



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

Summer time is a busy time for West Hills College Coalinga. Like the Ant in Aesop's fable, *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, we value hard work and recognize the importance of planning for the future. We may be a small college, but we are mighty.

The Paramount Agriculture Career Academy, which West Hills College Coalinga is one of the founding partner colleges, received nearly \$10 million from the California Career Pathways Trust. This grant-funded project was built upon the college's work with Avenal High School to create an academy that will start this summer. Students participating will earn both high school credit and college credit. Additionally, all students enrolled in the Agriculture Career Academy will be eligible for internships with Roll Global, Paramount Farms parent company. A special "thank you" goes to Stephanie Droker, Clint Cowden and David Castillo for their hard work and creativity in making this a reality.

On May 27th and 28th faculty from across all disciplines worked with the Apple National Development Team to gain additional iPad training and developed a campus-based training plan that will be implemented in the fall with the larger faculty group. Our iPad Champions are: Sherry Barragan, Dr. Tim Ellsworth, Arkady Hanjiev, Matt Magnuson, Staci Mosher, Sarah Shepard, Scott Sutherland, Jeff Wanderer and Steve Wright. Thanks to each of you for your commitment to lead this endeavor. This is part of our Title V grant funded project to improve student engagement and success through the integrated use of technology in the classroom.

If you are looking for sweet corn but don't want to drive to the Fresno State Farm, well our very own Farm of the Future will be selling sweet corn at the Coalinga Farmer's Market held at Keck Park on Wednesday nights. So come on down to the park and see Sharon Freeman, Clint Cowden and Jim Brixey along with our students. While you are there, buy some corn!

On May 28th I represented the college and the region as the CEO representative for the California Community College Chancellor's Office Advisory Committee on Workforce and Economic Development. One highlight was when Dr. David Zoldoske from Fresno State and representatives from irrigation firms presented their findings regarding the growing need for trained irrigation specialists and designers. I was quite proud to be in attendance when it was noted that West Hills College Coalinga is only one of two colleges that has approved curriculum in the state that is recognized by industry (Bravo Clint Cowden). The drought and its impact on curriculum will continue to be monitored by the state and West Hills College Coalinga will be leading the efforts to train people displaced by the drought to seize new opportunities.

Go Falcons!

FEATURED LEARNING AREA – INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM

The International Students Program ended the 2014 Academic Year with many accomplishments. Outreach was conducted in England, Israel, Vietnam, Colombia, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China and Brazil. Student success stories include Dylan Bakker from the Netherlands and Cody Leung from Hong Kong. Mr. Bakker received a full scholarship to play football at the University of North Dakota and Mr. Leung will be transferring to CSU Chico in Northern California.

Monthly excursions were held in the spring term to San Francisco, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Yosemite National Park and the Pismo Beach Premium Outlets for International Students Program students.

An International Students Program Task Force was formed in the spring 2014 semester. This committee is comprised of faculty, counselors, advisors and residence hall staff. This committee was formed to help determine the needs of International students. Committee findings will be forwarded to Administration for review and possible implementation.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

NDC staff, faculty, ASB leaders, along with Vice President Droker and McGlothlin had an End-of-the Year Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, May 22, to celebrate everyone's positive efforts with helping NDC students find success throughout the entire year. The potluck luncheon provided time for the group to be together and enjoy their accomplishments before graduation day.

The NDC Expansion Planning Task Force Committee, made up of NDC staff, faculty, administrators, and AP Architects staff, met on June 5, to discuss the future college that will be built in Firebaugh. Committee members were shown models of various building designs, and brainstormed about usage of space, technology considerations, and usage of classroom space.

On May 22, NDC ASB leader, Eric Andrade, traveled to the district Board of Trustees meeting to act as the Student Trustee. Eric described the different ASB events that were conducted throughout the district in May. Eric has completed this term as one of our ASB leaders, and he plans to attend one of the CSU institutions next spring.

TRIO and CalWORKS programs provided their students/participants with final survival kits May 19-23, 2014. The survival kits are care packages with healthy snacks and supplies for students to help them deal successfully through finals.

The TRIO Club at Coalinga and NDC hosted Cinco de Mayo activities on May 5, 2014. The students enjoyed Mexican delicatessen, traditional Folklore dances, played games, and learned about the meaning of the celebration of Cinco de Mayo.



The Basic Skills Initiative sponsored a poetry contest during WHC Coalinga's Cinco de Mayo celebration. The celebration took place on Monday, May 5, 2014. According to Brandy Wilds, English instructor, many of the students who participated in the contest were ESL students and some of them had to overcome enormous obstacles such as finding a poem, understanding the poem, and reading the poem in front of a large audience. She also mentioned that a few students even wrote their own poems. The contest was a great success! It was the talk of some of the Basic Skills English classes since many of the students were excited and impressed by what their classmates accomplished





In addition, some of the students in the Spanish Literacy Community Education were able to perform the traditional Mexican Folklore dance. A BIG thanks goes out to our English instructors, Rob Skaggs and Brandy Wilds, who worked closely with the Office of Educational Services, and Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata and her staff, to coordinate this year's event ensuring the participation of both students and the community in this educational activity.

