



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

During the last four years, I have had the extraordinary privilege to serve as President of West Hills College Coalinga. Before becoming President, I have had the honor of working 10 years at one of the most innovative community college districts in the state. I will always be grateful for my time spent here, for your trust and friendship.

I am exceedingly proud of what we have accomplished. We have fostered strong regional relationships and advanced state-wide priorities. In my role as Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Workforce Development, we led collaborative efforts among 11 valley colleges to implement a \$20 Million Department of Labor project – the first of its kind in the nation. We spurred the interest in Open Educational Resources, embedded remediation, data analytics and accelerated learning to focus on academic success that leads to work in high demand areas. Now we are taking lessons learned and applying it in all areas of academics.

Together we have expanded access to college through our dual credit and community offerings. Last spring 337 local high school students were enrolled in a college level class, that is up from less than a 100 students just a few years ago. We achieved record numbers in terms of degree and certificates awarded – over 300 last year. In terms of community offerings, we have delivered for-credit college classes in every community we serve – Avenal, Huron, Firebaugh, Mendota, and Tranquillity. We have also expanded our educational offerings to the incarcerated in hopes that it may transform their lives. By offering education to all and expanding transportation options, we have made a significant difference.

We have improved campus and community engagement by offering additional college events, activities and clubs, like the college's first honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. Thanks to faculty and admin, the college has hosted new fundraisers and events – West Hills Century, Chili Cook Off and even co-hosted CoalingaFest! We cheered on our athletic teams - some saw triumph on the field but all achieved victory in the classroom. Our students' focus on academic success is to be commended.

The college is in a good position in terms of budget, enrollment and physical plant. Working together we surpassed our enrollment goal last year and we are on our way to do the same this year. Our governance structure works well and provides all constituency groups an opportunity to have a voice in decision making. The WHCC Facilities and Infrastructure Committee has done a tremendous job making sure our campus is well maintained and scheduled upgrades occur – a radical makeover of the student lounge, refurbished the dorm bathrooms, and installed a new scoreboard for Softball. Our students and staff are proud of the look and feel of West Hills College Coalinga and they are committed to keeping it looking great. One great example of this was the restoration of the theater mural completed by faculty and students.

Our intent to become a learning college was realized when we linked professional development activities to college-set goals, planning and the budgetary process. By doing so we launched a physical space where faculty and staff can innovate and learn from each other – The Nest. WHCC has engaged in faculty-led, professional development initiatives such as Lumina's Degree Profile Project, California's Acceleration Project and Habits of Mind that has inspired and allowed us an opportunity to learn from one another.

There are certain rare things in life that bring you joy and fulfillment – and having been a part of the WHCCD family and surrounding communities has been one of the them for me. **Go Falcons!**



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**President's Monthly
Message**

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

June 9, the Andrew Firebaugh Parkway Enhancement team met with MaLisa Martin-National Park Service-Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistant and Bart Bohn, Board President San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation at the Firebaugh campus. The WHC-NDC/Firebaugh team included Dr. Tim Ellsworth, Dr. Atif Elf, Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata, Brian Boomer, Maria Cavazos, Frances Squire (via phone), and community representative Dr. Marsha Sablan-Firebaugh City Council member.

The team reviewed progress achieved during the first year of the WHC NDC/Firebaugh National Service Parkway project and welcomed news about an additional technical assistance year. The discussion/strategy ensued on how to instill interest and gather support from local influential stakeholders in Firebaugh and Mendota appealing to different groups promoting the resources, and benefits of the trail and environmental learning partnerships:

- Have a convergence of the public, invite the private owned neighbors, begin by convincing one neighbor that can speak with others
- Involve stakeholders with high public image

Dr. Atif and Dr. Ellsworth reiterated their interest and support in Soil, Biology and fisheries research. They both possess a wealth of experience in underwater work and has done lots of research on invasive species. Atif added that having the River makes a huge difference for pedagogy, essentially it is a win-win for students and community.



The group agreed that the Environmental / Research classroom currently has the most momentum and the group feels encouraged that we can coalesce community involvement as it ties into the environment.

MaLisa summarized Environmental / Research classroom as the goal of choice to continue their technical assistance planning in the coming year.

From L to R: Dr. Ellsworth, Brian Boomer, Dr. Sablan, Dr. Atif, MaLisa Martin, Bart Bohn, Dr. Felix-Mata, Maria Cavazos (right front).

