



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

Commitment to Complete

On Tuesday, November 19, over 230 students and 50 staff and faculty at NDC and WHCC signed pledge cards and banners committing themselves to do whatever it takes to facilitate completion of their degree or certificate. Once a student graduates, a star will be placed next to their name on the banner.

I was very impressed by the level of support from faculty and classified staff. The level of commitment and caring was palpable and I know that students felt it too! This event is part of our honor society activities that will continue throughout the year. Thanks to all who participated.

Lights of Love.

Thanks to Daniel Tamayo, director of the international students program, Carolina Jimenez, advisor, Marcel Hetu, Director NDC, and Sara Avila, Student Services Tech, who have been coordinating the toy drive for the past five years. I highly appreciate the students' generosity for sponsoring a child at WHCC and supporting the Lights of Love activity. This year we gathered presents for 107 children.

Ag News

The Farm of the Future team played host to a FFA Field Day with a total of nine (9) high schools participating. Eighty-eight (88) students competed in Horse Judging, Land Judging, Welding, and Best Informed Greenhand (BIG) events. This inaugural event will be the first of many. In fact, we will host another on FFA Field Day on March 8, 2014, a High School Rodeo on January 17-19, 2014 and of course, the WHCC Rodeo will be held on March 21-22, 2014.

Psychiatric Technician Completion Ceremony

Please join me and the faculty from the Psych Tech Program on December 20, 2013 at 5:30 PM in the WHCC Theater when students from WHCC and Modesto Junior College Cohort will celebrate the completion of education and training.

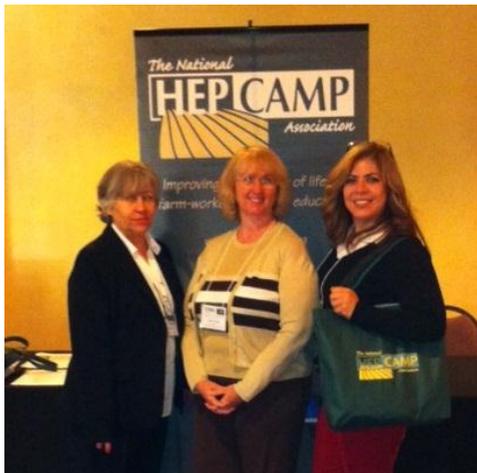


Have a happy and safe holiday season! Go Falcons!

FEATURED LEARNING AREA – Student Services

When I introduce myself as the administrator of our colleges' Student Service programs, I usually say "it's where the action is!!" Our office is a constant flow of prospective and current students in some form or fashion wanting staff to help them with anything from the application for admission to petitioning to graduate. WHC Coalinga is proud to have an awesome outreach program that targets high school seniors who for the most part, transform into our incoming freshman class. We have been very successful at helping a majority of seniors at each high school to attend our college. This incoming freshman class will have a tremendous opportunity in April to be able to register for their classes for an entire year! That's right, next semester when we outreach to our district high schools, those seniors will be able to register for summer, fall AND spring all at once. While this presents challenges for some aspects of our college staff, the fact that a student can use their educational plan and register for fall and spring subconsciously plants a seed in that students' mind for "completion." Students will have to be attentive in the coursework that requires prerequisite completion like English and math sequences required for graduation or they will not be able to move to the next level. Students will have to focus on "completion" if they want to preserve their year-long schedule of courses. Student completion will also be essential for them to receive priority registration in their second year. Now more than ever students will see the importance of their educational plan, which is the students' contract for completing their educational goals, whatever those may be. My goal as we move to this new REG365 (registration 365 days a year) that students will see its value in helping them achieve their academic endeavors. And as always, the staff in the Student Services office will be ready to assist any and all students when they walk through our doors.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



WHCCD HEP staff travelled to Albuquerque, NM for the National HEP/CAMP Association annual conference. The early October trip was a great opportunity for staff to collaborate with counterparts from all over the country. Seminars included topics in the area of instruction, retention, leadership, and future GED® Testing. Presenters shared information on curriculum, student support services, evaluation procedures, and possible GED® alternatives. There were some HEP programs with over 30 years of experience in attendance. The opportunity to learn from seasoned programs is instrumental to the success of new programs like ours nearing the end of its first five year cycle. Although the Office of Migrant Education (OME) was unable to attend due to the government shutdown, updated information on key issues were addressed during general sessions and HEP/CAMP Association meetings.

