

President's Newsletter January 2021



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West Hills College Lemoore President



2021-22 WHCL Budget Requests

Per the annual budget allocation process outlined in our [Planning and Governance Manual](#), WHCL has completed the annual budget allocation process for 2021-22. Requests for new faculty positions were prioritized by the Academic Senate then forwarded to the Planning and Governance Council (PGC) for approval and recommendation to the Executive Team. Requests for non-faculty positions were prioritized by the Budget Allocation Committee (BAC) then forwarded to PGC for approval and recommendation to the Executive Team.

On December 9, 2020, PGC approved both the Senate's and the BAC's recommendations. The Executive Team met to review the lists and made recommendations to the president to accept PGC's approval with some modifications. The president took the final recommendations to the Chancellor's Executive Cabinet on December 15, 2020.

On January 11, 2021, the Chancellor's Executive Cabinet met to further discuss the districtwide position requests. After discussion, WHCL was given the approval to

replace the **Dean of Educational Services** position (the funding for this position is in the existing budget but was previously placed on a hiring freeze.)

The College was also given the approval to hire two faculty positions, one classified position, and one classified management position. Based on the final hiring prioritization, the following positions will move forward for recruitment in spring 2021:

1. **Administration of Justice Faculty**
2. **Geography/Geology Faculty**
3. **Laboratory Technician**
4. **Curriculum Systems Manager**

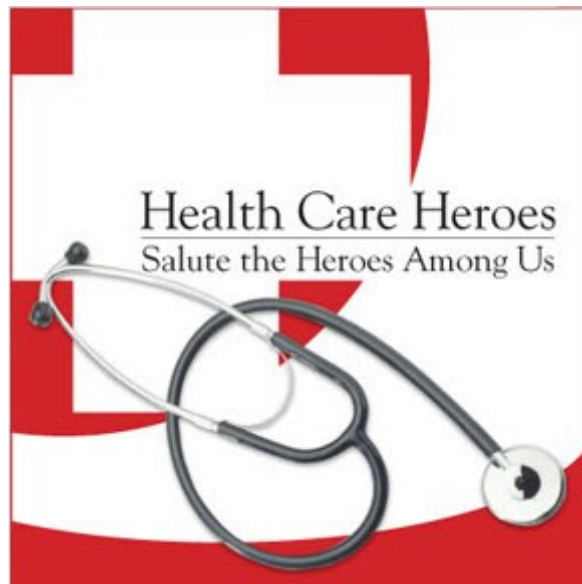
For additional information, please read the following memos to the Academic Senate and Budget Allocation Committee:

[December 11, 2020 Memo to the Academic Senate President](#)

[December 11, 2020 Memo to the Budget Allocation Committee](#)

[January 11, 2021 Memo to the Academic Senate](#)

[January 11, 2021 Memo to the Budget Allocation Committee](#)



Thank you to WHCL's health care heroes

WHCL's Health Care Heros

We must commend America's healthcare providers for their tireless efforts on the front lines in our hospitals, clinics, and ambulances. They are the unsung heroes that, unfortunately, witness the worst effects of this horrible COVID-19 virus.

Our nursing and paramedic faculty and students are among those heroes. Nursing students will return to hospitals for clinical hours this spring. They are being fitted for appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure that they have the same protection that is currently available to frontline health care workers, and they are being offered the COVID-19 vaccine through the Kings County Health Department (KCHD). And, some of our nursing students will volunteer to help administer the COVID-19 vaccine in clinics.

Many of our paramedic students experienced delays and were unable to complete their program requirements in the fall due to the California wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Like the nursing students, paramedic students are on the front lines so they are receiving PPE and the option of taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you see our **Health Careers Director** or any of our **nursing or paramedic faculty**, please commend them for their relentless support of students in the clinical settings, in the skills lab, and in virtual simulations.



Veterans Upward Bound Coordinator, Callie Branan, and student veteran, Steven Johnson, at the Fuel for Finals Event

WHCL Continues to Support Veterans and Active Duty

With donations (\$1000) from AMVETS, the West Hills College Lemoore **Veterans Upward Bound** program recently distributed packages to homeless veterans. Each package contained socks, hand sanitizer, masks, beanies, food, water, blanket, toothbrush/toothpaste kit, and a Christmas card. The bags were delivered to West

Care, an organization in Kings County that provides emergency housing for homeless veterans.

In preparation for final exams, WHCL distributed snacks, college swag, and inspirational messages during the **Fuel for Finals** drive-through event on December 7th.

The College continues to host **Coffee and Comaraderie** sessions via Zoom and will be hosting an **English Bootcamp** for student veterans as part of the program's Get Strong Academy.