June 13, student Daysi Reyes-WHC NDC/Firebaugh President's Scholar recipient was spotlighted at the West Hills Community College District 2016 Annual Golf Tournament Scholarship fundraiser. Daysi spoke eloquently about her appreciation for the scholarship award. She added that financial assistance has made a great difference in helping her achieve her academic dreams. Daysi is the younger of five siblings and the first one to go to college. Her family emigrated from El Salvador.





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Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata and Jesus Delgadillo-HEP Outreach Worker attended the Rape and Counseling Services (RCS) - Stakeholders meeting in Mendota. The taskforce is designed to identify strategies to increase awareness and prevention of sexual violent crimes on the Westside Fresno County.

July 5, 6, and 7 WHC staff and students hosted an informational table at the Mendota, Firebaugh, and San Joaquin Farmers Markets respectively. Information and handouts were distributed on Reg 365, free transportation services, high school career paths opportunities, job search and training, and High Equivalence Program services.

From L to R: Sylvia Leyva, Advising Specialist, Dr. Felix-Mata, Jesus Delgadillo-HEP Outreach Worker, and Mendota Council Member Joe Amador



This passed month has been a busy one for us at the Farm of the Future. With our various projects going on, we have had an "all hands on deck" approach to the work load. Our garlic has been looking good and is now in win rows. Farm manager JR Velazquez says that all of the garlic will be ready to harvest in the next two weeks.

Student workers Jorge Gutierrez, Petey Rincon, Adrian Jenkins, and Jose Villalobos recently performed maintenance on our sand media filters out at the reservoir. The process included draining all of the sand and gravel out of the four tanks, and then gradually replacing it with new sand. Between every few bags of sand, the tanks were back flushed to ensure everything would settle. The purpose of the sand filtration is the removal of algae, slime or other organic contaminant as well as sand, rock, grit and other inorganic contaminants. It also protects drip and micro-irrigation systems from plugging with fine filtration removal down to 200 mesh or 75 microns.



Clint Cowden's Advanced Irrigation Design class (AET 23) has begun, and is off to a good start. AET 23 covers

irrigation design including the preparation of irrigation designs to meet the needs of a particular project, selecting the most effective irrigation equipment or materials for the application and utilizing the information in such a manner that efficient and cost-effective irrigation designs are produced which meet the watering requirements for the plant or crop material being irrigated. Students meet at the farm Tuesday and Thursday nights for lecture as well as hands on labs.





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Finally, this passed month we celebrated two birthdays on the farm. Student worker Petey Rincon spent his 21st birthday with us. We surprised him in the afternoon with chocolate cake and ice cream. JR Velazquez also spent his birthday with us. Program Assistant Alissa Trevino and all of our student workers took him out to lunch and came back to the farm for cake.



To keep up to date with what is going on at the Farm of the Future, make sure to like our page on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/farmofthefuture/>

Social Media out at the Farm of the Future

Do you want to know what is going on out at the Farm? Check out our social media sites to stay up-to-date with the latest news from the Farm of the Future. Keep your eye out for weekly videos, pictures and updates.



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WHCCD FOUNDATION

Frances Squire, WHCC Foundation Executive Director, shared the following “as I reflect back on my 15 years at West Hills College, I see tremendous progress. We’ve grown in so many ways...our full time equivalent head count, our facilities, our reputation in the community to name a few. We’ve also grown in our relationship with donors. I frequently hear how pleased Chevron is with the work we’re doing with the Chevron Science Camp—now in its third year, or in robotics programs that are going on throughout the south end of the district. Sanitation Districts of LA County, which funds our Engineering Scholars Program at WHCL, has hired two of our students as interns and are delighted with the work they are doing. Pepsi continues to be a strong partner with us and each year during the last few years, Keller Motors has stepped up its contribution and has become a major sponsor of the President’s Scholars Program. And of course, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our long-term relationship with AP Architects. They have been with us since the beginning of President’s Scholars and their support, in great part, made the program possible from the beginning.

As you are out in the community, please make sure to thank our donors for their support. Please let them know how much you appreciate all that they do for our students and our communities. For a complete list of our donors, please visit: <http://westhillscollege.com/district/foundation>. And if there’s a name you don’t see there, please let me know and we will reach out to them.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WHCC Athletics –

Want to watch your Falcons and cheer for them? Visit our WHCC Falcon Athletics webpage for schedules:

<http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/landing/index>