(Pictured: Emma Santos, Anita Wright, Olivia Vega)

International Students Program

On November 9, 2013 the International Students Program took a small group of International Students to Fresno. International students had the opportunity to shop at the Fashion Fair Mall.

As it is tradition at WHCC the International Students Program celebrated "International Education Week." The following is a list of the activities that took place at WHCC, November 18-22, 2013:

- International Flag Display in the WHCC Library
- International Dinner meals were served at the College Café
- International Lounge
- Photo Scavenger Hunt

Staff and Faculty had the opportunity to taste food from the nations at the International Students Program Office, on Tuesday, November 19th. The ethnic food was prepared by WHCC Café staff and served by International Students Program Director Daniel Tamayo. Items included for tasting were: Chinese mini pork and vegetable eggrolls, Shrimp Dim Sum, Russian Pelmeni Dumplings, Thai chicken Satay, Swedish Meatballs, Molho de Churrasco chicken wings and Korean BBQ rib tips.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Josh Ault

Josh is currently a member of our men's basketball team. The Buchanan High grad has not only distinguished himself as an athlete, but also in the classroom. He is in his second year of our President Scholar program maintaining a 3.5 GPA. His academic goals consist of completing his AA degree in Business Administration at West Hills College and transferring to a University majoring in Finance. Josh has been an active member of our campus and community, volunteering his time to support a variety of events.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Andrea Hamilton

Andrea Hamilton was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and moved to California as a young girl. She has lived in Coalinga for the past 27 years and has made Coalinga her permanent place of residence with the recent purchase of her first home. Andrea graduated from West Hills Community College in the Spring of 2012 with an Associate's of Science Degree in Business Administration and is currently working on her Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration at Cal State East Bay through their online program. As well as being a full time Senior Secretary in Educational Services here at West Hills College Coalinga, she and her fiancé own a beef jerky business, A & E Jerky, LLC. Regarding her work here at West Hills, Andrea states, "Being a graduate of West Hills College and the Associated Student Body Vice President in 2012 made getting this new job a dream come true. Working with faculty and students has been a thrilling experience to date and I look forward to many years here at the District."

STUDENT SERVICES IN ACTION



Fostering Student Alliances Program

On November 17, 2013 the Fostering Student Alliances program took a field trip to Universal Studios Hollywood. The students had fun riding rides and getting to know each other! The Fostering Student Alliances program is a new program at West Hills College designed to help former foster youth succeed! The FSA program assists students who qualify with supplemental services such as personal counseling, financial aid application support, emergency loan, residential assistance and much more!

INTERESTING INSIGHTS – Foundation

Frances Squire reports “we are happy to welcome Tina Simas back as foundation secretary. She joined us in October and has hit the ground running.”

As the end of the year approaches, now is when many people finalize their charitable contributions for the year. Please don't forget the West Hills College Foundation and our many activities--President's Scholars, athletics, Farm of the Future, individual scholarships etc. as you make plans and send checks.

Speaking of plans, the foundation has invested in a tool that may be of great benefit to you and your family--and save you money. If you're like about half of all Americans, you don't have a will in place. Some people don't want to think about the eventuality of death. Others have trouble making decisions about what to leave and to whom. If you don't make plans, the government will make them for you.

Our free will-planning kit is available to help you start making those plans and organizing information before you seek legal help. It allows a discussion point with your spouse, you aging parents, your children, your siblings and others who might be involved. Visit: <http://whcgift.org/> to get started. It's confidential, free and might just be the best holiday gift you've ever given. There are also some great stories on the site about our donors and some of their gifts.

Happy holidays from Frances, Tina, Olga and the foundation board.

ATHLETICS

Fall 2013 Basketball

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