



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an opportunity to relax, spend time with family and friends, and have some fun. The summer break was certainly well deserved. Thanks to your efforts, last year we enjoyed a record-breaking year at West Hills College Coalinga!

- We hosted the largest commencement in our history;
- We conferred 400 Associate of Arts and Science degrees;
- We awarded 263 Certificates of Achievement; and
- We cheered for our championship Football team!

These are just a few of the highlights from a banner year at West Hills College Coalinga.



It has been a pleasure serving as your president for the past three years. We have created a shared vision for West Hills College Coalinga - one built on a strong foundation of collaboration, respect and a shared love of education.

This year we focus on taking our practice to the next level by continuing to integrating learning frameworks to help shape curricula and services to challenge students to achieve at new capacities; incorporating sustainable practices in the life and work of the college; preparing the final architectural design for the new North District Center; and developing a strategic plan to guide us into the next five years. WHCC needs everyone's continued commitment, ideas, and energy to make our plans a reality.

Mission and Community

At the heart of what we do is our mission. I have been deeply inspired by your passionate commitment to our mission. I am often reminded how special this college is, the love for learning and affection for the communities we serve is unmistakable by anyone who walks on the campus or has interaction with faculty and staff. Because of this I have been revitalized and challenged to create and sustain a learning environment where everyone thrives.

Mission Statement: *West Hills College Coalinga is committed to inspiring learners for success by ensuring students from diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve their educational goals by providing transfer, career/technical, and basic skills programs, and lifelong learning. The college fosters its student's ability to think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, reason quantitatively to make analytical judgments, and understand and appreciate different points of view within a diverse community.*

At West Hills College Coalinga, everyone matters. Together we make West Hills College Coalinga the best of its kind in the valley and state. We will do this because the people we serve deserve it. We do this because we love and respect that power of education to change lives and communities.

Will you join me in this effort? It is our time to do bigger and greater things.

During the Fall Professional Day on August 14, we reviewed data and planned for WHCC to achieve new heights of success during the new academic year. To reach our goals, I will need your best and creative efforts. In turn, I commit to investing more of my time on campus devoted to the single focus of student success. Only through working together will we succeed...and have fun doing it!

Accreditation

Ongoing self-evaluation remains a clear priority for WHCC. The four standard teams were meeting throughout last year. This fall standard co-chairs will continue to work on preparing first drafts. The resulting drafts will be provided to shared governance groups and the larger campus community and revised through winter and spring. I urge everyone to participate in reviewing the drafts of the Self-Study. The final version of which will be first submitted to the Board of Trustees in October 2016 and sent to the Accrediting Commission in the winter prior to the team visit in spring 2017. (A detailed timeline is available on the new WHCC President's Portal Page).

Equity and Student Success

On July 1, Mark Gritton assumed his new responsibilities as the Associate Dean of Student Services/Student Success and Equity. Mark will be leading the charge to implement our Equity Plan. He will be working closely with faculty to move from theory to action. Also assisting our efforts to improve success indicators among our disproportionate groups will be two Program Coordinators of Special Grants - Valerie Walker and Zach Soto, who will focus on increasing access to underrepresented students and providing intervention strategies that will result in improved course completion rates. The collaboration between faculty and student services is vital in this effort.

Other Staff Changes

The Falcon Family has grown! We had a number of promotions and changes in assignments. We also hired six Full Time faculty members: Nick Andrews, Basic Skills English Instructor; Maria Ceballos, Counselor; Dr. Atif El Naggat, Biology Instructor; Lynette Mann, Basic Skills Math Instructor; Camron Olson, Interim Instructor/Head Football Coach; and Jennifer Twist, DSPS Counselor.

Zack Soto and Valerie Walker will be joining the campus in their new role as Coordinator of Special Grants. Jennifer Zuniga transferred from Lemoore and will be helping Student Services efforts as Senior Secretary. Also helping our students will be Mary Mello, our new Director of Financial Aid. No one could be happier to greet Mary than Mali Flood, who stepped in to provide leadership as we searched for a director. Mali has been promoted to Financial Aid Coordinator.

Please congratulate the following individuals for moving from "interim" to their new positions: Clint Cowden, Director of the Farm of the Future; Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata, Director of North District Center; Robert Pimentel, Associate Dean of Educational Services; Raquel Rodriguez, Director of Title IV Projects. Speaking of Title IV Projects, West Hills College Coalinga was recently awarded a new five-year TRiO Student Support Services grant!

Jessica Smith completed her degree work and has been promoted to Library Technician II and Juana Tapia also was promoted to Student Services Technician II.

Please welcome and congratulate all of them!

ATHLETICS

On July 1, Mark Arce assumed his new role as the Interim Athletic Director. He will continue to serve as the Head Basketball Coach/Health/PE instructor and will spend 100% of his time on the Coalinga campus. Another change in the department is the appointment of Camron Olson, Interim Head Football Coach. Please join me in wishing them success in their new roles!