The International Students club held a singing contest on May 2, 2014, at WHCC Theater, with nine singing contestants participating. The first place winner was Bea Lorenzo, the second place winner was Joshua Maino, and the third place winner was Valerie Cazarez. Approximately 80-85 people attended this fun event!

April 22, 23, and 24, the Upward Bound staff (Dr. Felix-Mata, Program Director and Juan Rubio, Advising Specialist) conducted parent orientations at Coalinga, Mendota, and Tranquillity High Schools. The participants received information on the recent program eligibility changes and the summer residential program during the academic year. The parents also received information on other college enrichment services provided by Upward Bound including college enrollment, exam preparation, financial aid, and UC, CSU requirements.

TRIO club members hosted the 2014 Spring Bash on Wednesday, April 9. This year the TRIO leaders collaborated with the international students to expand the campus-wide activity. Based on the comments from students and attendance the event was a big success! Students enjoyed Hawaiian delicatessens, played games, and just had fun!

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Maritza Arevalo Benitez

Determined ... it's something Maritza has been her whole life. Growing up in El Salvador she had stability, comfort, and support. She studied hard and did very well in school. Maritza completed nursing school, married, and started a family. She was doing quite well, she was happy. Then her family decided migrating to the U.S. would lead to better opportunities for all of them. First her dad, then her mom, brothers and sisters followed. After four long years, Maritza made the very difficult decision to join them.

As many immigrants come to realize, the transition to a new country can be very difficult. It seemed like overnight Maritza went from checking in on patients to checking on pistachio trees ready for harvest. This is not the opportunity she expected. The stability is gone along with the comfort, and the support is weak as the family works hard to make a decent living. But the determination is still there. Maritza, now a single mother of two, Erick 4 and Alexis 6, knows that her situation is only temporary. She will find her way back to happiness.

At a local outreach event she took a flyer on HEP and sought more information right away. She was accepted into the program and quickly began attending GED® prep classes. Maritza is a great student with an excellent work ethic. She enjoys learning and helping her fellow classmates. Her devotion is exemplary. Support services from HEP help ease some of the struggles of juggling work and school and she is truly grateful. She makes very efficient use of her limited time and makes the best of every day. Maritza is half way towards completing her high school equivalency certificate and hopes to join us for graduation this year. After earning her certificate she plans to continue her education at West Hills College and get back to her career as a nurse. She can't wait to check in on patients again!

President's Monthly Message

Maritza's biggest goal is to show her children that anything is possible, there's always a way! When asked what the HEP program means to her, she replied with a smile, "Un paso para un maravilloso futuro." With her driven and go-getting personality we believe she does have an "amazing future" ahead of her. Keep up the great work Maritza!



Tavon Tate

Tavon Tate, originally from Chicago Illinois, just finished his first year at WHC Coalinga where he participated on our intercollegiate football team and was a member of our Foster Youth Alliance program. Tavon won a Galaxy Tablet for having the highest GPA (4.00) in the program and on the football team and wants to transfer after completing his Associates degree here and major in aerospace engineering. He is still undecided on what college to go to after next year. He also received the Phan Hang Memorial Scholarship at our Ice Cream Social event last month for \$250 which can go towards his educational expenses. Congratulations, Tavon!

WHCCD FOUNDATION

The West Hills Community College Foundation 18th Annual President's Scholars Golf Tournament on May 5th was a huge success with over 100 golfers playing and a long list of sponsors including Pepsi, AP Architects, EECU, PG&E, Chevron and Automated Office Systems (AOS). Perfect weather greeted our golfers and the Four Amigos (aka Mark Millett, Shaun Bailey, Kevin Cobb and Byron Woods) entertained guests with their great costumes. With more than 100 President's Scholars expected at WHC in the fall, this tournament remains our largest source of funding for the program. Thanks to all who participated and volunteered. Modesto JC President Jill Stearns even made a surprise visit. It was great to see her and all of our other long-time supporters.



ATHLETICS

The Annual Horned Toad Derby Golf Tournament



The Annual Horned Toad Golf Tournament was on Sunday, May 25th at the Lemoore Golf Course with 18 teams and 40+ tee sponsors. The winning team was Jeff Weaver (Clovis), Scotty Weaver (Clovis), Sebastian Tollison (Coalinga) & Ralph Garcia (Coalinga). Jeff Weaver from Clovis won the 'Hit the Falcon' contest. A great time was had by all!

The following Rodeo student athletes will be competing in the 2014 College National Finals in Casper, WY, June 15-21, 2014:



Thor Hoefer

Bull riding (#1 in the West Coast Region Champion), Thor's father (also named Thor) won the Championship in the West Coast Region (bull riding) while competing for us 20 years ago (1994) to the day that his son did.



Cody Ellis

Bull riding (#2 in the West Coast Region).

President's Monthly Message



Danielle McCants
Barrels (#1 in the West Coast Region Champion).

Tegan Turner



Barrels (#2 in the West Coast Region), Tegan's mother (Deanna Turner) won All-Around West Coast Region Cowgirl, won the Championship in the West Coast Region (goat tying) and placed 3rd at the College National Finals all in 1987 (27 years ago) while competing for West Hills College.

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