



9/20/2022
City Council Special Meeting

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WEST HILLS

MAGAZINE

15

Ryan Fila,
WHCC grad
& social
media
influencer:
making a
difference
one person
at a time

STUDENT SUCCESS

- WHCL Student Veteran plans for new career
- Firebaugh Center student wins prized national internship
- Emergency grants help West Hills students in need

STUDENT SUPPORT

Providing for Students' Essential Needs

Maker & Innovation Labs on Campus

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Ken & Alix Stoppenbrink



The West Hills Community College District has provided access and educational attainment to communities in Fresno, Kings, San Benito, Madera, and Monterey counties since 1932. The district serves nearly 3,500 square miles with colleges in Coalinga, Lemoore, a center in Firebaugh, a district office in Coalinga, child development centers throughout its service area, and the Farm of the Future at the north end of Coalinga.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

■■■■■

The West Hills
Community
College District
is known as
one of the most
innovative and
student-
centered
community
college
districts in
the state.



Our faculty and staff are tenacious, and we persevere even in the worst of times. So, in 2021-22, despite the uncertainty presented by a global pandemic, we remained steadfast in our commitment to our students. We returned to in-person instruction and support services because we knew that our students, without the luxury of high-speed internet, an adequate place to study without interruption, sufficient food, or access to mental health services, would certainly struggle. We rolled up our sleeves and implemented daily health screenings, face masks, and other safety protocols so we could safely be there for our students.

Our students' appreciation was overwhelmingly positive, and many of them said that they would not have returned to school if we had not been there to welcome them back. It is their appreciation, their stories of perseverance and triumph, and their successes that fill our cups and give us a renewed sense of HOPE.

I am proud that our programs and support services including apprenticeships, support for single parents, military transition services, high school dual enrollment, scholarships, financial aid, food pantries, and others that help students achieve their goals. Our faculty and staff change lives, and our alumni are making significant contributions to their communities and around the globe.

This year's West Hills Community College District magazine is about this renewed sense of **HOPE** with a focus on being:

- **Humble** knowing that we are stewards of hope and always striving to do better for our students and our communities
- **Optimistic** that our students will achieve their dreams and create better lives for themselves and their families
- **Passionate** about what we do and relentless in our pursuit of student success
- **Educators** who guide students to become resourceful analytical people with a quest for life-long learning

Enjoy this edition of our magazine. Our students' inspiring stories give us all hope for a brighter future!

Kristin Clark, ED.D., Chancellor
West Hills Community College District

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WEST HILLS MAGAZINE

Number 14

Published annually in the spring by the
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and Public Information Office

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WEST HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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



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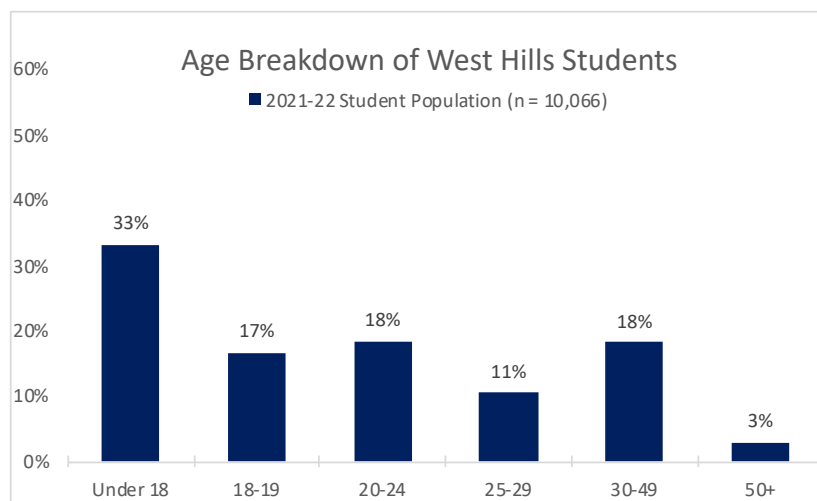
How a West Hills College
Lemoore student is giving back



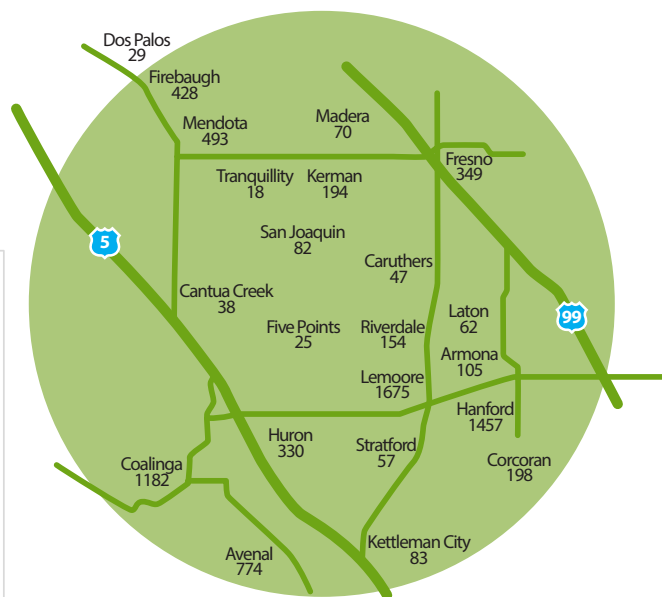
District Priorities and Goals

West Hills Community College District is home to some of the nation's most disadvantaged students. Many communities served by the college are characterized by several connected challenges, such as poverty, unemployment, and low levels of educational attainment. According to educational research, these challenges are linked to negatively impacting student achievement.

Providing students with support services that help with success specific to the student educational attainment journey is of upmost concern at both West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore. Both colleges are focused on collaborative efforts to increase educational attainment rates within the region they serve.



Unduplicated District Student Headcount: 10,066



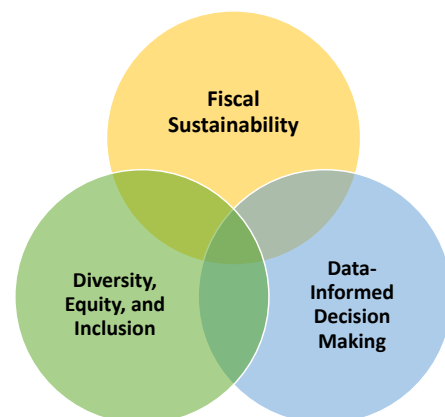
Strategic Priorities

These strategic priorities define the focus of West Hills Community College District for the next four years and highlight the need for the district to grow, adapt, and change in order to remain responsive to the needs of students, employers, and our community.



Core Commitments

These core commitments are expected to be integrated into the work of the district and colleges in addressing the strategies listed above.



Vision for Success Goals

2

The district has set goals that align with the goals of the California Community College Vision for success, focusing on increasing student achievement in the following areas:



Both West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore have developed college strategic plans in alignment with goals and core commitments of the district. College plans are responsive to the local needs of each college's students, employees, and communities, while ensuring alignment to the Vision for Success and WHCCD's own vision of "the relentless pursuit of student success."



WEST HILLS COLLEGE
COALINGA

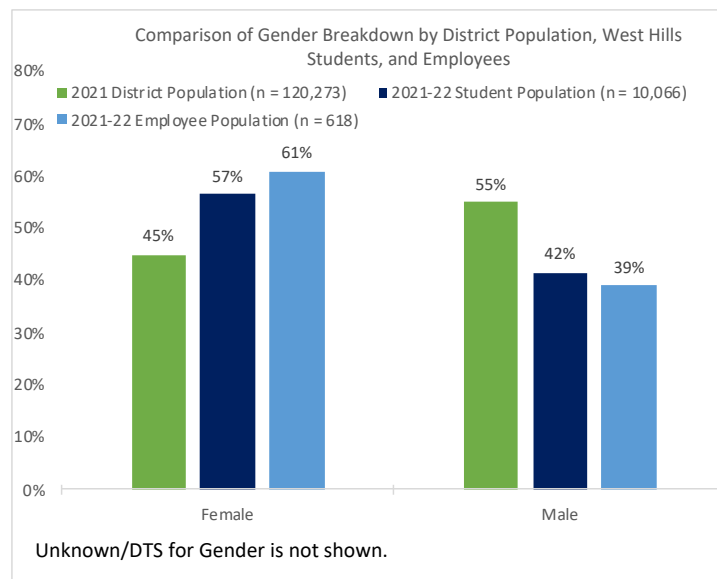
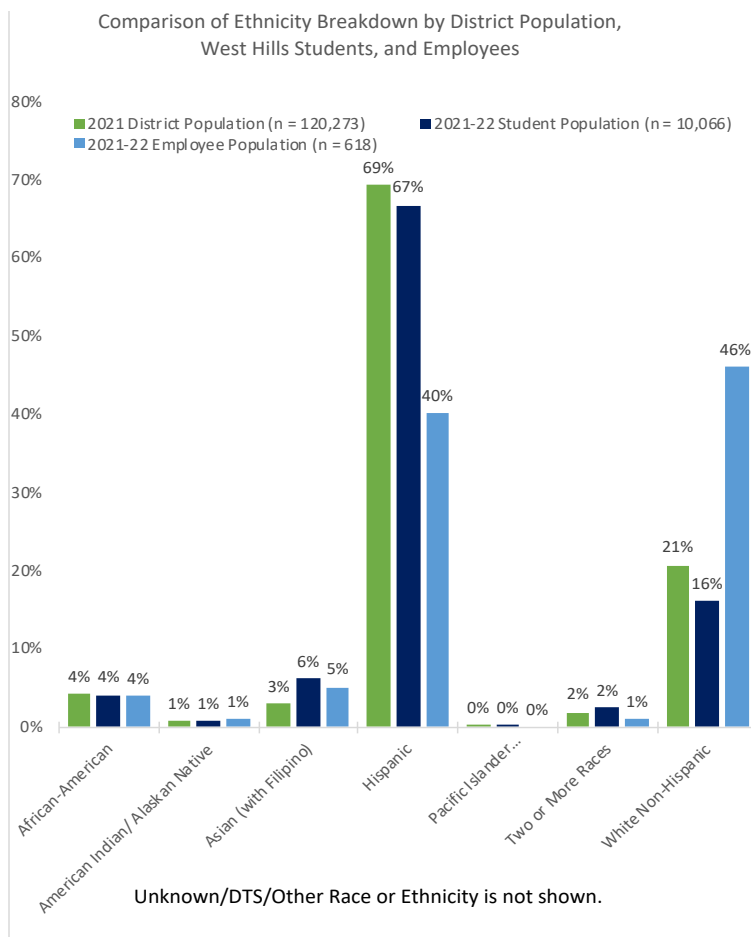
College Vision for Success Data - West Hills College Coalinga		2019-2020	2020-2021	College Goal 2021-22
1A	Number of Students Earning any Associate Degree	307	319	360
1B	Number of Students Earning any Certificate of Achievement	134	266	260
1C	Number of Students Earning any Degree or Certificate of Achievement	375	414	450
2A	Number of Students Earning an Associate Degree for Transfer	104	119	72
2B	Number of Students Transferring to a CSU or UC Institution	234	---	264
3A	Average Number of Units Accumulated by All Associate Degree Earners	74.6	73.2	75
4A	Median Annual Earnings of Students Entering the Workforce	\$28,368	---	\$24,420
4B	Percentage of Students Attaining a Living Wage upon Entering the Workforce	58%	---	57%
4C	Percentage of Students Entering a Job Closely Related to their Field of Study	---	---	98%



