



**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**

**Homecoming**

WHCC ascended to new heights this month! We hosted the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WAMOBASS, the longest continuously-run balloon rally in the world. We moved this event to coincide with our Homecoming Week. Organizers shared with me that this year's event had some of the largest crowds they have seen. Hundreds of residents came before dawn to view the spectacular view.

The large turnout helped our Annual Sunrise Breakfast which benefited the Coalinga Child Development Center. According to Conne Cleveland, this year's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser reached record sales. Kudos to everyone who made this a huge success!

Another big event for WHCC was our Annual Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony. All the credit for putting together on this successful event goes to Mark Gritton, Mark Arce and Gina Tollison. It truly was a wonderful evening. Lastly, ASB at both NDC and WHCC held simultaneous activities to honor our student athletes and coaches. There was an enthusiastic group of students and staff who participated in this fun event. Thanks to all who came by to support our Falcons.

**Ag News**

The team at the Farm, Stephanie Droker and I have been continuing the dialogue with Paramount regarding our work to advance Ag Education. We are currently offering several college classes at our area high schools. I was asked to participate in a Milken Institute sponsored round-table discussion with leading employers from the Ag sector and will be working together with them in the development of a white paper that will help legislators and funders understand the challenges we face in changing the public's perceptions of the viability of careers in agriculture.

**Outreach and Engagement**

For the first time in our history, WHCC Student Services planned and hosted 377 high school students from Coalinga, Avenal, Tranquillity and Faith Christian to tour the campus to take college placement tests. Kudos to Erin Corea for leading this outreach event! This month we also held a President Scholar's Reception where I had the opportunity to meet with parents of high school seniors who are eligible for this unique scholarship opportunity.

The College hosted Coalinga's Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Meeting which was well attended by both business and college leaders. Thanks to Katie Delano for looking for ways to partner with our college!

**Upcoming Events**

Emergency Preparedness Drill on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>



## President's Monthly Message

Commitment to Complete held simultaneous at WHCC and NDC on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at noon

### Featured Learning Area – Athletics

West Hills College Athletics is in full swing as volleyball and football seasons came to an end and basketball starts up. The last home volleyball game was on Wednesday, November 8 against Fresno City and football closed the season at home, on Saturday, November 16 against Merced. Men's basketball will get their season under way at the Cuesta Tournament November 8, at 4pm, against Santa Barbara City College with their first home game coming on Wednesday, November 20, at 6pm, against Bakersfield College.

The athletic department hosted the Hall of Fame Dinner after the home coming game on October 26. The event was a huge success with a crowd of 170 people in attendance to honor our Hall of Fame Inductees.

Two other upcoming events are just around the corner too ...

- The West Hills College Coalinga Athletic Department staff members will be serving a Thanksgiving meal to the students who are unable to get home for the holiday. The meal will be served at 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, November 28, in the TV room of Gordon Hall. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year that the Athletic Department staff members have put this meal together. Following this event dinners are also delivered to needy families in our community. Over the years, the donations from West Hills College employees and community members have been remarkable. Further, it has been a wonderful display of why Coalinga is great place to live, and West Hills College is a great place to be. If you would like to make a donation of food or funds, please call, or stop by the athletic office. Mark Gritton and his staff want to thank you in advance for your continued support of West Hills College Coalinga.
- The West Hills College Coalinga Men's Basketball team will be having their annual "Big Monday Bash" on Monday, December 2, 2013 at the Elks Lodge. For more information please contact: Coach Mark Arce at (559) 934-2460

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### TRIO-Student Support Services, Upward Bound & CalWORKs Peer-mentor Training 2013

Friday, September 13, the Student Support Services program and CalWORKs staff hosted its fall 2013 Peer-mentor training. Ten student peer-mentors from Coalinga and North District Center (NDC) participated in the training which included basic mentoring techniques and TRiO/CalWORKs programs' requirements and benefits. The student peer-mentors will be assisting other SSP/CalWORKs participants strengthen their academic achievement, as well as, how to navigate through the college system successfully. The peer-mentor program is designed to provide peer to peer support in students' academic and leadership skills. The training staff included Reyna Moreno, Valarie Walker, and Dr. Felix-Mata.



