



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

As we begin the holiday season, I am reminded of a quote by William Arthur Ward, one of America's inspirational writers: "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

November gives us the Thanksgiving holiday and provides a short respite to reflect on our many blessings and voice our gratitude – for our family, friends, colleagues and students who have shaped and inspired us, for the simple graces in our everyday lives that give us peace and joy, and even for those circumstances that challenge us as we pursue student success. Everyone associated with West Hills College Coalinga understands that our fundamental mission is to help others, and ourselves, fulfill our potential -- to achieve educational and career goals.

One program that many are grateful for is our Psychiatric Technician Program. Recently we hosted a Partnership Luncheon to celebrate our partnerships and our alumni. We had an estimated 50 representatives from our community partners as well as our WHCC admin and Psych Tech faculty. The overall message of the event can be summed up in a few words: "A Promise of Hope and Return on Investment: Celebrating 10 Years of Innovative Collaboration!" A few highlights from the Economic Impact Study:

- **863** - Number of students who graduated from the PT program at WHC Coalinga as of June 2015
- **\$55,000** - Average starting compensation in dollars for a newly licensed Psychiatric Technician
- **\$12,900,000** - Gross Regional Product (income) created in a single year

The full report can be found on the WHCC Psych Tech website at:

http://westhillscollge.com/coalinga/academics/programs/health_careers/psych_tech/index.asp

While the event touted the highlights from a recent economic impact study, the real highlight for everyone in attendance was the student alumni panel - Debbie Lee Scott Jones, Clodualdo (Aldo) Mendez, Martin Gene Thompson and Ian Dwight Young. One of the best take-always from our alumni, *My Bachelor's degree didn't help me earn money but I knew this program would. After a one year training, I could take care of my family.*

The College recently was one of six community colleges chosen to receive individualized technical support to strength STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) pathways and according to Anita Wright, be awarded, "at least two grants within the next two years." This project is called **KickStarter** and stems from the National Science Foundation (NSF) recognizing that community colleges have not typically been successful at gaining NSF funding. The KickStarter project implemented by the Science Foundation of Arizona. KickStarter team, Dr. Homer Lopez, Anita Grierson and Al Schwabenbauer spent two days with WHCCD faculty and admin to learn more about us in order to help us to improve our federal funding participation and competitiveness by providing a wide range of technical assistance services. The KickStarter team visited the college and toured the Farm of the Future and have pledged to help the college develop strategies to increase recruitment and retention of students in STEM career and transfer pathway programs.

Special thanks to Anita Wright, Brain Boomer for working with Dr. Tim Ellsworth, Dr. Atif El Naggar, Scott Wilson, Jeff Wanderer, Clint Cowden and Dr. Stephanie Droker to craft a successful proposal.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

TRiO: Student Support Services is a federally funded program designed to support students who are *first-generation, low-income, and/or disabled*. Through an array of services, TRiO SSS helps students earn a certificate or an associate's degree and transfer to a 4-year college so they may complete a bachelor's degree.

The Fall 2015 semester has seen an increase in new students who have applied and been accepted into TRiO SSS program. TRiO SSS staff have been busy meeting with students ensuring that students continue to pursue their educational goals. One approach we use is to offer "Student Success Workshops" during the semester. Workshops are designed to help students to connect knowledge, resources, professional staff and peers that can assist students successfully navigate college life and go beyond.



The TRiO Program sponsored Financial Literacy 101 workshop. Mike Jones from the Educational Employees Credit Union presented "How to Balance your Money while Attending College"



Over 70 students from North District Center and Coalinga attended. Students heard how to take care of their finances, worked on planning their budget, and most importantly, learned about the dos and don'ts about financial aid. Students were able to work in an interactive hands on exercise and received giveaways items. Thanks to the Student Success and Equity Grant Initiative, students were provided with a great lunch.

In addition to workshops, another strategy to engage students is increased communication through email, Facebook, and other social media. It is always a treat to see continuing students on a regular basis as well.



West Hills College Coalinga Outreach Team was able to provide information regarding the college admission, academic and vocational programs during CoalingaFest and other community events. Thanks to our staff members for their dedication. (L to R: Cherise Griggs, Raquel Rodriguez, Domenica Sanchez and Carolina Jimenez).