WEST HILLS COLLEGE
LEMOORE

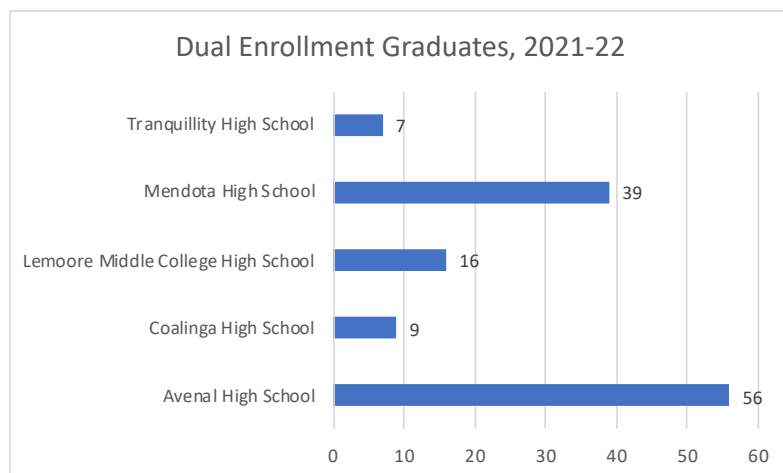
College Vision for Success Data - West Hills College Lemoore		2019-2020	2020-2021	College Goal 2021-22
1A	Number of Students Earning any Associate Degree	590	569	771
1B	Number of Students Earning any Certificate of Achievement	355	366	131
1C	Number of Students Earning any Degree or Certificate of Achievement	735	723	853
2A	Number of Students Earning an Associate Degree for Transfer	230	228	385
2B	Number of Students Transferring to a CSU or UC Institution	349	---	322
3A	Average Number of Units Accumulated by All Associate Degree Earners	73.5	69.4	73
4A	Median Annual Earnings of Students Entering the Workforce	\$27,278	---	\$24,813
4B	Percentage of Students Attaining a Living Wage upon Entering the Workforce	55%	---	58%
4C	Percentage of Students Entering a Job Closely Related to their Field of Study	---	---	80%

Community, Student, Employee Demographic Comparisons



District Dual Enrollment Data

School Name	# of Dual Enrollment Students in 2021-22 Academic Year
Avenal High School	322
Coalinga High School	338
Corcoran High School	7
Firebaugh High School	173
Hanford High School	14
Hanford West High School	23
Jamison High School	9
Kerman High School	78
Laton High School	8
Lemoore High School	154
Lemoore Middle College High School	221
Lemoore Online Prep	18
Mendota High School	223
Riverdale High School	17
Sierra Pacific High School	9
Tranquillity High School	34



127 High School Students graduated from West Hills in 2021-2022!

A Message From West Hills College Lemoore President



On Friday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m. we will be celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2022 as they walk across the stage in front of family and friends and accept their degrees and certificates. Many of our students in this graduating class spent their first year in a remote environment with Zoom sessions, online learning, and virtual support programs. They spent their second year back on our campus abiding by mask policies, health and safety protocols, and navigating the ever-changing societal rules. They have spent the past month finishing strong in the classroom,

attending events, and finally getting to share their smiling faces!

The world as we know it changed in March 2020 when the storm cloud of Covid hit our world, our country, and our community. While the Covid storm was so damaging on so many levels at West Hills College Lemoore we remained laser-focused on our mission of "the relentless pursuit of student success" and we did so with Hope in mind and with Flexibility on display. During the past two years we have learned so many lessons and continue to recognize some that:

- We have world-class faculty who are here for our students, embrace innovation, and deliver high-quality classes.
- We have staff who are willing to do whatever it takes to provide support to our students in a variety of modalities.
- We have led the way in financial aid efforts and reducing/eliminating textbook costs and will continue to lean into efforts around food insecurity, access to technology, and access to mental health resources.

- We have amazing and resilient students and we need to continue to celebrate, support, and recognize their diversity and provide a safe and engaging space for them at our college.

The stories in this edition of our West Hills Magazine are great examples of what we have learned, what we have done, and how we worked together to navigate these Covid times. I am humbled and excited to serve as the college president at West Hills College Lemoore and grateful for our Golden Eagle employees, students, and community partners who have shown resilience, innovation, and compassion to get us through the storm.

Stay strong, stay safe, stay Golden!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Preston".

James Preston
West Hills College Lemoore President

A Message From West Hills College Coalinga President



The COVID-19 pandemic brought much change to the world and to West Hills College Coalinga. Over the past two years, our college has implemented programs and services to help our students as they pursue academic goals amid a worldwide shutdown and public health crisis.

Noteworthy accomplishments of our college that have helped students through these unprecedented times include but are not limited to the following:

- Upgrades to classrooms and filtration systems to make sure students and staff are safe
- Creating flexible learning environments that have allowed students to ZOOM into class when needed
- Providing free medical assistance to students through our West Hills Timely MD app
- Holding regular canned food drives, community clothing swaps, and vaccine clinics on campus

This academic year we welcomed students back on campus and are proud of their resilience and achievements. We are equally proud of our staff, who have remained committed to our students and to our district vision "the relentless pursuit of student success."

Even in changing and unstable times, our staff remained steady and flexible. They helped students through uncharted territory and provided ways for students to succeed, even when they could not meet in person.

We have come full circle here at WHC Coalinga. As the 2021-2022 academic year comes to an end, we are thrilled to celebrate commencement with a large in-person event on May 26th. I look forward to welcoming families of graduating students and members of our community to attend and honor our students.

As you read through this edition of our magazine, you will meet students who persevere and push through adversity, graduates who are choosing to make the world better, and staff working to bridge the gaps students face on and off our campus. I hope these stories inspire you just as much as they have inspired me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carla Tweed".

Carla Tweed
West Hills College Coalinga President



Devin Delgado, WHCC Student

"Students need to pay rent, buy groceries, pay for gas, pay internet bills, and other expenses that can distract them or keep them from focusing on their education. The emergency grants we are providing are helping students where they need help the most."

"For me personally, I had to fix up my car," said Delgado. "Getting a thousand dollars in these unpredicted times is helpful."

Many West Hills students used their emergency funds for transportation and fuel costs, but there were no restrictions placed on how a student could spend funds.

"It's my fuel to get to school," said West Hills College Lemoore student Ashley Ratcliff-Winn. "If I didn't have that funding, I wouldn't be able to come to school. I wouldn't be able to get here every day. I wouldn't have the security I do now."

Emergency Grants Help West Hills Students to Stay on Track

The world as we knew it stopped in March 2020 as news of COVID-19 hitting the United States came flooding in. Many employees began working from home, and K-12 schools, colleges, and universities switched rapidly to virtual learning platforms.

As coronavirus cases have decreased, students once again have returned to life on-campus at West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore. The pandemic changed many people's reality and impacted mental health, financial stability, and day-to-day living. To help students with the transition back to normal life, West Hills College Coalinga and West Hills College Lemoore have offered its students emergency relief grants.

In Spring 2022, any full-time student enrolled in 12 or more units received \$1,000 - no strings attached. Many West Hills students put this money towards living expenses, laptops, books, food, and gas money.

West Hills College Coalinga student, Devin Delgado owned a car that needed repairs and he knew emergency grant funds could help him with this need.



Ashley Ratcliff-Winn, WHCL Student

West Hills emergency grants are helping students face financial hurdles beyond what scholarships and book vouchers currently provide for.

"The pandemic has only made the situation worse," said Executive Director of the West Hills Community College Foundation Alex Perez. "Students need to pay rent, buy groceries, pay for gas, pay internet bills, and other expenses that can distract them or keep them from focusing on their education. The emergency grants we are providing are helping students where they need help the most."

West Hills has been making emergency grants available since 2020 thanks to federal funds provided by the CARES Act through Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF).

"Over the past two years, the district has provided over 6.9 million dollars directly to students," said West Hills Community College District Director of Grants, Brian Boomer. "We have awarded over 9,000 individual grants as well."



The beautiful
thing about
learning is that
no one can
take it away
from you.

-BB King



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From Devil Dog to Golden Eagle:

A West Hills College Lemoore Veteran Student Journey

"I started thinking about what my step next would be. I knew I liked being a Marine Corps instructor and I really liked helping people in need. I was open to exploring classes and I thought going to school might be the best option for me."



Naval Air Station Lemoore sits a mere 8 miles away from West Hills College Lemoore. As a result, WHCL has the unique opportunity to serve veterans, reservists, military personnel, and their families. The college prides itself on helping to ease the transition from the military to college life.

Veteran and WHCL student, Steve Johnson attributes much of his success as a college student to the college's Military Services team. "I served in the Marine Corps for over 21 years and worked as an aircraft mechanic instructor, said Johnson. "I also mentored other Marines and helped with

the suicide prevention and domestic abuse program on base."