Monday, September 16, the TRiO club, TRiO program, HEP, and Basic Skills programs sponsored the 16<sup>th</sup> of September – Mexican Independence celebration at the West Hills Community College campus. The students enjoyed Mexican delicatessens, games, dances, and custom contest.

Saturday, October 5, the TRiO programs-Student Support Services and Upward Bound joined the annual Chamber of Commerce Octoberfest activities held at the Coalinga campus. The event hosted on campus this year provided a great opportunity for students to practice their leadership skills in fundraising and event organizing.

Wednesday, October 16 and 26, the TRiO/Student Support program sponsored the Lunch to Learn (LtL) monthly workshops at NDC and Coalinga respectively. The topic on money matters is part of the TRiO grant's financial literacy training series. The featured speaker was Francisco Obre. He started the presentation by sharing his background coming from a farm worker family and first generation college students to a successful financial manager. During his presentation, Mr. Obre also discussed the importance of money management and how to plan for a financially solvent future.

The WHCCD High School Equivalency Program (HEP) graduation ceremony honoring the class of 2013 was held on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. To a crowd of proud, cheering family members, graduates walked across the stage at the WHCC Theater. The festivities began with a warm welcome from HEP Director Anita Wright. Keynote speaker Dr. Maria Mejorado gave an inspiring speech that encouraged graduates and attendees to always strive for more. Student speakers Alejandra Garcia and Elvira Garcia expressed their gratitude for the services HEP provides and pledged to continue their education. After the ceremony, family and friends enjoyed a reception dinner in the WHCC dining hall. Big thank you to Jay Darnell and the food services staff for catering the delicious meal. Out of the 14 graduates, 13 will continue on to West Hills College and one was able to obtain employment. Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate this joyous occasion. We want to wish our graduates the best as they continue ahead towards a new and exciting future.



Congratulations on a job well done!

(Pictured left from top left to right: Jesus Bravo Hernandez, Keiry Callejas Moreno, Patricia Anaya, Alejandra Garcia, America Villa Mendoza, Martha Elena Montero Escutia, Beatriz Lopez, Marcos Hernandez, Maricela Aguayo, Yesenia Cruz Rafael, Ana Bautista Juarez, Sonia Canchola, Nashely Melchor-Amaya, Elvira Garcia, Anita Wright, Adriana Flores, Javier Cazares Dr. Maria Mejorado, Olivia Vega)

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



### Oluwatosin (Tosin) Abina

Tosin is currently a student in the Mental Disabilities term of the West Hills College Coalinga Psychiatric Technician Program. Tosin has been an exceptional student throughout our program. He currently has a 4.0 GPA and displays a strong understanding of psychiatric concepts. He adds valuable input to classroom discussions and he is seen as a role model by his peers. Tosin's commitment to his academic endeavors has led him in the pursuit of a nursing degree after he completes the Psych Tech Program. Faculty shared that he is a pleasure to have in class and will be missed by all after he graduates next month. He has truly been an inspiration.

We wish him well and know that he will succeed in professional duties!

## WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



### Reyna Moreno, Advising Specialist

It is a pleasure to share the background of one of our best employees at West Hills College Coalinga (WHCC). She is a life-long resident of the WHCC district community committed to improving people's lives educationally, professionally, and intellectually. She began her career at WHCC as a program assistant in the TRIO programs and is currently an advising specialist.

Reyna was born in Fresno, CA to Rosa and Eduardo Moreno. She is the oldest sister to three brothers and three sisters. Mom is from Tijuana, Mexico, and dad is from Guanajuato, Mexico. Reyna has always valued education as a way to be a successful role model and contributor to civic life in her community. She credits her parents for supporting her to pursue a college education; even though, neither of them completed school beyond middle school.