Last month, during Back-to-School Night at Mendota High School, WHCC met with parents of students, many will be attending our college. The event was well attended and it was very beneficial to interact with students and members of the community of Mendota.

Future events that planned to assist our communities during the holidays include the annual canned food drive and *Lights of Love* gift drive for children during Christmas.

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Raul Moreno conducted a presentation to students on AB 540 legislation and the new Fresno State Dreamers Center on September 29. Mr. Moreno also distributed handouts and answered questions on transfer requirements.

Dr. Carole Goldsmith hosted a “Pizza with the President” meeting at NDC. The student leaders commented they were delighted to meet with the president and share their ideas on expanding opportunities at North District Center- Firebaugh.

Students and staff participated at the Mendota Rojas-Pierce part water rally – “Taking Back our Water”- Farmers and Families Unite. The student volunteers helped distribute water, collect petition signatures on letters to the Governor, and passed out informational brochures.

Mali Flood, Financial Aid Coordinator and Olivia Vega, HEP Advisor participated in the UNIVISION FAFSA Phone Bank. The event is designed to provide an avenue of communication in English and Spanish for parents with questions about college.

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata and Olivia Vega conducted a presentation to community members in San Joaquin to share information on services offered by WHC Coalinga and Firebaugh Center. The audience was from a group who gather weekly at the San Joaquin Community Center to learn English.



FARM OF THE FUTURE

West Hills College Rodeo Student Athletes are busy in the classroom as well as the arena. Their motto this year is, “*This is College Rodeo, not Rodeo College*”.

This philosophy is supported by the inclusion of Academic Game plan into our program which was created by Coach John Baxter. We just got back from our Fall Season where our teams had much success, as well as many individuals competing at a high level. We were prepared for our Fall season because of all the practice time we put in from the beginning of the semester. We are looking forward to a great Spring season which gets started right here, with the West Hills Spring Rodeo March 10 and 11, 2016. Don't forget to come out and support your Falcons!



There are several projects underway. In Crop Science 1, there are 18 research plots to estimate nutrient

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response functions for broccoli (students are specifically investigating nitrogen and later will look at phosphorous) and also have individual research projects under way, one such project is examining the impact of biochar on vegetable primary productivity.

This class also had a field trip to Westside Transplants in Huron.



In Crop Science 32 students have a crop-weed interaction study underway. In this study we have 16 plots planted with radishes. We are using annual rye grass as the "weed". The study is aimed at identifying the critical period for weed control. Weed exposure varies from planting to 1 week thereafter, 2 weeks thereafter, 3 weeks thereafter, vs weeds emerging 1, 2, and 3 weeks after planting. Students have also begun a herbicide rate trial, investigating the control efficacy of various rates of a pre-emergent herbicide with regard to weed emergence. There has been a guest presentation by Kurt Hembree, UC Extension Weed Scientist from Fresno. Kurt demonstrated new spray

technologies, optimal nozzle and pressure selection, and spray drift control and sprayer calibration. On October 31st we had another guest presentation from UC Extension Weed Scientist Steven Fennimore. Steve is co-author and co-editor of one of the principal textbooks for the class (the 4th edition of Weed Control in California).

Lastly, the Farm of the Future took part in the 19th Annual CoalingaFest. Not only did our students and staff hand out informational flyers about our programs, we also took both our motor grader and excavator simulators. The simulators were a big hit with people of all ages, and they were a great way to get people to our booth to let them know what West Hills College has to offer. We also spread the word and handed out flyers for this year's Harvest Festival. People of the community had a chance to walk through our corn maze, as well as purchase pumpkins of various different sizes.

ATHLETICS



The West Hills College athletic department staff members will be serving a Thanksgiving dinner to the students from out of the area and foreign countries who are unable to get home for the Holiday. From this event dinners are also delivered to needy families in our community. The meal will be served at 2:00 PM on Thursday, November 26th, in the Lobby of Gordon Hall.

This is the 20th year that members of the West Hills College Coalinga Athletic Department, community members, and other college staff members have put this meal together. With your help over the years, it has been a wonderful display of why Coalinga is a great place to live, and why West Hills College Coalinga is a great place to be.