As Johnson started thinking about retirement from the USMC, he took stock of his strengths and reflected on meaningful times during his military career. "I started thinking about what my step next would be. I knew I liked being a Marine Corps instructor and I really liked helping people in need," he said. "I was open to exploring classes and I thought going to school might be the best option for me."

As a newly transitioned civilian, Johnson started attending the Kings



Steve Johnson, WHCL Student and service dog Flynn

County Military and Veterans Coalition in Hanford. It was there he connected with WHCL Military Services and Veterans Upward Bound Program.

"The Lemoore Veterans Upward Bound Program really helped me start with college and connect on campus," said Johnson. "Thanks to their team, I was able to register for classes and get plugged in on campus."

"Steve has come a long way and is very focused on completing his degree program. "He has learned how to best balance his school schedule, his job, and spending time with family,"



said Janet Young, WHCL Interim Veteran's Upward Bound Coordinator. "He has worked hard and used the resources our college offers. He sees how the support we provide has helped his educational journey and gets excited to tell other vets on campus about our program. He's so passionate about helping others."

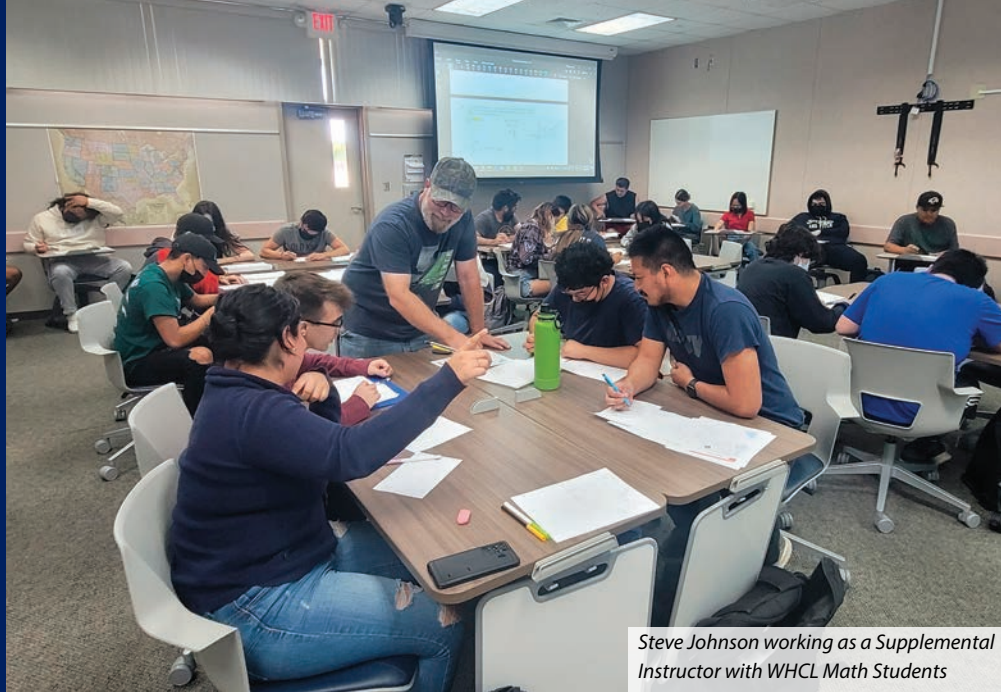
In addition to the help he receives with Military Services, Johnson also benefits from the WHCL Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) and Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS).

"I am a first-generation college student and have a service-connected disability, so I am also able to use services from both DSPS and EOPS which has been very helpful," said Johnson.

Quickly into his Lemoore college experience, Johnson found himself enjoying the math classes he took. Jay Thomas, Math Instructor at WHCL took notice of Johnson's math aptitude and willingness to participate in class.

"I noticed right away Steve was an excellent student. He wasn't afraid to ask questions," Thomas said. "He

"I am a first-generation college student and have a service-connected disability, so I am also able to use services from both DSPS and EOPS which has been very helpful,"



Steve Johnson working as a Supplemental Instructor with WHCL Math Students

wanted to know the 'why' behind the math. I mentioned he would be a great fit as a supplemental instructor (SI) here on campus."

Johnson applied and began working as an SI while continuing taking general education classes. "Steve is a great SI," said Young. "He goes over and beyond to help students. He currently tutors both vets and civilian students."

Johnson is currently completing an Associate for Science Transfer (AS-T) degree in mathematics and attributes his current goal of becoming a high school math teacher to the mentorship he received from Thomas.

"As I saw Steve interacting in class as a SI, I noted he was comfortable speaking to large classes," said Thomas. "With his military background, he is assertive, can command a room and gets students' attention. He also has a great understanding of mathematics and can explain the process in getting to a particular solution. Because of this, I thought he should consider becoming a teacher."

Johnson is looking forward to completing his degree program at WHCL and has just four classes left to complete. Because he is earning an AS-T, he is guaranteed admission to the California State University system.

"After my time here in Lemoore, I am looking forward to transferring to a 4-year college and working towards my goal of becoming a high school math teacher," said Johnson. "I am grateful for all the support here and the awesome staff and faculty who helped me get focused on a path that I am passionate about and pretty good at."





Steve Johnson and Janet Young, WHCL Interim Veteran's Upward Bound Coordinator

Veterans Upward Bound Program

The WHCL Veterans Upward Bound Program has served 250 students since 2017 and provides the following services free of charge to WHCL Veteran students:

- Individualized career assessment and planning
- Application assistance
- Financial aid and GI Bill® information
- Help obtaining Military and other Transcripts
- Advisement and assistance with college admission and enrollment steps
- Academic counseling
- College preparation instruction and academic support for Math and English skills improvement
- Preparation and placement assessment
- Access to other resources: study area, computer labs, student union
- Referrals to additional college and community resources

Military Services

The WHCL Military Services team understands the unique challenges of military life. We serve active-duty service members, proud veterans, and military spouses by connecting these students with the support and resources needed to meet their personal and academic goals. Through our free West Hills College Lemoore Veterans Upward Bound Program we help prepare Vets to enter, be successful, and to graduate from college.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) and Academic Support

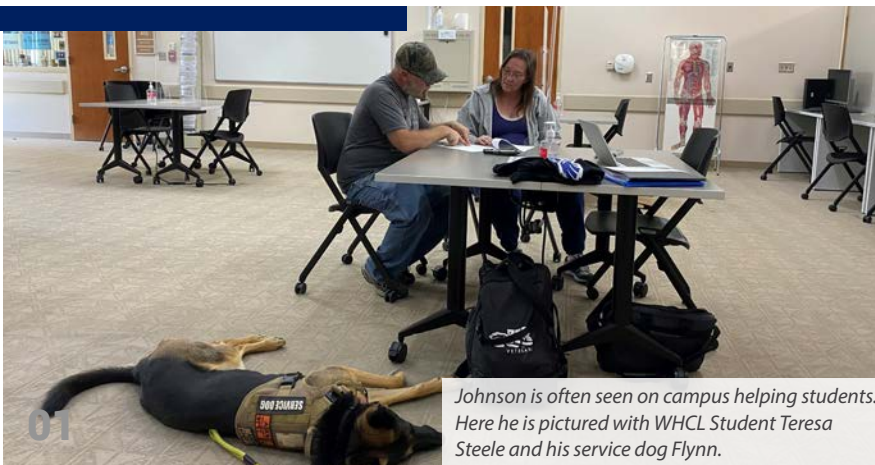
Academic support services are available on campus and online. Accessing academic support at West Hills College Lemoore requires students to enroll in NC 100, a no-cost, non-credit course. There are no assignments or expectations for NC 100. The NC 100 online Canvas shell provides access to online services as well as current schedules for both online and in-person academic support. In-person services are available in the Academic Center for Excellence, which is located in the library.

Disabled Students Programs & Services

The WHC Lemoore DSPS team gives special attention to remove physical barriers on campus and to provide support services to students with disabilities. DSPS provides special assistance to students with disabilities through individualized help and counseling. Because adjusting to college life and its academic demands is a new experience and there are special challenges confronting disabled students, DSPS is committed to providing students with the support that will enable them to reach their academic goals.

Extended Opportunity Programs & Services

Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) is a state-funded program designed to help eligible students gain access to and successfully complete a program of higher education. EOPS provides eligible students with school supplies, EOPS grants, KART passes, food vouchers, educational counseling/advising, priority registration, and CSU/UC application fee waivers.



Johnson is often seen on campus helping students. Here he is pictured with WHCL Student Teresa Steele and his service dog Flynn.

Free Groceries Available to Students in Golden Eagle Pantry



James Preston, WHCL President at the Golden Eagle Pantry Grand Opening

West Hills College Lemoore recently opened an on-campus grocery store, called the Golden Eagle Pantry, located in their student Union, March 16, 2022.

The pantry is a collaborative project supported by Kings Community Action Organization, CalViva Health, and West Hills College Lemoore and provides groceries at no cost to WHCL students.

"We have recognized that in our mission of the relentless pursuit of student success, we need to provide for students' academic needs and their basic needs," said James Preston, West Hills College Lemoore President. "Food security is just one of these needs."



WHCL students in the Golden Eagle Pantry

The Golden Eagle Pantry began as a student club in 2013 to help support students experiencing food insecurity challenges. In 2014, the student club partnered with the Food Recovery Network and Panera Bread, allowing weekly food distributions on campus. In 2017, the Eagle Pantry partnered with the Community Food Bank, which provided mobile monthly food distributions on campus.

In November of 2021, a partnership with Kings Community Action Organization (KCAO) with CalViva Health was established. Funds for start-up equipment and a steady food supply to



Aaron Villarreal, WHCL Student

"If you are a student at West Hills Lemoore, you can walk into the pantry, sign in, grab the items you need, and walk out. It's as easy as that."

supplement the current food pantry efforts allowed the Eagle Pantry student club to move into a grocery-like setting on-campus and provide groceries at no cost to WHCL Students.

"The pantry is all free and you can grab an item from different sections. It saves a trip to the grocery store which saves gas, so the financial savings to us as students is huge," said Aaron Villarreal, WHCL student. "If you are a student at West Hills Lemoore, you can walk into the pantry, sign in, grab the items you need, and walk out. It's as easy as that."

