



**WEST HILLS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

***Our Year in Review***  
**With Your Help, Everything is Possible**



***Once you go here,  
you can go anywhere™***

## ***Dear Friend of West Hills College,***

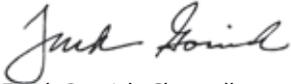
As 2015 comes to a close, we thank you for your past support and encourage you to take a minute to take a look at some of the highlights of our past year.

From the Ag Hackathon to the Wonderful Summer Camp and Academy at Avenal High School, many of the activities on these pages would not have been possible without the contribution of our generous donors. Record numbers of graduates at both West Hills College Lemoore and West Hills College Coalinga were helped and children in the communities we serve had an opportunity to “attend” college.

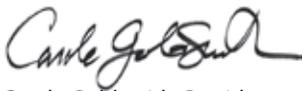
We were thrilled when USA Today ranked West Hills College Lemoore the Number One community college in Northern California and our “Relentless Pursuit of Student Success” was recognized with a \$2.5 million State Department of Finance Award for Innovation in Higher Education in recognition of our pioneer advance registration program, Reg365, which allows students to register for classes for a full year at one time.

Please consider the WHCC Foundation for your year-end gift. Education is the gift that never ends.

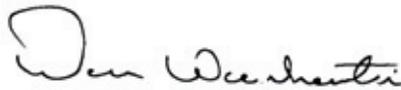
***With our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.***



Frank Gornick, Chancellor  
West Hills Community College District



Carole Goldsmith, President  
West Hills College Coalinga



Don Warkentin, President  
West Hills College Lemoore



Frances Squire, Executive Director  
West Hills Community College Foundation



*The relentless pursuit  
of student success*



# January

## **Community College Week**

recognized WHCC and WHCL as having enrollment growth higher than any other Central Valley community college. College officials attribute the growth to a priority registration program in which students must complete an education plan that maps out a pathway to transfer.

## **WHCL President Don Warkentin**

announced his retirement effective in December 2015. He joined WHCCD in 1983 after teaching and coaching at Lemoore High School starting in 1973. He served the college as president starting in 2004.



# February

## **Farm of the Future at WHCC**

hosted over 200 students who came from throughout the state to compete at an FFA Field Day and students from three CA High School Rodeo Association districts who came to participate in a high school rodeo.

## **The 10th Annual Gospel and Gumbo**

found WHCL students and community members celebrating Black History Month with guest speaker Dr. Edythe Woodruff Stewart.





# March

# REG365

register for the whole year

## WHCCD was awarded a \$2.5 million Innovation Award

for its Reg365, which was launched in 2014 and allows students to register for a full year of classes at once.

## WHCC Metric Century cycling

events raised funds for the President's Scholars Program. More than 135 students enrolled as President's Scholars at all WHC locations during 2015-2016.

## Wine and Wellness at WHCL

benefitted the associate degree nursing program at the college and featured California wines, food and tours of the program's simulation labs.



*Calix Casares  
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Benji Vandybary M.D.*



# April

## Ag Hackathon at Farm of the Future

brought six teams of software developers together with area farmers to create "mobile apps" for farm use including irrigation schedules and pest control.

## Edna L. Ivans resigned

from the WHCCD Board of Trustees after serving for 48 years—the longest serving trustee in California and one of the longest serving elected officials in the nation.

## Week of the Young Child

events were held at WHCCD child development centers in Avenal, Firebaugh, San Joaquin, Lemoore, Huron and Coalinga.





## May

### **WHCL awarded over 800 degrees and certificates**

to 642 students including six high school students who received their associate's degrees.

### **WHCC awarded**

263 certificates of achievement and 400 AA and AS degrees.

### **WHCC Alumnus of the Year Ray Hodges,**

an Avenal educator and graduate of the class of 1956, was honored at graduation ceremonies.

### **Edna Ivans, Nick Ivans and Gary Sedgwick**

were honored with the Spirit of the Eagle Award, which recognizes service and dedication to WHCL. Nick Ivans and Sedgwick were honored posthumously.

### **\$500,000 in scholarships**

were awarded by the WHCC Foundation to over 300 students planning to attend WHC in the fall.



## June

### **Avenal's Martin Maldonado**

was appointed to the board of trustees representing Area 3. The owner of Avenal Lube and Tire, he is a WHCC graduate.



**July**

### **Graduation ceremonies for the first WHCL paramedic class**

saw 12 students graduating with qualifications that allowed them to take a national exam for paramedic eligibility.