As a first generation college student, she started her postsecondary education at West Hills College Coalinga (WHCC). While in college as a young mother, Reyna worked on several part-time jobs to help her family meet ends. She has an AA degree in Liberal Arts from WHCC. Soon after completing her AA degree, Reyna was hired as a program assistant

## President's Monthly Message

in the TRIO programs-Student Support Services/Upward Bound. As she continued to grow professionally; her learning increased in the area of student support. Reyna decided to continue her education while working full-time and raising a family. In 2010, she applied and was approved as a participant in the West Hills Community College District Educational Employees Scholars Program to pursue her bachelor's degree. She was accepted in the bachelors of science program in technical management with specialization in finance at DeVry University.

She commented that for a while, she thought that she had "bit into more than what she could chew" when the demands on her grew exponentially between holding a full-time job, being enrolled in a full-time bachelors program, and raising her three daughters; Viviana, Crystal, and Natalie. However, she persevered encouraged by the constant smiles from her daughters when she joined them in doing homework and the support from her husband Eric.

Reyna noted that one of the things she enjoys most about her job is the opportunities provided to attend regular professional development trainings. The conferences she has attended have helped her become a better employee, a better leader, and an innovative thinker. She added that "every time I go to trainings, I am always able to bring something new back to my colleagues and I learn something new".

She admits that even though, throughout her career she has experienced quite a few uphill battles, and downfalls, she continues to focus on her successes and accomplishments. Reflecting on her young life, she surmises that sometimes is hard to deal with economic hardships, but she persists in facing her struggles head on to move forward; using every experience as a learning stepping stone to improve herself personally and professionally.

Reyna plans to make a career at West Hills College. She considers herself a leader in student support services who strongly believes WHC is the best choice for those pursuing postsecondary education in the region. She explains that as an advisor, her job provides her with the satisfaction to see young people pursue their educational dreams regularly. One of the student support initiatives she has taken a special interest, because she knows that many students come to college unprepared and without support, is the peer-mentoring program in the TRIO program. She believes that mentoring strategies are powerful in helping young people successfully navigate college life. Therefore, she would like to see the mentoring model expand to middle schools and the community at large within the WHC service district. She proposes that mentoring activities could be easily integrated into college sponsored activities, such as Sport Day, Life Day, and college theme days.

She ended her interview by reiterating that she wants to be instrumental in taking part along with the college in implementing the next generation of academic initiatives to make sure that WHC becomes the first choice of college for all students in the region.

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN ACTION

Below are tips on being successful in the classroom from faculty:

### Brandy Wilds, English

- Complete your readings. **Do your homework.**
- **Be active in class**, ask questions when you don't understand.
- Even if the content doesn't seem useful or connected to you, challenge yourself to figure out the connection! This will make classes more interesting.

### Sarah Shepard, Business

- **ATTEND CLASS. EVERYDAY. PERIOD.** If you are not in class you are still responsible for the "content of the day" and turning in assignments.
- **GET ORGANIZED.** Buy a daily planner and write down everything! Specifically, homework assignments and due dates. I will not keep track of this information for you.
- **MAKE FRIENDS.** Help each other. Exchange contact information with a buddy in case one of you is absent. I will not provide notes for you if you are absent. Study together. Review homework assignments.
- **READ THE BOOK.** Actively read the book. You will not pass the course without reading the book and I would not ask you to spend \$\$\$ on irrelevant paper. Additionally, quizzes and exams will include material not covered in class.

### Arkady Hanjiev, Math

- Do your homework
- **Read ahead**
- Ask questions in class
- **Stay for "study hall" and the "exam review" sessions.**

**Jeff Wanderer**, Biology

- **Preview the material before class.** Just look at it with no intention of memorizing it
- Try to get the big picture in class and add to notes to the one given
- **READ the chapter** covered at home sometime before going to bed that night.
- Your grade is more a reflection of what you do **OUTSIDE** of class than in.

**Erin Corea**, Counselor & IS

- **Show up!**
- Ask questions
- **Actively participate**
- Read the material
- Do the work assigned

**Marlese Roton**, Counselor & IS

- Get homework done ahead of time (to reduce stress) so that you can relax and enjoy time with family.
- As I read the textbook, take good notes or use SQ3R
- **Form a study group and** predict together possible essay questions that will be on the exams or test each other with flash cards, etc.
- When you have a question, meet with the instructor or talk to other students in the class about what they understood about the specific part of the lecture.

