to make the **West Hills College Metric Century** an annual event.

Upcoming Events:

As commencement draws near, we are planning several end of the year celebrations. We hope that you may join us at one or more of these events.

Event	Date and Time	Location
WHCC Rockfest Battle of the Bands	Saturday, April 26th, 9 a.m - 9 p.m.	WHCC Theater
Career and Job Fair	Wednesday, April 30, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	WHCC Gymnasium
International Student Pismo Beach Field Trip	Saturday, May 3, 2014 @ 8 a.m.	Pismo Beach, CA
TRIO Club Cinco De Mayo Celebration	Monday, May 5, 2014 @ 11:30 a.m.	WHCC Quad Area
WHCCD Foundation Golf Tournament	Monday, May 5, 2014 @ 8 a.m.	Kings Country Club
Cinco De Mayo Event	Monday, May 5, 2014 @ 11:30 a.m.	NDC - SS & Quad Area
Commit to Complete Graduate Luncheon	Wednesday, May 7, 2014 @ 12 p.m.	Dance Hall/NDC Quad
EOPS End of the Year Ceremony	Friday, May 9, 2014 @ 12 p.m.	Dance Hall
PTK Chartering Ceremony	Monday, May 12, 2014 @ 12 p.m.	R-10
Fostering Student Alliance End of Semester Banquet	Monday, May 12, 2014 @ 5 p.m.	R-10
Student Art Exhibition and Reception	Tuesday, May 13, 2014 @ 5 p.m.	WHCC Library
Faculty & Staff Success BBQ	Wednesday, May 14, 2014 @ 12 p.m.	Dance Hall
Scholarships and Awards Ice Cream Social	Friday, May 16, 2014 @ 1 p.m.	Dance Hall
Student and Faculty Appreciation Week	Mon. - Fri., May 19 - 23, 2014	WHCC - Student Services NDC - Student Services
International Student Farewell Dinner	Wednesday, May 21, 2014 @ 4:30 p.m.	Me & Ed's Pizza
ASB and Staff Appreciation Luncheon	Thursday, May 22, 2014 @ 12 p.m.	NDC - Lunch Meeting Room
WHCC Commencement Ceremony	Friday, May 23, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.	Gym & Theater Live on Online
WHCC Athletic Department Golf Tournament	Sunday May 25, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m.	Lemoore Golf Course

FEATURED LEARNING AREA – NDC

Our West Hills College's North District Center is located in the City of Firebaugh and is approximately 60 miles from our main campus in Coalinga. In 1971, West Hills College entered into a lease for property with the Firebaugh Elementary School District. Four classrooms and an office were built on Saipan Avenue during the spring of 1972. The facility became the first North District Center. In 1994, the old Saipan Avenue property was returned to the Firebaugh School District and a remodeled bowling alley in north Firebaugh became the North District Center. The change added more classrooms, a bookstore, computer and science labs, a library and offices for staff. A new spirit was evident in both staff and students and the enrollment gain was appreciable.

Two bonds have passed since 1994, and that has allowed the district to make modifications to the Center. Two of its classrooms are dedicated to modern video-conferencing instruction, there are renovated restrooms, new parking lots, additional property has been purchased so that there is room for an anticipated Center expansion of nearly 40,000 square feet, and modern technology equipment has been added to serve our students and staff. More changes are being discussed with the NDC Expansion Committee.

In 2011, Washington Monthly magazine ranked West Hills College's North District Center as the 34th best in a list of America's Best Community Colleges. The ranking was based in great part on a Community College Survey of Student Engagement survey and graduation rates published by the U.S. Department of Education. We had the top ranking in California of more than 112 community colleges in the state.

Students at NDC have continually participated in student activities throughout the district. For example, they are involved in Coalinga's ASB, play on numerous athletic teams such as softball, baseball, football, cross country, basketball, and volleyball, as well as attending TRIO S and EOPS events. They definitely have plenty of opportunities to be a part of an exciting educational experience! Stop by, take a look around and say hi when you get a chance.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



NDC had a very successful Cesar Chavez National Blood Drive on March 31. Thirty-three (33) students, staff, and community members gave blood and donors were given nourishment after the event.