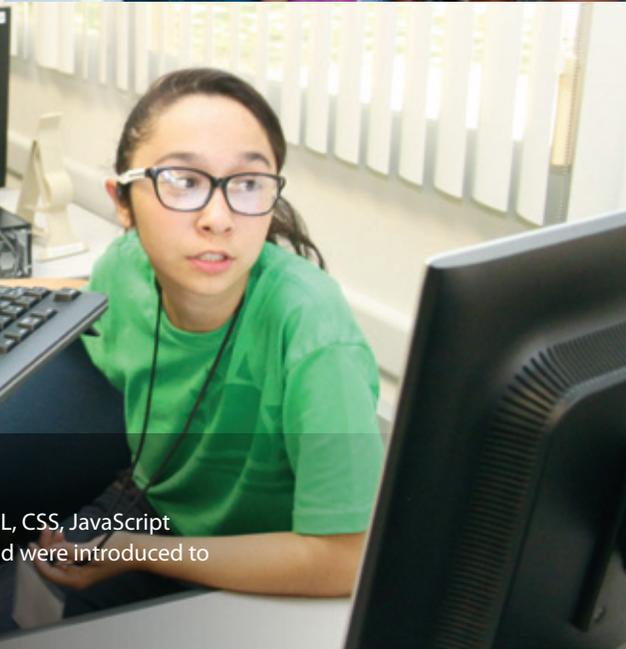
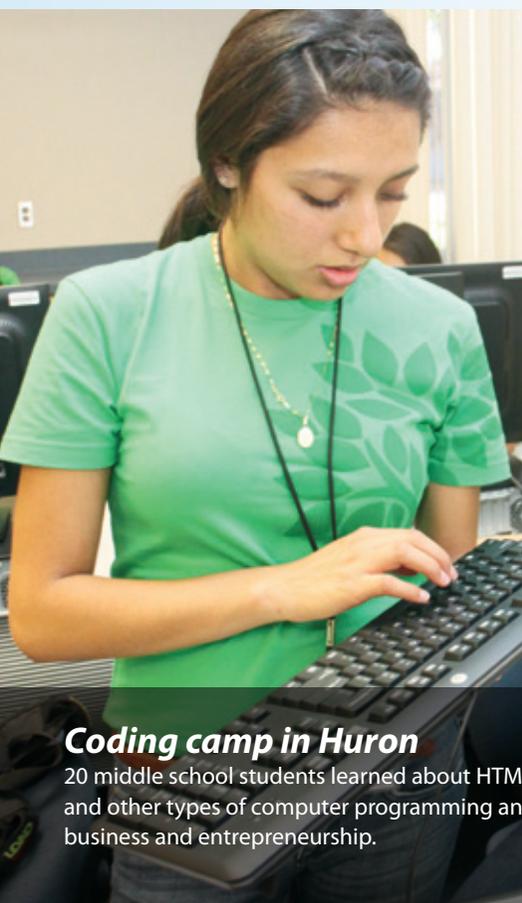
### **Ag academy and Chevron camp in Coalinga**

More than 100 elementary students from Avenal and Coalinga attended WHCC during camps sponsored by the Wonderful Companies (agriculture) and Chevron (science).



### **Five C in Lemoore**

140 students from Lemoore, Hanford, Avenal and surrounding communities attended the 13th 5C Experience Summer Program at WHCL. This year's focus was on STEM, performing arts, career exploration, academic success skills and wellness.



### **Coding camp in Huron**

20 middle school students learned about HTML, CSS, JavaScript and other types of computer programming and were introduced to business and entrepreneurship.



**August**

### ***CTE Academy at WHCL***

A new Career Technical Education (CTE) Academy at WHCL prepares students for a computer programming career in less than a year with classes in coding and programming.

### ***USA Today names WHCL #1***

WHCL was named the top community college in Northern California based on transfer rates, online education opportunities, degrees awarded and affordability.

### ***Psych tech graduation***

37 students earned their psychiatric technician certificates at graduation ceremonies joining hundreds more who have completed the program since its inception in 2001. With starting salaries in excess of \$55,000 per year when working at Coalinga State Hospital, these former WHCC students are significantly contributing to the local economy.





## September

### **Robotics Competition**

Area students competed in the Central California VEX League Robotics Competition at West Hills College. The series promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and application, tasking middle and high school students with an engineering challenge centered on robotics. It is sponsored by PG&E, Chevron, VEX and the Small Manufacturing Institute.

### **WHCL President**

Following a national search, Dr. Kristin Clark—vice president of student services for Orange Coast College—was selected as the new president of WHCL replacing Don Warkentin, who is retiring at the end of December 2015 after a 40+ year career in education. Dr. Clark will join WHCL in January, 2016.



## October

### **Essential Elements**

Community members and industry leaders gathered to focus on job creation, economic development and career and technical education. Lynda Resnick, vice-chair and co-owner of The Wonderful Company, spoke about efforts to improve schools and communities in which they have operations.

### **WHCC Hall of Fame**

Inductees this year included Charles Cadet, football; Dan Johnson, football; Paul Wilder, football; Jan Apple-Stark, tennis and volleyball; Sarah Hughes-Gabriel, tennis and volleyball; and Darius Vinnett, football.



**November**

### ***A luncheon celebrating***

the decade-long partnership between WHCC and Coalinga State Hospital was held highlighting the 863 graduates of the psychiatric technician training program and their \$12.9 million a year impact on the local economy.

### ***WHCL hosted a Teach Conference***

for prospective educators which drew approximately 160 community members, high school students and college students to the campus for a day of learning about the teaching profession. The fourth semi-annual conference featured informative workshops, keynote speakers, a question and answer session with local teachers, and booths from four-year universities offering teaching certification programs.



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# *Our Year in Review*

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for Your Year-End Contribution

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North District Center, Firebaugh

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COMMUNITY  
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