



WHC Coalinga Vision Statement

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

September was a productive month at the college and October promises to be as well. There has been a swell of involvement and participation in our continuing efforts to prepare our Accreditation Self-evaluation report. A series of meetings featured opportunities to seek input, a technical expert joined us on campus for an afternoon session, a campus-wide strategic planning conversation was held in early October, and we recently completed a series of four faculty-focused sessions to develop our Quality Focused Essay (QFE). The QFE is essentially our academic game plan built around several primary themes and includes specific tactics, strategies, and methods we will deploy over the new few years at the college.

The strategic conversations have also been included in meetings of all participatory governance committees and conversations, both informally and formally, continue at the college. The strategic planning session featured a review of our college mission statement, reviewed benchmark data from our first year of the five-year strategic plan, evaluated our current Educational Master Plan (EMP), and conversations about institution-set standards. The session was productive as it provided us an opportunity to 'see' how we did in relation to various Key Performance Indicators metrics, targets, and numbers we set for the first year of the plan. The intent of the conversation was to stimulate action to support our commitment to continuous quality improvement as an institution.

All participatory governance committees are active. This is an important aspect to support our integrated planning process in order to ensure internal and external stakeholders are engaged in this comprehensive process towards identifying and prioritizing goals and the implementation required to achieve stated goals. I continue to appreciate the leadership of faculty and staff as chairpersons and/or co-chairpersons of the various groups. They have a good grasp of organizational culture, understand our problems, and are fully committed to solving them. Amidst all of the hustle and bustle, and perhaps most rewarding, is the depth of commitment to each other. The conversations are fierce and courageous and we collectively understand the importance of finding time to work hard, have fun, and infuse humor. It's a unique, coveted aspect of college life and is a wonderful reminder of serving our students in our relentless pursuit of their success.

This month's newsletter include a number of past and future activities, including a growing number of on-campus events at our North District Center. The center is growing and we have big plans to further develop an increased number of courses and programs to integrate into the planning of the new facility in the future. We are focused on educational pathways with all of our secondary school partners in and around NDC and see strong potential to integrate new services and expanded partnerships with the West Hills adult education consortium, the Westside Institute of Technology, and contract training.

My month has been filled with classroom visits, facilitating internal and external meetings, visits to community, state, and federal agencies, conversations with faculty and staff, involvement in regional initiatives such as Slingshot, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, Complete College America, Ellucian, attending student clubs and athletics events, and engagement with district office staff. In mid-September, I was especially honored to host our annual President's Scholars luncheon. We 'upgraded' a few event management aspects to ensure our donors had conversations with our scholars students and the turnout was terrific and reminded us why we are in the education business. For those scholars unable to attend, they have been required to accept a five-minute appointment with me to ensure they understand their responsibilities. Those have been fun!

Go Falcons!



**WEST HILLS COLLEGE
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**President's Monthly
Message**

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

STUDENT SUCCESS WORKSHOPS FALL 2016

At 12:00noon

DATE	TOPIC	ROOM
Tuesday, October 25	Financial Literacy/ TRIO	R10 A/B
Tuesday, November 8	Must have People Skills in the Workforce/ Workforce Connection	R10 A/B
Wednesday, November 16	Financial Literacy/ TRIO	R10 A/B

**Lunch provided on a first come, first served basis.
For more information contact student services at
559.934.2174**



September 7, the NDC-Firebaugh ASB Senator was elected. Veronica Mejia is the new Senator for 2017-18 year. Veronica is a San Joaquin resident. Her major is Business Management. She is a second year student planning to graduate spring 2017.

September 6, Alicia Rocha, EOPS Advisor, Hermelinda Barrera and San Juana Gonzalez, Student Services Technicians, and Maria Ceballos, Counselor attended the Fresno State Dreamers' Conference. The conference is now an annual event designed to provide updates on the legislature and benefits eligibility to Differed Action to Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students.



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September 14, the ASB, TRIO, HEP/CAMP hosted the Mexican Independence Day celebration. Staff and student leaders hosted a variety of fun activities, including the Loteria game, a selfie Mexican theme station. Mr. Hampton, History and Ag faculty assisted by bringing the Farm of the Future bull for additional picture opportunities. All participants enjoyed free snow cones.



September 1, 12, and 26 Dr. Felix-Mata, Associate Dean NDC/Firebaugh and Maria Ceballos, Counselors conducted outreach presentations at MHS, FHS, and THS respectively. These meetings are designed to kick off the annual WHCC outreach plan. WHC staff discussed priority registration, free transportation to college, dual enrollment, and the high school site visits.



September 27, Alicia, Rocha, EOPS Advisor, Sylvia Leyva, TRiO Advisor, and Maria Ceballos, Counselor accompanied students to the Central Valley Women's Conference. All students' participants expressed gratitude and thought it was a great experience!



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October 4, Jesus Delgadillo, HEP Outreach Worker, Anavel Perez, Workforce Program Assistant, and San Juana Gonzalez, Student Service Tech distributed WHC informational materials at the annual National Night out held at Maldonado park in Firebaugh. The event is sponsored by Firebaugh Police Department. The event is an effort to strengthen relationships between community, police department, college, and social service agencies.