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If you would like to make a donation to feed the students, please telephone the athletic office at 559.934.2460.

19th Annual Hall of Fame Home Coming Tribute



More than 135 persons packed the West Hills College Coalinga gym for the annual athletics awards ceremony and dinner. The well-wishers were there to acknowledge the following inductees: Jan Apple-Stark (Tennis, Volleyball 1979-81); Sarah Hughes-Gabriel (Tennis, Volleyball 1979-81); Charles Cadet (Football 1967-70); Dan Johnson (Football 1971-73); Paul Wilder (Football 1973-75); and Darius Vinnett (Football 2002-2003). Inductees were also honored during halftime of the Falcon's homecoming game against the Mendocino College Eagles.

Left to right: Carole Goldsmith, Darius Vinnett, Charles Cadet, Paul Wilder, Dan Johnson, and Mark Arce

WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Reyna Gonzalez started working at West Hills College Coalinga in August, 2005 as a student worker for a semester and came back to work as a full-time employee in April, 2007. She has been working at WHC for almost 9 years as a student worker, Student Service Assistant, and Advising Specialist. She works with the TRIO/SSS Program and she is one the advisors who helps the TRIO Club on campus with events, fundraisers, and fieldtrips. Reyna stated that, "it is important for me to teach college students that they are capable of doing so much more than they could ever imagine. My job is to provide the resources and tools needed to be successful in college. It is great to see our students evolve into great leaders and move on to 4-year universities. Working at West Hills College Coalinga is very rewarding. One of my favorite parts is when my students invite me to their graduation because it makes me feel like I made a difference in their

lives".

Reyna is a mother of three daughters: Viviana, Crystal, and Natalia who excel in school, are active in sports, involved with Girl Scouts, and enjoy Awana's at church. Her daughters love to do science experiments at home. And they play soccer, cheer, football, wrestling, basketball, softball, and swim. Her husband Eric stays active in the community by coaching football, wrestling, soccer, and softball.

Reyna's favorite hobbies to do is, volunteer at as a church leader at Awana's every Thursday, make crafts and experiments with her kids at home, go to the gym to relieve stress where she loves to do her favorite exercise which is power cleans.

Reyna's future goals are to go back to school and finish her Master's degree and to move forward within the West Hills College District.

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WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Yvonne Navarrete Rico is one of the TRiO: Student Support Services Program that is enrolled at West Hills College for her sophomore year. Miss Navarrete Rico is an active student from the Extended Opportunity Program & Services. Her major is Business Administration and she plans to transfer to CSU-Fresno State.

While at West Hills College Coalinga, Yvonne has been active in the TRiO: Student Services Program, Associate Student Body and the EOPS Program; these organizations introduced her to the concept of challenging herself academically and personally in order to strive to be an individual who can serve her community with the many talents that she has.

"I loved my experience at West Hills College because of the students, teachers, counselors, advisors and administrators who are always there to support. WHC staff is really welcoming and helped me out when I ran into troubled situation and the most important my TRiO advisor has been there helping me to stay on track. I made so many friends and connections with college students who came from a variety of backgrounds, many of whom experienced many challenges and setbacks, but those college students are determined to fight and overcome their circumstance."

WHCCD FOUNDATION

For many college students, finances are a serious problem. Currently, there are 50 President's Scholars at West Hills College Coalinga. They receive tuition fee waivers and \$250 a semester in books. When you add the value of all of these scholarships, it's almost \$160,000 for this school year. It couldn't happen without the generous support of our employees and donors from the community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WHCC Fitness Lab – Fall 2015

Cost is \$40 per person (\$25 for WHCC students & staff) and includes the use of fitness lab equipment, workout towel, and locker room/shower facilities. For more information stop by the Community Education Office at WHCC. For further questions send an email to angelaeldridge@whccd.edu.

For registration please go to www.westhillscollge.com/coalinga under Announcements – Fitness Lab.

WHCC Athletics – Fall 2015

Want to watch your Falcons and cheer for them? Visit our webpage for our fall schedule:

Football: <http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/sports/fball/2015-16/schedule>

Men's Basketball: <http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/sports/mbkb/2015-16/schedule>

Women's Volleyball: <http://www.westhillsfalcons.com/sports/wvball/2015-16/schedule>

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