**Matt Magnuson**, Librarian

- **Take advantage of the free tutoring offered in the library**
- Learn to use the library database (don't fake your research with the internet)
- **Go see your instructors during their office hours**
- Ask questions (especially at the library – that's what we are here for)
- **Choose your friends wisely**
- Stay away from drugs and clingy girl/boy friends

**Annie Jorgen**, GS, English & Math

- Advocate for yourself. Inform instructors if you have a special need and complete accommodation packet.
- **Always come to class on time and stay for the entire class.**
- The DSPS program and the DSPS instructor will help you be successful in you classes and will guide you through out this process.
- We will also teach you how to be successful **but we will NOT do the work for you.**
- Come to class prepared.
- Remember that college education is a privilege not a right.
- Do your school work daily and don't fall behind.
- **Let us know if you need help or if you are lost. If you don't speak up we won't know.**

**Al Graves**, Geography

- Come to class on time
- **Read the book**
- Look-up words you don't understand in the dictionary
- **Use available tutors**
- Do your labs
- Watch the topographic DVD when assigned

**Giselle Simon**, Counselor & IS

- Come to class/appointments prepared and on time
- **Ask questions to improve your understanding**
- Manage your time for studying, homework, and ALL essential priorities that move you towards your goals
- Access resources to help guide you towards your goals – learn more by visiting Student Services or talking to your instructors

## STUDENT SERVICES IN ACTION

Student Services welcomes Aronne Hauki, Senior Secretary for Vice President Sandy McGlothlin. Aronne is a former student and currently working on her Master's Degree at Grand Canyon University.

Priority registration continues through the first week of November and then open registration until the semester starts. The counselors and advisors are seeing lots of students with their current educational plans. Two counseling positions will hopefully be filled by the end of the month. During the spring 2014 semester, eSars will be implemented on the Coalinga campus. Students will be able to make counseling/advising appointments online with their team counselor.

## INTERESTING INSIGHTS – Foundation



PG&E representatives, including former Coalinga PG&E manager Raj Beasla, were on hand at a recent West Hills Community College District Board of Trustees meeting to present a check representing their \$10,000 commitment to the President's Scholars Program, Engineering Scholars Program and Westside Institute of Technology. Pictured are Don Warkentin, president of West Hills College Lemoore; Mark McKean, president of the WHCCD Board of Trustees; Carole Goldsmith, president of West Hills College Coalinga; Frances Squire, executive director of the WHCC Foundation; and Ann Kloose, Raj Beasla and Kristen Doud, public affairs

representatives for PG&E. Beasla served as Coalinga manager for PG&E in the 1990s and is now corporate affairs manager for the PG&E Central Valley Region.

## ATHLETICS - Men's Basketball (Home Games in Bold)

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Nov-20	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bakersfield College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Nov-29	Friday	Moorpark College	Moorpark	5pm
Nov-30	Saturday	San Diego Mesa College	San Diego	2pm
<b>Dec-7</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>San Diego Mesa College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Dec 13-15	Friday-Sunday	Quinn Henry Memorial Tournament	Los Altos	TBA
<b>Dec-18</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Hartnell College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Dec 28-30	Sunday-Monday	San Diego Mesa Tournament	San Diego	TBA
<b>Jan-8</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>*Reedley College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Jan-11	Saturday	*Columbia College	Sonora	6pm
<b>Jan-18</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>*Fresno City College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Jan-22	Wednesday	*College of the Sequoias	Visalia	7pm
<b>Jan-25</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>*Merced Jr College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Jan-29	Wednesday	*Porterville College	Porterville	7pm
Feb 1	Saturday	*Reedley College	Reedley	7pm
<b>Feb-5</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>*Columbia College</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Feb 8	Saturday	BYE		
Feb-12	Wednesday	*Fresno City College	Fresno	7pm
<b>Feb-15</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>*College of the Sequoias</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>
Feb-19	Wednesday	*Merced Jr College	Merced	7pm
<b>Feb-22</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>*Porterville College (Coaches vs. Cancer)</b>	<b>Coalinga</b>	<b>6pm</b>