As it is now known, the Golden Eagle Pantry provides all West Hills College Lemoore students with up to 10 grocery items three times weekly, at no cost to the student.

"When our students are well fed and not worried about where their next meal will come from, they are more likely to stay focused and engaged and ultimately are more successful in the classroom," said Preston.

"We are grateful to our community partners and to our community college system office for providing us with resources so we can directly support our students."



West Hills College Coalinga Falcon Food Pantry: Meeting Students' Needs Beyond the Classroom



Cesar Flores, WHCC Student



WHCC Clothing Swap Event

There are over 2.1 million students enrolled in the California community college system, and almost 50% of these students are not getting the food they need. At West Hills College Coalinga, the Associated Student Government is helping combat student hunger with an on-campus food pantry.

Opened in Spring 2018, the WHCC food pantry provides essentials to students in need. "Any West Hills College Coalinga student enrolled in one class can make an appointment to visit the food pantry," said Jay Darnell, West Hills College Coalinga Food Service Manager. "Students may request as many appointments

as they need. Our service is based entirely on the student's stated needs."

To help support the WHCC food pantry, the WHCC Associated Student Government has held several

food drives in Coalinga.

The West Hills Community College Foundation has supported campaigns that have collected monetary donations for food purchases.

"Most of the food in our pantry is

purchased from the Central California Food Bank," said Darnell. "Dry foods like beans, rice, boxed, and canned foods are readily available in the Food Pantry."

"Any West Hills College Coalinga student enrolled in one class can make an appointment to visit the food pantry,"

"West Hills offering students no-cost food when they need it is a big deal," said West Hills College Coalinga Student Cesar Flores. "Being hungry in class as a student affects you a lot because you focus on your stomach and your hungriness instead of paying attention in class."

Helping students thrive in the classroom is one of WHCC's main objectives. "We understand that outside factors often impact our students' success in the classroom," said Pedro Garcia, West Hills College Coalinga Coordinator of Student Support Programs and Engagement. "Food insecurity is something many of our students face, and our on-campus food pantry helps with this problem."

In addition to food items, the WHCC ASG also has clothing and hygiene items available for all students in the pantry. Items available to students include cold weather and professional clothing, personal hygiene products, and deodorant.

"In addition to food, we focus on meeting our student's essential needs," said Garcia. "We hold community clothing swaps on-campus that have been extremely successful and make sure our clothing and hygiene pantry is stocked. When students have food in their stomachs and have the things they need to live, they are more likely to retain the information they are learning in the classroom, which helps them succeed."



"When students have food in their stomachs and have the things they need to live, they are more likely to retain the information they are learning in the classroom, which helps them succeed."



WHCC ABG Members and Pedro Garcia at Canned Food Drive Event

Focus on the One:

How a West Hills College Coalinga Student is Making a Big Difference One Person at a Time



Ryan Fila, WHCC graduate and social media influencer/vlogger
Photo credit: Ryan Fila

"West Hills was honestly a big turning point for me," said popular social media influencer and West Hills College Coalinga graduate Ryan Fila. "That's what the community college system is for, right? You're a student trying to get from one place to a better place, and there's a bridge and a gap – West Hills filled the gap for me."

Fila came to Coalinga as a student-athlete, looking to play football. "I went to a 4-year college my freshman year but transferred to West Hills," Fila said. "I needed support, and West Hills, the football team, and even the community cared about me. I was an outsider playing ball, and so many embraced me. The support is unlike any place I've ever been."

"Ryan embraced what we offer here at West Hills – a homelike supportive environment," said West Hills College Coalinga Head Football Coach Justin Berna. "We want our students to succeed and provide supports, programs, and safeguards that help students get to the next step in their athletic and educational journeys."

At WHC Coalinga, Fila was an active member of the Associated Student Government on-campus clubs. He

graduated with a 3.8 GPA with an associate degree in Business and transferred to Minot State University in North Dakota.

During his first year at Minot State, tragedy struck. "When I was a junior in college, my dad committed suicide," Fila said. "I went home to do his eulogy, which sparked something in me and helped direct my next steps and focus."

Fila graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance from Minot State University and started a non-profit called Motion Impact. "Through my non-profit, I traveled around the U.S. speaking to students at high schools and colleges about how to handle adversity," Fila said.

"Ryan has visited our campus and chatted with our football players in the past," said Berna. "It's nice when alumni come back and share their success stories. Ryan has an inspirational story and encourages students to be their best, no matter the circumstances."

When the Covid-19 pandemic arose, a halt on in-person events was placed across schools nationwide. Fila transitioned to vlogging and began documenting his life and travels. "I learned how to edit my videos, and content started flowing," he recalled. "I love to travel, so I thought documenting my experience would be a place to start. I began to tell stories about growth and the human experience within travel stories. I try to tell unique stories that matter."

Fila's love for travel is evident in his video content. His adventures are well documented on his social media and YouTube channels. He has traveled the world, visiting places like New Orleans, Paris, Haiti, and most recently, Ukraine.



"We all have limits; some are set from birth, and some we place on ourselves. My goal is to live life and experience life beyond my limits," Fila said. "I am constantly trying to create new limits for myself. It's a chase I choose to document through the videos I create."

Fila's commitment to helping others through adversity is a constant theme seen in his videos. "As I traveled, I felt a strong desire to help others around me in need," he said. "I knew I couldn't, and I

can't help everyone. The world is just too big. I can't change the entire world, so I started a video series entitled 'Focus on the One.'"

"My goal is to live life and experience life beyond my limits,"

Fila's 'Focus on the One' series highlights the idea that although one person cannot change the world, one person can positively impact another with deliberate acts of kindness.

"There is so much need in this world," said Fila. "But slowing down to help just one family

in need – there is so much value in it. Sometimes when people see that there is so much to do, so much to solve, we as humans will actually choose not to do anything at all because it's too overwhelming to organize for just one person."

Fila's efforts to focus on the one began with a trip to Haiti. "I felt this thing inside of me I was supposed to put into action, this focus on the one idea," he said. "At the time, two places had a big need: there was war and devastating human rights issues in Afghanistan and a huge earthquake that hit Haiti. I knew that Afghanistan was too much; I wasn't ready for that. But Haiti was just outside my comfort zone to do on my own independently."

Fila flew out to Haiti, knowing there was a tremendous need. Survivors of the earthquake had little resources, and most had lost their homes and were living outside. "I took to Instagram and asked for donations," Fila recounted. "It's because of my followers and their donations that I was able to travel and help rebuild a family's home."

Using natural resources in the area and the funds provided to him through donations, Fila and a team he assembled in Haiti were able to rebuild an entire home for one family.

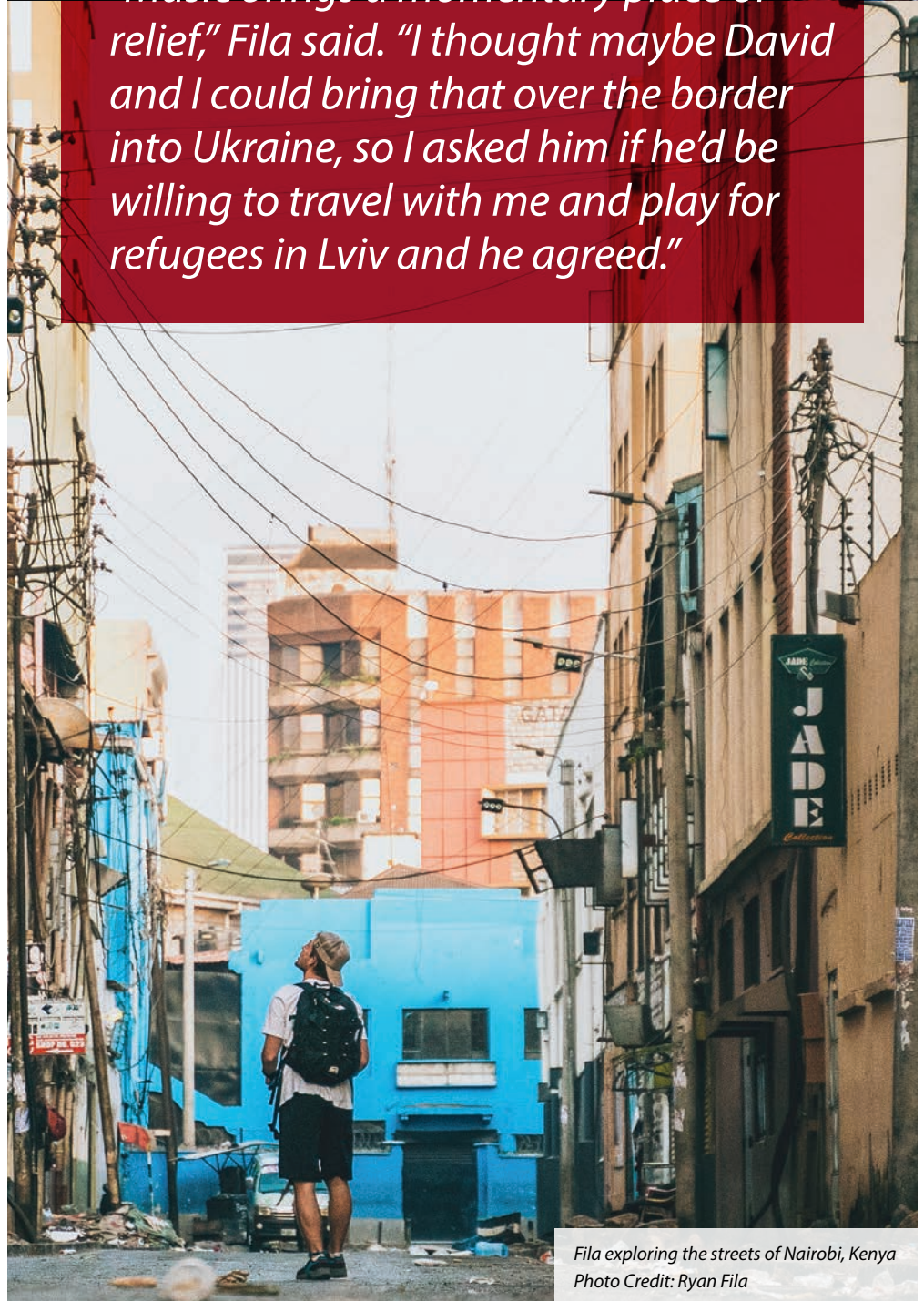
"The people of Haiti reminded me humans are capable beyond our beliefs," Fila said. "No matter how intense the adversity, no matter how corrupt the government, no matter how many times mother nature swings her bat, individuals can still choose to love one another."