WHCC Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Athletic Trainers, Vice President of Student Services and our President traveled to Visalia to participate in the **CVC Summit** hosted by College of the Sequoias on August 12th. In addition to attending required training on Title IX and abuse reporting mandates, we worked with other coaches from our region to review new regulations devised to improve academic success of our athletes.

Athletes are on campus before the official start of the semester. Mark Arce, Interim Athletic Director and President Goldsmith met with each team during their WHCC Athlete Orientation. On Monday, August 17th at 9:00 pm there will be a mandatory Falcon Gathering for all athletes and residents of the dorms, the event is also open to all. The event is designed to help students in starting their West Hills College Coalinga career on the right track.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The West Hills College experience involves so much more than just going to class. The Student Services department is here to provide you with the support you need to be successful. We believe students who get involved on campus succeed and each campus activities planned to provide you with an opportunity for self-discovery, personal growth and enhance academic success!

Basic Skills Success Pathway is underway! WHC Coalinga Student Equity under the leadership of Associate Dean of Student Services, SSSP/Equity Mark Gritton and Valerie Walker, Coordinator of Special Grants are overseeing the components of the plan. One of the strategies was to guide freshman students into "learning communities" during REG 365. Out of the 125 student registered for English 100 almost half of them are enrolled in the IS 1 College Success class. Counselors are teaching IS this fall to boost success, equity and help students learn strategies for retention and completion. Students will have Supplemental Instruction in English 100 and Health 35 to monitor early difficulties as soon as possible. Next year we hope to have all English 100 students enroll in College Success in the fall and Career Planning in the spring.

Student Services staff Juana Tapia called students who had completed the components for priority REG 365 but did not register. While a few committed to counseling appointments for fall 2015, 34% of our district high school students are attending other colleges, mostly Fresno State! Many told her they were very appreciative of the college taking time to call them. We are glad our district high school students are moving on to post-secondary opportunities and look forward to seeing 45% of our high school graduates on campus in the fall!

Gearing up for the accreditation self-study, Vice President of Student Services Sandy McGlothlin conducted a consequential validity study during the fall/spring 2014-15 on the college assessment test for English and Math placement. Students were surveyed on whether they felt they were suitably placed. 80% in English 100, 94% in English 51A and 88% in English 1A reflected they were appropriately placed. Faculty was surveyed on their perception of those students and found over 82% in all levels were appropriately placed. All faculty surveyed stated the remainder of the students belonged in a LOWER level course. Similar outcomes were determined for Math 101 (76%), 61 (87%) and 63 (98%) stated they were appropriately placed - validating the cut score range of our placement cut scores. Local validity studies are required every 5-6 years by the Chancellor's office.

Student Success and Support Program and Student Equity will be rolling out supplemental services for students who may experience difficulties early on in the semester. Program Coordinator of Special Grants, Valerie Walker has been working this summer to develop early alert intervention plans for our basic skills students. One of the plans is to assign a supplemental instructor (student) to monitor the classroom and work in collaboration with those faculty to intervene and provide support at various stages of the semester to help the student feel confident completing the class successfully and retaining to the next semester.

FINISH in FOUR is a term you'll see all over campus. The campaign for students who place into transfer-level English and Math their first semester is where they fit! If a student enrolls and completes 15 units and follows their 2-year educational plan, we can guarantee the student to FINISH in FOUR semesters! Ask your counselor how you can be a part of the FINISH IN FOUR plan.

Student Services is fully staffed with 6 full-time Counselors and 6 full-time Advising Specialists. For the first two weeks of the semester, you can make a same day appointment for help scheduling your classes. After the second week of the semester, all counseling/advising staff are by appointment only. This is to ensure that they have the time dedicated to your needs whether it's career counseling, academic planning or checking in to see if you're on track.

FARM OF THE FUTURE



Another successful weeklong Wonderful Education Summer Agriculture Career Camp was held at West Hills College Coalinga. The camp was offered in partnership with Wonderful Education, formerly known as Paramount Farms. Forty-eight soon-to-be eighth graders from Reef-Sunset and Kettleman Middle Schools participated in collegiate life by residing in the dorms and dining in the café. The camp focused on agriculture careers and preparing students for the Wonderful Agriculture Career Academy at Avenal High School.

Students participated in science-based activities and hands-on learning exercises designed to increase their awareness of agricultural careers. Activities were designed to boost student through exercises such as model rockets, geocaching and meteorological ballooning. Students built and launched model rockets to heights above 500 feet and searched for hidden treasure with only GPS coordinates to guide the way. A weather balloon was launched and reached an altitude of 126,000 feet before coming back down in King City. Students competed to see who could predict the closest landing sight, but we were all amazed that the balloon moved contrary to local jet streams.