FARM OF THE FUTURE

During the week of September 26 Bill Green, Education Specialist with the Center for Irrigation Technology at CSU Fresno, brought the CSU Fresno and PG&E mobile pumping system lab to West Hills College Coalinga AET 22 and gave a great presentation on pumping system energy efficiency and utility of Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) pumps. Students were very engaged with the presentation, asking questions and following up with in-class discussions. On Sept. 12, Bart Bohn, retired engineer with the US Army Corp of Engineers, currently Senior Program Manager with URS Corporation and President of the Board, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, paid a visit to this same class and gave an excellent presentation on California water storage, conveyance systems and related issues. Students were given an overview of the history of California's complex water system, challenges confronting the state in this regard, and employment opportunities in this industrial sector.



Crop Science 36 ended on Saturday, Sept. 24th. This has been a very fast-paced, demanding course with online lecture delivery and face-to-face Saturday labs. Students have been preparing for the California Certified Crop Advisor exam and learning the fundamentals of soil fertility management.

The welding students are making great progress as we get ready to wrap up WT71 on Saturday. These students looked forward to the start of WT72 on Tuesday the 27th.

The Farm is looking better than ever. We are gearing up for the 3rd Annual Harvest Festival complete with corn maze and a pumpkin patch. The sudan grass has been cut and bailed, and the pistachios have been harvested.



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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.



facebook.com/farmofthefuture



[@farmofthefuture](https://www.snapchat.com/add/farmofthefuture)



[@WHCCFarm](https://twitter.com/WHCCFarm)



farmofthefuture.tumblr.com



[@farmofthefuture](https://www.instagram.com/farmofthefuture)



bit.do/FOFyoutube

WEST HILLS COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Merranda Guerrero

Merranda Guerrero is the poster child for the WHCCD mission – “A Relentless Pursuit of Student Success.” Merranda has always dreamed to be a medical doctor, specializing in obstetrics.

She grew up as the oldest of six children in a single parent home. She was raised by a proud single mother who worked hard on seasonal jobs in the farm fields and the local tomato processing plant to support her children. After settling in Mendota with her mother, Merranda went to Mendota high school. At fourteen, in her first year of high school, Merranda found herself pregnant. Contrary to advice, she decided to keep her baby and stay in the relationship with her child's father.

She was determined to be undeterred from her academic dreams. As her pregnancy progressed; Merranda struggled to stay focused on continuing her schooling. She was determined to complete school.



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Merranda completed her course work between continuation school, a charter school, and finally re-entering Mendota high school. Her persistence allowed her to graduate with her high school class in 2015.

Merranda is in her second year at WHC-NDC Firebaugh. She works part-time at Mendota Food Center to help her young family make ends meet. She is proud of her 5-year-old son who is now in pre-school. Her son attends the after school program at the local Boys and Girls Club community center while Merranda works the evening shift after college classes.

Merranda has stayed focused and academically successful through her determination to pursue a professional career in medicine. Her major is in Health Science leading into a Neonatal Nursing program. Following our conversation, she was meeting with her advisor to review her transfer plan to Cal State University. Merranda is planning to graduate in spring 2017 and transfer to Cal State University, Fresno.

WEST HILLS COLLEGE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Anna Gonzalez

Anna Gonzalez is a lifelong resident of Firebaugh. Soon after graduating high school, she decided to start her family and put her higher education plans on hold; however, her mother convinced her otherwise. Even though, Anna was pregnant with her first child, she agreed to enroll at WHC-NDC Firebaugh with her husband's and her mother's support. They would be helping her with her soon-to-be born child.

In 2001, while enrolled full-time at NDC-Firebaugh, she took a part-time job at the Firebaugh Child Development Center (CDC) and has been working there for 14 years. During her tenure at WHC-CDC, she worked herself up from student worker, to part-time center assistant, and she is currently the CDC site supervisor. Anna proudly announced that she just completed her BA in Early Childhood Education.

Anna shared one of her fondest memories in her work at the CDC: a group of children 3-5 years old from five different families graduated from CDC and went on to Firebaugh high schools. Those five children were among the top ten in academic standing of their graduating high school class. "It is such a great satisfaction to be able to help our families while contributing to the future of our community!" she recalled.

As Anna smiles broadly, she states that she has the best job in the world. She works with children and their parents, many of them college students attending classes across the parking lot from the CDC. Anna is proud to be a role model to her four children, three girls and a boy. Her greatest diversion is spending time with her family. She enjoys jogging, bicycling, and traveling to the Bay Area.

Anna's professional goal is to complete her master's degree in child development in order to continue training CDC future teachers while working with children.

In reference to the WHCCD motto "Once You Come Here, You can Go Anywhere," she stated that she has the education and professional training to go anywhere; however, she loves the college and the colleagues she works with. She wouldn't change it for anything else. Anna concluded that she is right where she wants to be and would not choose to be anywhere else!



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WHCCD FOUNDATION

Congratulations and thanks are in order. First, thanks to Walmart for its \$25,000 grant to West Hills College to provide robotics training for 7-12th grade students in our area. Second, congratulations to Robert Pimentel and Maria Cavazos for writing the grant in record time. This is the first time that West Hills has received a major grant from Walmart.

With the support of Chevron, PG&E and others, our colleges and the Westside Institute of Technology have been involved with robotics training for youth in our area for a number of years. This grant will allow us to greatly expand our offerings.



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>