Most recently, Fila turned his focus to Ukraine in light of the conflict

Traveling Piano Player David in Lviv, Ukraine
Photo Credit: Ryan Fila



"Music brings a momentary place of relief," Fila said. "I thought maybe David and I could bring that over the border into Ukraine, so I asked him if he'd be willing to travel with me and play for refugees in Lviv and he agreed."



Fila exploring the streets of Nairobi, Kenya
Photo Credit: Ryan Fila

with Russia that began in early 2022. "When the situation erupted in Ukraine, I just knew I had to go and try to help," he said.

Fila again took to Instagram to ask for donations to support his effort. His followers flooded him with assistance, and he set off to the Ukraine.

"Originally, I thought we could help a family with a place to stay for a month or so," he said. "Once I got there, I found that families needed a transitional place to stay, not really a long-term place, but somewhere they could stay until they booked travel or were connected to family living in other places throughout Europe."

Fila and his Instagram followers were able to help three families in transition stay in an Airbnb.

During his time in Ukraine, Fila made friends along the way and

documented his experiences. "In Poland, I met a girl through social media who spoke Polish and she got me out to the Polish border," he said. "Once we got there, a piano player named David was playing for families who were crossing the border."

"Music brings a momentary place of relief," Fila said. "I thought maybe David and I could bring that over the border into Ukraine, so I asked him if he'd be willing to travel with me and play for refugees in Lviv and he agreed."

Fila and his piano companion traveled past the Polish border with a piano to Lviv where David played the piano for refugees at a train station and refugee camp. The two stayed in Ukraine for 3 days sleeping in their truck and at refugee camps.

"David said music is good for the soul," Fila said. "Music feels good. Getting into the Ukraine where refugees were actually at, you know, it said to them,

we are here with you, we support you." Fila plans to continue to document his life and future travels. He finds comfort in the adventure of helping others push through difficult circumstances.

"When we get to a point of discomfort, we all have a choice," he said. "We can turn around and run, live in it, or really push it and try to face discomfort and explore. It's through this process I think we all experience growth. I'm thankful I can help showcase a small piece of the human existence and the growth that comes with it."

Fila has resumed his motivational speaking tour at high schools and colleges throughout the United States. He hopes to return soon to West Hills College Coalinga to encourage the next generation of students to be their best and meet their goals.



Fila during a speaking engagement with the WHCC Football Team

West Hills College Lemoore gives HOPE to its students through new program

Philanthropist and one of Amazon's first employees, MacKenzie Scott, is helping to make a significant impact at West Hills College Lemoore through a recent donation.

Because of its support of underrepresented communities, WHC Lemoore was one of the 200-plus colleges selected for a Scott donation in June 2021.

"It is wonderful, it is empowering, we were already doing great work here in Lemoore, so this just affirms that what we were doing was on the right track, and we can just expand and build on that and do some great

things for the Valley," says Zara Sims, Director of H.O.P.E. Initiative.

The WHCL H.O.P.E. Initiative was established and is on its way to providing students with community engagement activities and support. H.O.P.E. Stands for "Having Opportunity and Purpose through Education."

The Initiative's primary focus is to serve under-represented groups in Kings County and surrounding communities by partnering to provide educational opportunities.

H.O.P.E. focuses on intensive outreach and partnership in the communities

WHCL serves to increase participation and academic success in higher education. The goal is to instill a new sense of optimism for those who feel hopeless by providing upward mobility through education.

"H.O.P.E. has been established to serve under-represented groups, such as our Black community, our native community, our Hispanic community, especially Hispanic males, LGBTQ and foster and homeless youth," said Sims.

WHCL identified two existing programs that can benefit from the support of the H.O.P.E. Initiative:



Zuzu Acrobatics event organized by H.O.P.E. and performed in the Golden Eagle Arena



Zara Sims promoting Umoja club on campus

- The 5c Experience (Creative, Cool, Community, College, Camp) is a two-week summer program for incoming 6th to 8th graders. It aims to help them learn about college through project-based classes, connections with college mentors, and engagement in a dynamic college setting. The focus is on STEM, performing arts, career exploration, academic success skills, and wellness. The program is designed for first-generation college students, students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and students of color.
- The Golden Eagle Training (G.E.T.) Strong Academy provides two weeks of intensive career exploration to incoming high school seniors during the summer. These students complete a two-unit college course on campus, which allows them to gain confidence in identifying careers that match their interests and developing a plan for their next steps after high school. The target groups are focused on first-generation college students and disproportionately impacted student groups (such as African-American, Native American, Hispanic, and Men of Color).

The HOPE Initiative has already begun to help students. WHC Lemoore student-athlete DyAndre Morehead is a first-year student taking classes entirely online. Through Umoja, a H.O.P.E. established student club, he has connected on-campus with his peers.

"At other schools, I was never given the opportunity to take online classes and still be in a club and a sport," said DyAndre. "West Hills is different that way, and now I have something to look forward to coming to school for it, and it has made me more open." Sims has announced the "Year of H.O.P.E." that will launch in August 2022 and extend through June 2023. The Year of H.O.P.E. will recognize cultural awareness months and diversity days with workshops, guest speakers, strong web and social media campaigns, faculty training to include awareness in the classroom and student-led events.

The H.O.P.E. Initiative has begun helping to support Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access trainings with faculty and staff. It has teamed up with student clubs like the Rainbow Alliance (supporting the LGBTQ+ student community) and Umoja (Black student community) communities to support them in their inaugural years on campus.

WHCL is also using the H.O.P.E. Initiative to strengthen ties to the community. Sims is meeting with various non-profit organizations in the Lemoore community to build a network of resources that can be shared with the campus

community. She is also creating ways for the community to utilize the campus to partner for events.

One key partnership is with the Santa Rosa Rancheria of the Tachi Tribe, a federally recognized group of Native Americans native to Central California and the Lemoore area. This partnership serves to recognize the Tachi Tribe as being the original landowners as well as create a pathway for the Tachi community to attend WHCL in a welcoming, inclusive manner that gives the tribe a voice on the campus. "West Hills Lemoore has a lot to look forward to and to hope for," said Sims. "The funding for the H.O.P.E. initiative has been endowed and will be available for student programs and community partnerships for years to come."



DyAndre Morehead, WHCL student-athlete

MakeOvate Lab at WHCL

West Hills College Lemoore has a makers space called the MakeOvate Lab which opened October 19, 2021. It is housed in the Workforce Internship Networking (WIN) Center located in the Student Union on the WHCL campus. The MakeOvate Lab boasts a 3D printer, laser engraver, vinyl printer, and embroidery machine. The lab also includes meeting spaces for students to come and create at their own pace.



WHCL MakeOvate Lab Tech

"The MakeOvate Lab is the central hub for student makers and entrepreneurs and helps Lemoore continue the good work of developing an entrepreneurial mindset in all students," said Kris Costa, Dean of Career Education. "The lab is already changing the way students interact with the workplace and our local employers, driving our student internship and employment programs to levels we've not seen before".

Students interested in making items in the MakeOvate Lab are required to enroll in the non-credit class NC-190 Maker Innovation class. NC-190 includes one-on-one and/or small group training and activities for the development of a small business and support of entrepreneurial activities and events. Students enrolled in this class are trained to use equipment in

the MakeOvate lab. All activities in the lab are supervised by staff and experienced lab aids.

West Hills College Lemoore is dedicated to meeting the needs of its students and community and understands its critical role in the local economy. "The WIN Center is an example of our college's commitment to helping students prepare for the workforce. A key part of our strategic plan emphasizes working with industry partners to create and grow more short-term vocational programs at our college that help students learn key skills and attain industry certifications. The WIN Center and the MakeOvate Lab are helping us accomplish these goals", said West Hills College Lemoore President James Preston.



"The MakeOvate Lab is the central hub for student makers and entrepreneurs and helps Lemoore continue the good work of developing an entrepreneurial mindset in all students,"





Falcon Innovation Nest at WHCC

Thanks to a \$100,000 gift from Chevron, West Hills College Coalinga has plans to open a maker's space and 3D simulation lab on-campus in Coalinga and a STEM Lab on-campus at the newly constructed WHCC Firebaugh Center.

"The Chevron Falcon Innovation Nest will open fall 2022 and will house a 3D printer and virtual lab simulation software that are designed to support introductory coursework in welding, agriscience, health sciences and public services, human anatomy, and chemistry," said Angela Tos, WHCC Vice President of Student Services.

"Using virtual lab simulation, students learn from curriculum-aligned AR/VR simulations," said Zach Soto, WHCC Director of MESA. "Students gain a deeper understanding of concepts addressed in the classroom resulting in a more active learning process."

"We are looking forward to opening the Chevron Falcon Innovation Nest," said Tos "This technology will help prepare our first-generation students who are aspiring to be engineers, scientists, and mathematicians for

transfer to four-year universities and careers in STEM."

The AR/VR system is built on advanced engineering and simulation technologies. All models in the software are accurate and present the latest in technological advancement.

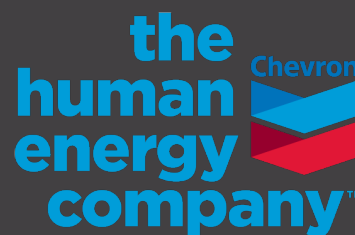
"Students are also able to extend their virtual reality lab experiences on other devices. Instructors can use Courseware to deliver course assignments, assign quizzes, manage grades, transform lecture presentations to include 3D models and animations, and expand and enhance lab analyses," said Soto.

Through the Chevron Falcon Innovation Nest, students gain access to self-study experiences, hands-on laboratory observations, and certification preparation.