Students and staff from NDC attended the Firebaugh "Water Rally" along with nearly 1,000 attendees from all over the Westside on March 18. Governmental speakers from Sacramento, along with mayors from various valley cities attended this very important event.

The wife of Fresno State University President Joseph Castro, Mrs. Mary Castro, paid a surprise visit to NDC on March 18. She met and talked with students and staff, and took a tour of the Center. At the end, she and West Hills College President, Carole Goldsmith, had an opportunity to talk about Mrs. Castro's visit.

Dr. Hetu had an opportunity to attend a Firebaugh High School event where the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, spoke to school officials about the impact that the drought could have on public schools and communities throughout California on March 16. It was an honor to meet this outstanding educational leader who represents over 10,000 public schools in our state.



WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Linda Luna



Ms. Luna is a student at North District Center and will be graduating in May with an Associate Arts Degree in Child Development. She plans to continue her educational endeavors at Fresno Pacific University in the fall. Ms. Luna has participated in various student activities such as the Water Rally in Firebaugh, Cesar Chavez National Blood Drive, Thanksgiving Day Fundraising event, and the Lights of Love event during the Christmas holidays.

Linda is a single mother of six children and is very involved in each of their school activities. This includes their participation in sports, theatrical plays, FFA club, chess club, and cheerleading. She said that her energy level is tested every day by her entire family. Ms. Luna's interests include reading, dancing, watching her favorite television shows, and cooking. Trying to balance her personal interests with her children's interests is

often the greatest challenge she faces daily.

Linda said that her experience with fellow NDC students, the Center's staff, and the faculty have made her time at NDC extremely enjoyable. While she looks forward to attending Fresno Pacific University, she says she will dearly miss all of the friends she has made at WHC NDC, and the great faculty and staff she has gotten to know during the time she attended college.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE HEP OF THE MONTH



Margarita Trinidad Sanchez

This month WHCCD HEP would like to recognize another one of its outstanding students. Margarita Trinidad Sanchez grew up in Oaxaca, Mexico. At the age of 13 she migrated to the U.S. with her brother and settled in the small town of Kerman, CA. She began working in the fields soon after her arrival to help provide for her family. Contributing to the households took priority over going to school. It's a way of life for many in Margarita's situation.

Margarita is a prime example of how it's never too late to go back to school. She always wanted to go to school and get her education. The HEP program has enabled her to do so and she has taken full advantage of the opportunity. She has been one of our top performing students, completing the GED® in just over a month. Margarita now resides in Mendota where she's a married mother of three. She and her husband are very active

in their children's school as well as the local migrant program.

Margarita has many goals for her future. Her primary goal is to be a role model to her children and ensure they get the education she could only hope for growing up. Last month Margarita took her placement exams and looks to enroll in classes at WHCC for the next term. A fall HEP fieldtrip to CSU Fresno has Margarita determined to transfer and complete her degree in nutrition. Margarita wants to become a Nutritionist to teach her community how to eat healthier and help prevent health problems and help those with Diabetes and other health related illnesses. With her determination, hard work, and support from her husband, we are very confident she will accomplish her goals and become a great asset to her community.

Margarita would like to first thank God for giving her the courage to take on the challenge of working toward her GED® and the strength to see it through. She thanks her instructor Beatriz and her advisor Olivia for all the support they provided and the encouragement to believe in herself. The financial support HEP is able to provide has helped a lot along the way. She is thankful for a supportive husband who has picked up many of the parenting duties enabling Margarita to focus on her studies. Twenty years ago she never imagined she could feel the joy she does now. She's an inspiration to all those around her. We'll be waiting for the graduation invite from Fresno St. Keep up the great work, Margarita!

COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Debbie Norwood



When told that she had been selected for the employee spotlight Debbie said that she didn't want it. Debbie feels like she doesn't need any kind of special recognition for doing her normal day to day job duties but that it is nice to be acknowledged.

Hired for her permanent position as Food Service Cashier November of 2006 Debbie felt that this job was suited perfectly for her and still feels the same way. She feels that her interaction with the students as well as staff and the community is a reflection of our campus and does all she can to serve as she would prefer to be served.