Agriculture was the main focus with guest speakers from near and far discussing the importance of agriculture to California's economy. A field trip to Lost Hills was conducted to allow students to witness the Valley economy in action. As a culminating project students were tasked with picking an agricultural career based on results of a personality assessment. They then researched this career including information from O-Net, which details salary potential, future employment outlook, common tasks performed and skills and abilities needed to be successful within the career. After determining the education needs, students researched a university at which to receive the training and calculated the cost savings of obtaining their Associate degree while still in high school. These projects, as well as their capstone projects, were presented during the parent presentation and BBQ to complete the camp.



Thank you to our great resident advising staff and vocational aides the camp ran smoothly and fun was had by all. A big shout out to Brian Boomer, Zack Soto, Alissa Trevino and Pedro Garcia for creating a camp at which students could immerse in agriculture while having a great time developing a 10 year plan to keep them on track of obtaining their educational and career goals.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata



Dr. Felix-Mata began working at West Hills College in 1999. She graduated from Tranquillity High School. She then attended West Hills College Coalinga and earned a two-year Medical Assistant degree and went to work for the only migrant health center in the West Side -- San Joaquin Health Center – where as a community health worker, she became aware of the extreme need for education and health care for families in Fresno County. She then decided that she could help people improve their lives.

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata completed a bachelor's degree in psychology at California State University, Fresno. She earned a master's degree in public health with emphasis in behavioral sciences and health education at the University of California Los Angeles. She worked for Migrant Health Center for several years where she served as Director of Women's Health and Health Education/Health Promotions. Dr. Felix-Mata completed her doctoral degree in 2009 in educational leadership and change at Fielding Graduate University.

She has assumed key leadership roles at the college in seeking and obtaining program funds to provide access to educational support programs, specifically addressing disadvantaged populations. In her 16 years of service in WHCCD, Dr. Felix-Mata has served in various administrative positions at the college and district-wide levels. She has overseen federal programs (TRIO-Student Support Services and Upward Bound for over 10 years) and recently the state program CalWORKs. Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata has been recently hired as the new NDC Director. As a Mendota former resident, Dr. Felix-Mata was elated when she received the job offer of NDC Director. She stated, "It is an awesome feeling to be able to serve our communities as a college administrator. I can't wait to take the opportunity to visit the communities in West Side, introducing myself to old acquaintances who now serve in key roles in the various towns encompassing the WHCCD."

Dr. Felix-Mata volunteers her time as a speaker and volunteer Board Member for various organizations. She has served as adjunct professor at our Coalinga College and for Fresno State University where she taught in the department of Chicano Latino Studies, Women's Studies and the Health Science Department. Dr. Felix-Mata's lifelong community service has been recognized by the California State Legislature with the Woman of the Year Award for Community Services, the Educator of the Year Award, presented by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). In 2011 she received the Administrator of the Year Award by the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) Fresno Chapter.

She continuously utilizes her educational and professional skills in identifying community needs to implement processes to create models for successful student access, retention, and graduation from high school to college. Her life experience has taught her that when we work together for a common goal, success is possible. She believes that, given access to opportunity and services, individuals – especially members from disadvantaged populations – can succeed.

WHCCD FOUNDATION

The foundation is working with Deputy Chancellor Ken Stoppenbrink, Butch and Shirley Wright, Shaun Bailey and others in the M&O department, Jay Darnell in the cafeteria, Carlos Posadas in web services and Tom Wixon in marketing to bring the inaugural President's Scholars Car Show to the campus of WHCC on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Entry fee is \$25 for street rods, hot rods, rat rods, customs, stock, modified, pick-ups and low riders. To preregister, visit: <http://westhillscollege.com/CarShow>. If you have questions, contact Butch at (559) 935-3327 or email him at 59otsjag@gmail.com.

With 180 President's Scholars expected for fall semester, every fundraising opportunity for the program is greatly appreciated. In the past, the main fundraiser for the scholarship program has been the annual golf tournament, which will celebrate its 20th year in 2016. Two years ago, Dr. Goldsmith and Dr. Al Graves created a metric century bike ride that has also added much needed funds to the coffers. Thanks to everyone involved with all of these events.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



<p>August 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NDC SSS/TRiO BSL Tips for Success Workshop ✓ WHCCD Reg. BOT Meeting ✓ WHCC Rodeo Welcome Back BBQ 	<p>August 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NDC Welcome Back Event ✓ NDC CSU Fresno Application Workshop
<p>August 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Infrastructure Committee Meeting ✓ WHCC Psych Tech Pinning Ceremony 	<p>August 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Rodeo Summer RUN and Rope Event
✓	✓
<p>September 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCCD Leadership Retreat Group Meeting 	<p>September 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Football vs San Jose at San Jose, Game time 7:00 pm
<p>September 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Student Success Workshop/Career Café 	<p>September 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Football vs Contra Costa
<p>September 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Football vs Los Medanos at Los Medanos, Game time 6:00 pm 	<p>September 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Women's Volleyball vs C.O.S.
<p>September 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Football vs Monterey at Monterey, Game time 6:00 pm 	<p>September 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WHCC Women's Volleyball vs Merced