"We are excited to partner with West Hills College Coalinga in helping to integrate cutting-edge STEM resources into their classroom curriculum," said Robbie Robinson, public and government affairs representative for

Chevron. "These types of resources will help educate future generations and equip them to become problem solvers and innovators for an ever-competitive workforce."

"We are grateful to Chevron for their investment in the talent and promise of our students," said Tos. "The hands-on experience will give our students great preparation and knowledge for the modern workforce. We're delighted that Chevron recognizes the potential that exists in our communities and is reinvesting locally."



3D Printer in Falcon Innovative Nest



From Firebaugh to Washington D.C.

A CAMP Story



Anissa Perez, WHCC Firebaugh Center Student

"My parents worked hard for everything we have, and from a young age, instilled in me the importance of education. They told me getting my education will prepare me for a better career than one working outside in the heat,"

Anissa Perez, a first-generation college student attending West Hills College Coalinga, Firebaugh Center, is no stranger to hard work. Her parents migrated to the United States from Mexico and worked the Central Valley fields for much of Perez's life.

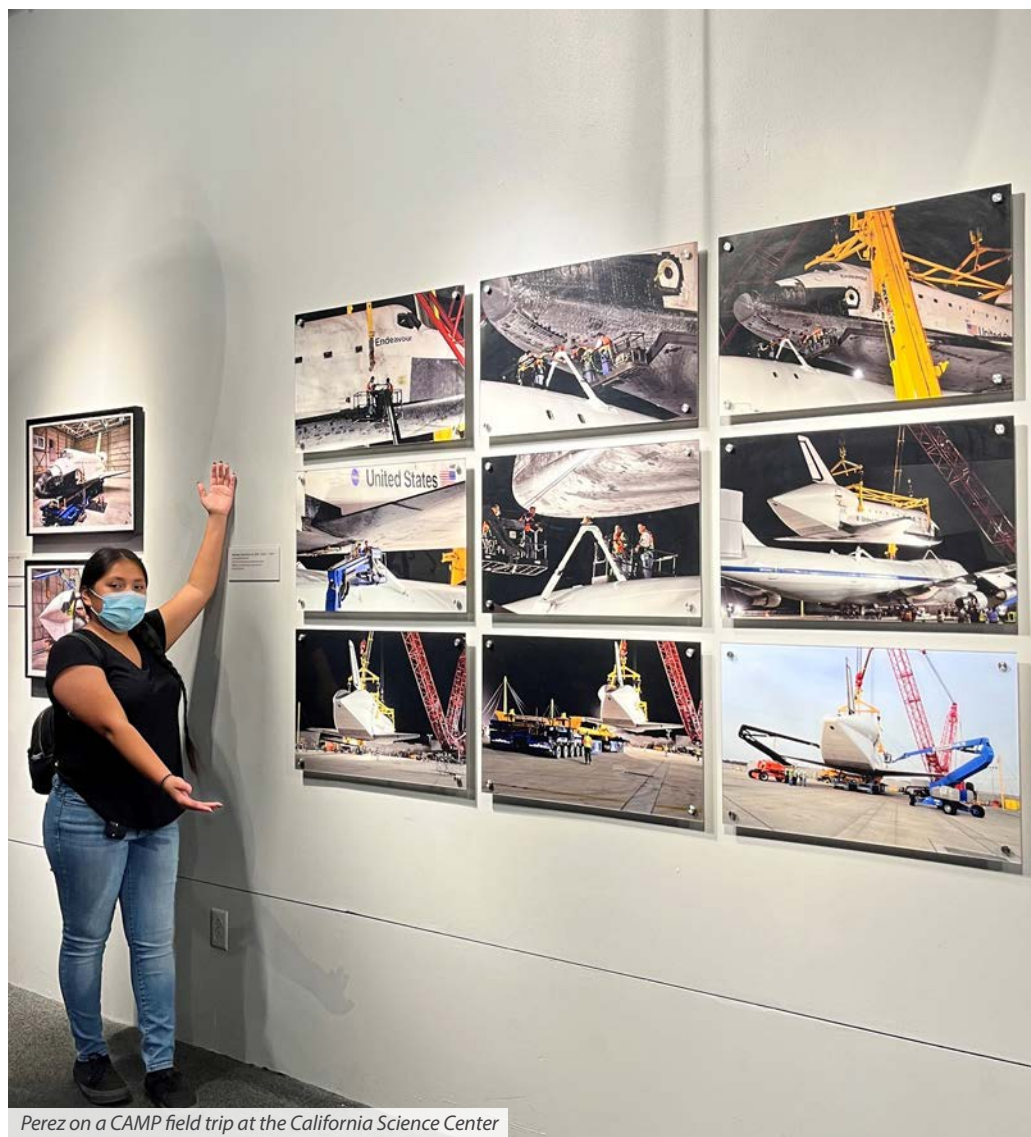
"My parents worked hard for everything we have, and from a young age, instilled in me the importance of education. They told me getting my education will prepare me

for a better career than one working outside in the heat," Perez said.

Perez is studying Business Administration, and upon completing her associate degree, she hopes to transfer to Fresno State University to continue her business education. "My goal is to work in international business or maybe work with the business side of airlines. I've always been fascinated with aviation."



Perez with Firebaugh Center students and staff at a Cinco De Mayo campus event



Perez on a CAMP field trip at the California Science Center

Perez currently participates in the WHCC College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), which provides academic and support services and financial assistance to eligible migrant students who are admitted and enrolled on a full-time basis within the first academic year.

CAMP is a federally funded program designed for first-year college students from migrant and seasonal farmworker families. CAMP has been available to students attending colleges within the West Hills Community College District since 2001 and offers pre-college transition and first-year support services to help students develop the skills they need to stay in college and graduate.

"Students participating in CAMP learn strategies to complete the first year of

college and transition to the second year to complete their college degree. The CAMP academic and student services improve the college degree achievements within CAMP students," said Cecilio Mora, West Hills Community College District Director of Special Grants – CAMP/HEP. "The program also offers students financial support and traditional college services to support students' college success"

A unique feature of CAMP is the collaboration between the student, parents, and CAMP advisor. "Through CAMP, student participants are mentored to improve college retention, completion, and to transfer. Students are encouraged to dream big, set goals, and develop leadership qualities," said Mora.

"CAMP has helped me stay on track. I meet one-on-one with my CAMP advisor to go over progress reports to ensure I'm doing the things I need to do to be successful in school," said Perez.

One of the more exciting aspects of CAMP is the educational field trips student participants take. "The field trips have been fun and are a nice chance to get out of Firebaugh and explore new things," said Perez. "This school year, we took a trip to the California Science Center, and it was interesting to see the aviation exhibit and learn about different aircraft and how they are used."

Perez was recently accepted into the National HEP/CAMP Association Internship. The National HEP/CAMP Association Internship connects interns with accomplished leaders dedicated to improving the Latino community and promotes a commitment to civic engagement.

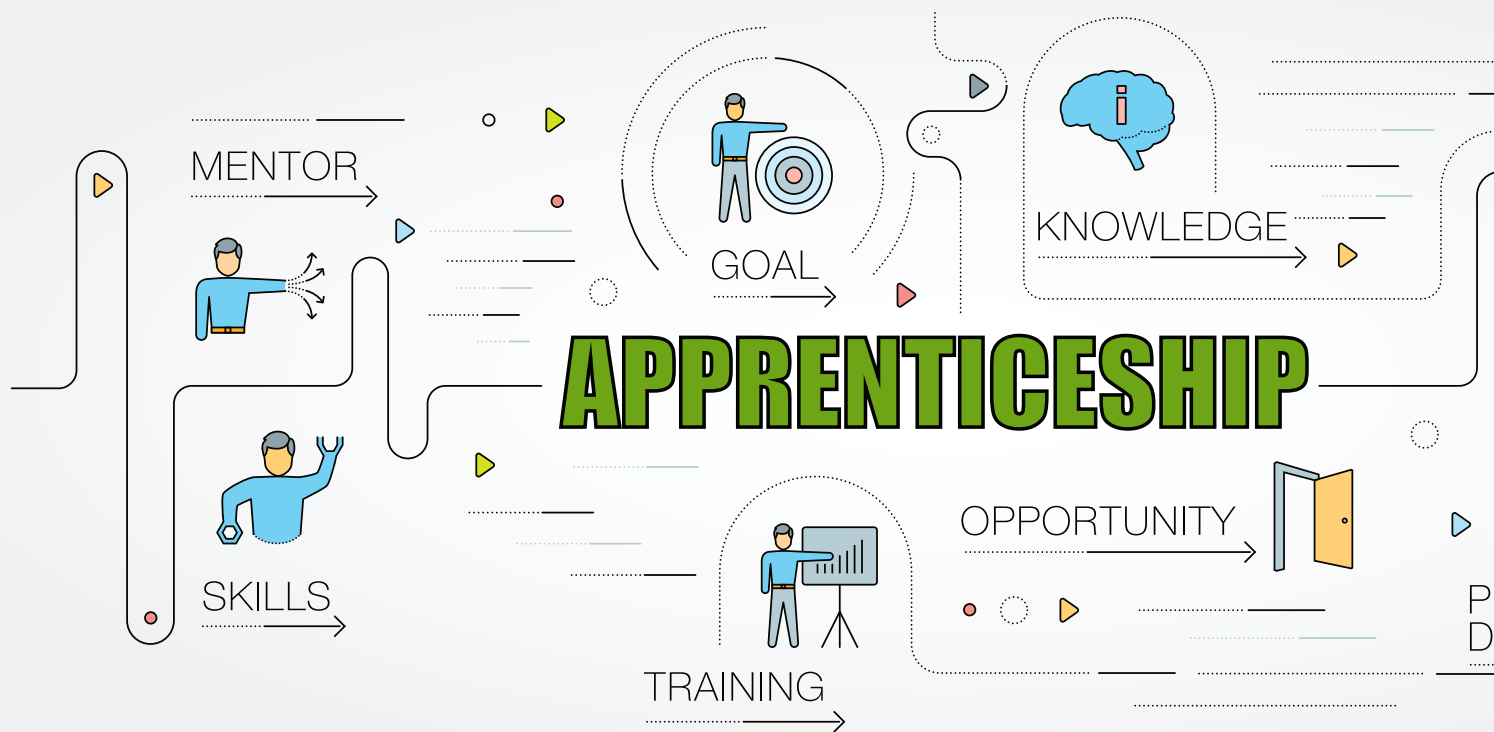
Perez was one of six CAMP students selected throughout the United States into the National HEP/CAMP Association Internship program and will be interning in Washington D.C. with United Farm Workers throughout the 2022 summer.