Debbie feels fortunate because of the opportunity to meet new students and is thankful for the lifetime friendships she has made with the many different international students knowing that had it not been for West Hills College Coalinga she would have never met them. She feels blessed this job found her when she needed it the most and it has surpassed all her wildest expectations. Her "West Hills College Coalinga" experience has developed in special friendships, pride in her duties and being part of such a great team. Debbie is excited for all new upcoming changes in the cafeteria and is looking forward to where it may lead.

Jay Darnell, Debbie's boss, was quoted saying "Debbie is the face of the West Hills College Café. As an experienced Café worker, Debbie exhibits a smile and friendly personality even under stressful and difficult circumstances. Her cheerful personality is greatly appreciated and makes the day pass quickly. Her humor and occasional sarcasm make her a joy to work with and makes her one of WHC Coalinga's greatest assets." So take the time to stop by the cafeteria, grab a bite to eat and congratulate her!

WHCCD FOUNDATION

Spring is a very busy time in the WHCC Foundation. We received 100 applications for President's Scholars for 2014-2015. During fall semester, we had 94 President's Scholars in 2013. If most of the new applicants and half of the previous students return, we will have a huge class of academically talented students enrolling in the fall.

Much of the support for the program comes from our annual golf tournament, which will be held May 5th at Kings Country Club. If you know of players or possible sponsors, please let us know. This is our largest event of the year and we hear over and over again from golfers that it is their favorite tournament. For details, visit: http://westhillscollege.com/district/foundation/golf_tournament

We are pleased to announce that the six children of Bernice and Jack Woolf have established an ag scholarship in their name. Initially, \$500 will be awarded. Over a period of years, the Woolf children plan to endow the scholarship so it can be awarded in perpetuity. The Woolfs met in Coalinga when Mrs. Woolf came to Coalinga to stay with a cousin during a college vacation and met her husband. They were married in 1949. He worked for Russell Giffen before starting Woolf Farms in 1974.



Left to right: Mary Forth, Aaron Forth, Coleman Forth, Colin Forth, Aidan Forth, Donald Forth and Christine Forth

Also, during our scholarship ceremony in May, the first Forth Family Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to a West Hills College student. Don Forth joined the faculty of WHCC in 1968 and although officially retired in the early 2000s, he continues to recruit for our international students program and teach online. His wife, Mary, taught at West Hills for many years as well. Their two sons were WHCC Alumni of the Year last year. The Forth family has a long and rich history with West Hills and students here will benefit from their generosity for generations.

Left to right: Mary Forth, Aaron Forth, Coleman Forth,

ATHLETICS



Presentation of plaques to Tracey Jaurena for her CCCAA Athletic Trainer of the Year award and to Bruce Hunt and Liz Hunt for their dedication and service to the WHCC Rodeo Program

The Annual Horned Toad Derby Golf Tournament



Date: Sunday, May 25, 2014

Time: Shot Gun Start @ 8:15am

Place: Lemoore Golf Course
350 West Iona Avenue

Cost: \$75/Individual or \$300/Team

For more information contact: Gina R. Tollison at 559.934.2452/Mark Arce at 559.934.2460/
Mark Gritton at 559.934.2455

2014 Spring RODEO SCHEDULE - WEST COAST REGION

DATE	DAY	HOST	LOCATION
April 25-26	Friday-Saturday	University of Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV - Contact Ric Griffith 702/498-5585
June 15-21	Sunday-Saturday	College National Finals Rodeo	Casper, WY - Contact 509/529-4402

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Date/Time	Day	Location	Opponent
4/22 @ 1pm	Tue	Porterville	*Porterville (DH)
*CONFERENCE GAME			HOME GAMES IN BOLD

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Day	Location	Time
4/22	*Fresno	Tuesday	Away	6pm
4/24	*COS	Thursday	Away	2pm
	*Conference Games			Home games in Bold

You can download the electronic version of this newsletter at:

<http://westhillscollge.com/coalinga/about/presidents-monthly-message.asp>