"This opportunity means a lot to me, especially because I am from a small town. These types of opportunities aren't always available to students like me," said Perez. "During my internship this summer, I hope to learn more about how I can give back to my community and make a difference here in Firebaugh," said Perez."

"We are all proud of Anissa and impressed with both the person she is and with her educational achievements," said Mora. "She is an example and a motivator for her family and our CAMP farmworker population in our community."



Earn While You Learn



An apprenticeship is a unique structured training method, one that, for centuries, has been the method of choice of industries that demand highly skilled, competent, and flexible workers. Apprenticeships offer a blend of “learning by doing” and theoretical instruction.

“Apprenticeships are a pathway to earn while you learn,” said Nickolas Trujillo, West Hills Community College District Director of Apprenticeship Programs. “They combine on-the-job training with related supplemental instruction from our colleges. Apprenticeships are paid and are always connected to an employer.”

West Hills apprenticeship programs help meet industry and occupational needs. The training includes a progression of tasks on the job, under supervision and classroom instruction.

“Apprenticeships help both employers and students,” said Trujillo. “For employers, it is a way to develop pipelines for new employees or freely upskill current employees. For students, they get tuition-free courses while earning journey-level certification from the State of California and a Certificate of Achievement from either West Hills College Coalinga or West Hills College Lemoore.”

Technological innovation, workforce shortages, and upskilling demand drive many industries to seek apprenticeship programs. “West Hills works with employers to create tuition-free apprenticeship programs that produce knowledgeable, productive, skilled employees,” said Trujillo. For more information about WHCCD Apprenticeship visit <https://westhills.cc/apprenticeship>

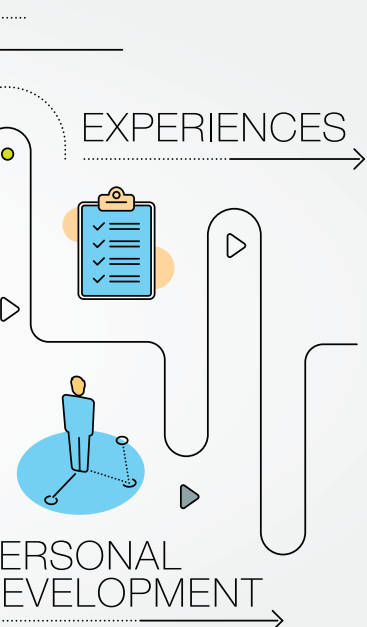
Early Childhood Educator was launched in November 2020 through the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. Instruction is fully online with West Hills College Coalinga. Employer Connections include: Kings Community Action Organization, Preston Green Learning Center, and Roosevelt Elementary School. Students are training for assistant teacher positions at the K-3 level.

Pathways in the Works

Industrial Maintenance Mechanics launch is planned in Summer 2022 and is through the US Department of Labor. Instruction is being planned at West Hills College Lemoore. Training will focus on industrial automation to support industrial and agricultural employers. Possible employer connections include: Del Monte and Ruiz Foods

Information Technology - Security and Networking: WHCCD was awarded a \$125,000 California Apprenticeship Initiative Grant to plan apprenticeship pathways and connect coursework for IT security and networking careers. Instruction is being planned at West Hills College Lemoore. Once planning is complete, WHCCD will receive an additional \$500,000 grant to connect employers and implement the new apprenticeship program.

Culinary Arts and Hospitality: WHCCD was awarded a \$500,000 California Apprenticeship Initiative Grant to plan apprenticeship pathways and connect coursework for lodging management, chief/head cook, and bartender careers. Instruction is being planned at West Hills College Lemoore.



Developed Pathways

Agriculture - Food Science Safety was launched in November 2020 through the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. Instruction is fully online at West Hills College Coalinga. Employer connections include Sensient Natural Ingredients and Morning Star. Students take 1-2 classes a semester and are working 40 hours a week. Students are training to become Quality Assurance Technicians.

Human Resources was launched in April 2020 through the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. Instruction is fully online with West Hills College Lemoore. Employer Connections include: Olam Food Ingredients and City of Coalinga. Training is focused on developing entry-level Human Resource employees.

Hitting the Right Note:

How a West Hills College Lemoore Student is Giving Back



Jonathan Maravilla,
WHCL Engineering
Graduate performing at a H.O.P.E.
event in the Student Union

"...Cuz' you know I always got my team, steady we be chasin' all our dreams." These lyrics written by West Hills College Lemoore student Jonathan Maravilla speak to his commitment to work hard while pursuing his dreams and making friendships along the way.

Maravilla is a man with many passions and a lot of energy. He works full-time as an engineer with the environmental, geotechnical, and design firm Kleinfelder, works part-time as a basketball coach for his high school alma mater Sierra Pacific, and volunteers with West Hills College Lemoore's Upward Bound program. He also finds time to write original music and perform throughout the Central Valley. As a performer, he is known by his stage name, "J Wonder."

Though his passions may vary, the central theme in his life points to giving back to institutions that helped him achieve his goals.

Attributing much of his success to the support he received at WHC Lemoore, Maravilla said, "I love West Hills Lemoore. The opportunities for scholarships and support they provided really helped me succeed. It helped keep me focused on my end goals."

Maravilla graduated from WHCL in 2018 with five associate degrees: An Associate of Science in Engineering, an Associate of Science in Mathematics, an Associate of Science in Physics, an Associate of Science in Business Administration, and an Associate of Science in Math and Science.

During his time at WHC Lemoore, Maravilla was also a President's Scholar, Engineering Scholar, and a National Science Foundation S-STEM CORES Scholarship recipient.

Through West Hills College Lemoore and their commitment to networking and internships, Maravilla was connected to an engineering internship at Tulare Lake Compost, owned by the

Los Angeles County Sanitation District. He worked at TLC until he graduated from his bachelor's degree program.

"I love West Hills Lemoore. The opportunities for scholarships and support they provided really helped me succeed. It helped keep me focused on my end goals."

"We have a strong and challenging Engineering program with world-class faculty at our college," said James Preston, West Hills College Lemoore President. "Our program truly prepares our students for their transfer university and their engineering career. Jonathan is just one example of where our students can fly to once they leave the Golden Eagle nest."

Maravilla now holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Fresno State University and is currently employed as an engineer. When he is not working on electrical transmission line designs and assets management as an engineer, he often can be found on the campuses at West Hills volunteering his time.

Maravilla has visited both West Hills College Lemoore and West Hills College Coalinga, sharing music performances with students and staff. "Music is a way to connect with others, inspire and motivate," he said.

Helping with the WHCL Upward Bound is another way Maravilla encourages

and inspires students, saying, "The connections and insight I gained from the Lemoore Upward Bound program helped me see the bigger picture and keep me motivated. I was once in their shoes, so I like helping students realize their potential."

The WHCL Upward Bound program targets high school students who show strong commitment and interest in college enrollment. "Our main objective is to promote academic achievement and higher learning by offering various support services that foster educational success," said Oscar Villarreal WHCL Director of Upward Bound.

One of the most exciting services offered through Upward Bound is college tours. "All-inclusive Upward Bound college tours are hosted throughout the year and include student transportation, lodging, meals, and admission tickets," said Villarreal.

"It's really cool being able to work with the Upward Bound program," said Maravilla. "I love helping on college trips because students get to explore campuses and dream about what their future might look like after they graduate from West Hills."

Connecting with others and maintaining meaningful relationships are values important to Maravilla. Values he feels he holds in common with WHC Lemoore. "At West Hills, I never felt like another face. My instructors and the staff here really saw me as a person and wanted what's best for me as an individual. It's the people here that make the college what it is. I will forever be thankful for the help West Hills provided me and I love that I am still connected with the people at West Hills who helped me on my journey," he said.

A WHCL connection Maravilla is thankful for is that with James Preston, president of West Hills College Lemoore.



Maravilla and WHCL President James Preston

The two have kept in touch since Maravilla graduated. "JP was a dean when I went to West Hills. He was always there to encourage me," Maravilla said. "He's been an inspiration to me and watching him succeed in his career, he's the president at the college now, while he has watched me succeed in school and in my career is so cool."

"Jonathan is such a positive part of our Golden Eagle community, and it has been inspiring to see him complete his goals and still take time to support and serve others throughout his journey," Preston said. "I also appreciate J Wonder's creativity and music skills and look forward to continuing to bring him back to campus to perform, connect, inspire, and mentor the next generation."



Maravilla at WHCL Commencement with family



Maravilla with students on a WHCL Upward Bound College Visit

West Hills College Coalinga Renames North District Center to Firebaugh Center as Progress Continues on New Building



Progress continues on the new West Hills College Coalinga 41,263 square foot center located in Firebaugh, CA, and it comes with a newly appointed name, "Firebaugh Center."

"Firebaugh Center is a true game-changer for our community," said Dr. Kristin Clark, West Hills Community College District Chancellor. "Our center is getting a new name and a new building. With it, brings new opportunities for community members to pursue big dreams."

The new Firebaugh Center will feature new classrooms, labs, and office space, as well as a new Fresno County library and field office for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The facility will replace the current 11,764 square foot center.

"West Hills College Coalinga aims to provide educational access within its service area, and the new Firebaugh Center will allow its learners to recognize their potential and achieve their goals through the delivery of high-quality academic instruction, programs, and support services," said Carla Tweed, President of West Hills College Coalinga.

"The new center has indoor and outdoor classrooms and will allow students access to state-of-the-art technology, labs, and high-speed internet," said Bethany Matos, Dean of Firebaugh Center. "We are planning to offer medical and agricultural programs to students that will help prepare them for in-demand jobs that offer living wages."

The center will open in summer 2022 and brings new opportunities for the communities of Firebaugh, Mendota, and beyond.



Classified Employees of the Year

The West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) launched a Classified Employee of the Year program. The program acknowledges classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to students and the District's Relentless Pursuit of Student Success.

The Board of Trustees would like to recognize the following individuals who have been selected as Classified Employees of the Year for 2021-2022:

Lisette Padilla,
Academic Advising Specialist
West Hills College Coalinga

Sheryl Shortnacy,
Senior Secretary
West Hills College Lemoore

Leslie Flaming,
Research Analyst
District Office



Following is an all-inclusive list of those classified employees who were nominated for the Classified Employee of the Year Program. These individuals were nominated for leadership in their local community and/or their exemplary service to students, programs, and other supports that help the colleges promote student success:

- Fidela Becerra, Senior Secretary - West Hills College Lemoore
- Bruno Brumati, Human Resources Specialist - District Office (Confidential Employee)
- Cristina Cardoso, Academic Advising Specialist - West Hills College Lemoore
- Hollie Dillon, Senior Secretary - West Hills College Lemoore
- Leslie Flaming, Research Analyst - District Office
- San Juana Gonzalez, Student Services Assistant - West Hills College Coalinga, Firebaugh Center
- Brandon Hicks, Skilled Maintenance Specialist - West Hills College Coalinga
- Eva Jimenez, Academic Advising Specialist - West Hills College Lemoore
- Griselda (Gracie) Jurado, CDC Cook - West Hills College Coalinga
- Anna V. Martinez, Grants Accounting Specialist - District Office
- Nona Montana-Dominguez, Program Assistant - West Hills College Lemoore
- Lisette Padilla, Academic Advising Specialist - West Hills College Coalinga
- Sheryl Shortnacy, Senior Secretary - West Hills College Lemoore
- Juana Tapia, Academic Advising Specialist - West Hills College Coalinga
- Catherine Ybarra, Tutor Specialist - West Hills College Coalinga



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Valerie & Jon Keller
Keller Automotive Group
Vera Kennedy
Marjorie Kerr
Edward Kreyenhagen
Ladies Auxiliary Club
Dean Lahodny
Leprino Foods Company
Jeanette & Jeffrey Levinson
Jeffrey Levinson, inc.
Sze Ki Liu
Lockheed Martin Distribution
Holly Longatti
Robert Longatti
Phillip M. Lopes
Derek P. Lopez
Los Angeles Sanitation District
Carlos Maldonado
Lynnette Mann
Amy D. Martinez
Bethany Matos
Mid Valley Disposal, Inc.
Mark & Rozanne Millett
Sandra L. Mitchell
Diana Monaghan
James M. Moore
Cecilio Mora
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC
Atif E. Naggar
National Philanthropic
Joe & Kathy Neves
Truc Nguyen
Jerry D. Oliver
Phil Oliver
Nina & Ken Oxborrow
Oxborrow Enterprises

Delia Padilla
Lissette Y. Padilla
Robert S. Palacio
Larry & Rene L. Paredes
Partners For College
The Pepsi Bottling Company
Alexis M. Perez
Andrea R. Picchi
Carlos Posadas
James L. Preston
Rodney J. Ragsdale
Anna Ramos
Resnick Family Foundation
Cris H. Robles
Rodolfo Rodriguez
Debbie Rose
Kathleen Schoenecker
Alaa Selim
Jacqueline D. Shehorn
Robert & Charlene Shigematsu
Giselle M. Simon
Anita Solis
Frances A. Squire
Stone Land Company
Ken & Alix Stoppenbrink
Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino
Brenda Thames
Cynthia A. Tidwell
Thomas A. Tinucci
Thelma & Leo Trevino
Jennifer Twist-Greene
Union Bank of California
Pa Vang
Olivia M. Vega
Oscar Villarreal
Mayra Y. Villegas
Andrew B. Wagoner
Jeff & Debra Wanderer
Betty & Don* Warkentin
Celena M. Watson
Dixie* & Brian* Wellborn Estate
Westside Farms
Mina Wetterberg
WHC Faculty Association
Brandy & Kevin Wilds
Edward J. Wilson
Scott G. Wilson
The Wonderful Company
Nancy Yama
** Deceased*

FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Scholarships

Awarded: **292**

59 in Coalinga

42 in Firebaugh

82 in Lemoore

President Scholars: **109**

Money Put to Use in the District: **\$1,093,582**

\$463,056 Scholarships

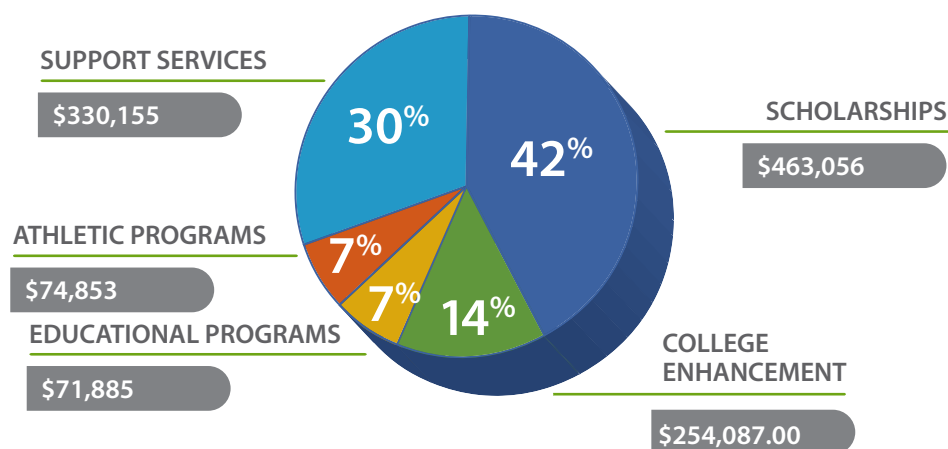
\$153,633 College Enhancement

\$74,853 Athletic Programs

\$71,885 Educational Programs

\$330,155 Support Services (Administrative,
Fundraising Events, Etc.)

Donor Funds Put to Use in District



Through the generosity of donors, the WHCC Foundation was able to award nearly half a million dollars to nearly 300 students in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Here's How You Can Help Change Lives

Your gift, no matter how large or small, will make a difference. We all benefit from an educated citizenry with marketable skills who find jobs and pay taxes, thus strengthening our economy. In the end, we all win. Your donation will help make more investments in more students, scholarships and college programs. Please consider making a gift before December 31st.

It's easy: Contact: WHCCF Executive Director Alex Perez at (559) 934-2134

Online: <http://westhillscollge.com/district/foundation/giving-and-donations/>

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax deductible. Tax ID number 77-0186793

Foundation Board Members:

William Bourdeau, C.P.A., Community Director
Klytia Burcham, Community Director
Steve Cantu, Trustee Director
Kelly Cooper, Vice-Chancellor of
Education & Technology
Ken Stoppenbrink, Community Director
Caroline Garcia, Community Director

Kylee Henderson, President, Community Director
Rosa Hernandez, Community Director
Valerie Keller, Vice President, Community Director
Phil Larson, Community Director
Tim Lourenco, Treasurer, Community Director
Laura Mendes-Moore, Secretary, Community Director
Jeff Merritt, Community Director

Nina Oxborrow, Trustee Director
Ann Stone, Community Director
Richard Storti, Staff Director, Deputy Chancellor
James Preston, Staff Director, Interim President WHCL
Carla Tweed, Staff Director, Interim President WHCC
Kristin Clark, Staff Director, Chancellor
Alexis Perez, Foundation Executive Director

A Message from Donors Ken and Alix Stoppenbrink

Alix and I are both products of the Community College System. Community Colleges provide an affordable option for anyone who desires to continue their educational opportunities after high school or for continuing ongoing training for advancement.

We discussed and decided to leave the West Hills Community College Foundation with an endowment about 20 years ago in the amount of \$500,000. This decision fits nicely into our continued charitable giving over the past 40 years.

Additionally, we have committed to an on-going monthly contribution that is deposited into the endowment account and will serve to provide opportunities for those students who may not be able to obtain funding in other areas.

We believe it is important to give back to the community in which you are involved and to organizations that provide local employment opportunities. There is so much need in our small rural community. We hope our gift will provide a pathway for those who may not have the means to move forward with their educational desires.

We were both the first in our families to go to college and additional funding opportunities, like the one we are providing through our gift, were not available to us. Additionally, as retirees from the educational field we know there is great need in this area. Our hope is that this legacy will live on and provide meaningful contribution for students in need.

Giving to the West Hills Community College Foundation

A Message from the Foundation

The nice thing about giving to the West Hills Community College Foundation is you can blend different types of gifts together to give in a way that is easy for you and will have the greatest impact on our colleges.

Endowment Gifts

An endowed gift takes the amount donated and invests it into the market. The return on that investment is what is used to fund the program or scholarship that is endowed.

In this case, Ken & Alix's gift will first be invested, and the profits will go into scholarships. The number of scholarships may fluctuate annually, but it will grow year after year into the future. This creates a one-time gift that continues to help students and the colleges far into the future.

Estate Gifts

Ken & Alix's gift is also an estate gift. They have added West Hills as one of the beneficiaries in their will. This gift will not be realized for a long time, hopefully many, many years from now.

The benefit of notifying West Hills of the gift now is that we can work with them to set up how their scholarship will work. West Hills gets to celebrate Ken & Alix's gift right now and thank them for their donation. We can work with them if things change, or if we need to update them on anything as the colleges change and grow.

Thank you, Ken & Alix!

Ken & Alix's gift is both gifts at the same time: an endowment gift and an estate gift. We are very grateful to have them as supporters. I look forward to keeping them informed about what we are doing and including them in the West Hills family for a long time.



Alex Perez,
Executive Director
West Hills Community
College Foundation





WEST HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

275 Phelps Ave.
Coalinga, CA 93210

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



**Success
begins at
West Hills
Community
College District**



**WEST HILLS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

FOUNDATION

For information on how you can help support education, see our website: <https://westhills.cc/giving>, or contact:

Alexis Perez • West Hills Community College Foundation Executive Director
alexperez4@whccd.edu
275 Phelps Ave. Coalinga, Ca 93210 (559) 934-2134
WestHillsCollege.com