A big thank you to the **WHCL Military Services** team for their hard work and dedication to veterans and active-duty military within the community.

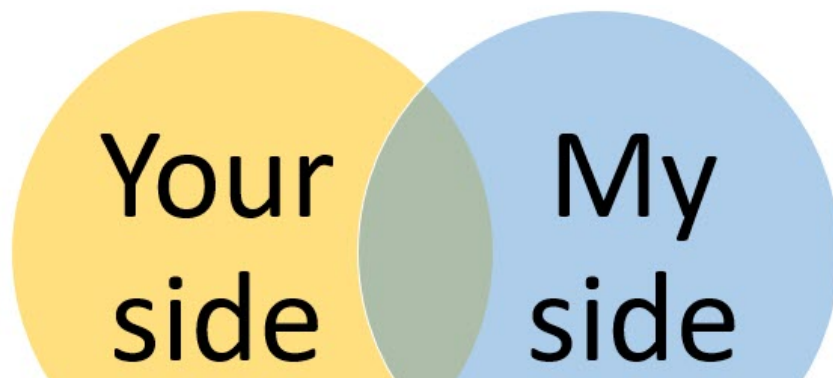
Serving High School Students in the Community

The **WHCL Upward Bound Program** continues to promote college-going with concurrent enrollment at WHCL and provides a multitude of services to help students stay focused on their studies. In fall 2020, the program provided services to **158** high school students from Lemoore High School, Laton High School, Avenal High School, Hanford West High School, Corcoran High School, and Riverdale High School. Last month I had the pleasure of joining students in their virtual healthy Cooking Academy. The fettuccine alfredo with asparagus we made was delicious!

Health and Safety

In an effort to protect the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students, we continue to monitor the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website, communicate regularly with local health officials, and assess our COVID-19 Prevention Plan. On January 7, 2021 a representative from the Kings County Health Department (KCHD) reviewed WHCL's spring 2021 plan for in-person services and responded that the College's plan is reasonable and in line with the Department's recommendations.

Please visit the WHCL website for information about available [in-person services](#) and continue to refer to the [West Hills College Lemoore COVID-19 Prevention Plan](#) for prevention tips and health and safety protocols.



The Death of the Middle Ground

It's been challenging to watch our Nation's ever-increasing polarization over the last several years and extremely disheartening to witness this polarization culminate in what was one of the darkest days of our Nation's history. I am sickened and saddened by the events that took place on January 6th. As Americans, we have the right and the privilege of free speech and the opportunity for peaceful protest, but it seems we are taking those rights for granted, and somewhere we lost our moral compass. When did condemnation, division, hatred, disrespect, and violence replace fundamental decency, cooperation, respect, and peaceful protest? When did we start believing that listening to each other is a sign of weakness? When did we stop meeting in the middle when we disagreed with each other?

As small children, we learned the Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It taught us not to retaliate with violence when things did not go our way, share our toys, not call names, and say please and thank you. Unfortunately, it seems that we have forgotten those lessons, and we no longer know how to play nice in the sandbox.

As institutions of higher education, our mission is deep-rooted in philosophy and critical thinking. The foundation of a democratic society is in the exploration of different ideas to understand the world, each other, and our place in it. When did it become okay to close our minds and refuse to examine alternative ideas and points of view?

As an institution, we have been criticized by business and industry for not producing a problem-solving workforce. They tell us our graduates lack critical thinking skills or the ability to work in diverse teams. And we have complained that our students use Google and social media for reference rather than finding legitimate and reliable sources of information.

But before we fault our students, maybe we should ask ourselves if we have been setting a good example. Are we so indoctrinated in our own political, religious, and

social beliefs that we refuse to examine alternative points of view? Are we promoting a world of absolutes where there are only two ways to think about something--your side or mine? At a minimum, we should be encouraging a search for the truth by exploring alternative points of view and reliable sources of information. We must champion a culture that allows for respectful debate. If not persuaded to a different opinion in that debate, we must form a basis of tolerance and respect for the alternative perspective. As educators, we owe this to our students and our country.

The lyrics in Diamond Rio's song, *Meet in the Middle*, sum it up, "I'd start walking your way, you'd start walking mine... we'd gain a lot of ground 'cause we'd both give a little and there ain't no road too long when you meet in the middle." It's time to break from our herd mentality, truly listen to each other, and acknowledge that there are more than two sides. It's time for us to set a good example for our students and propagate the resurgence of the middle ground.

WHCL Receives \$2 Million OER Grant

Great news! West Hills College Lemoore received notice of award for the California Consortium for Equitable Change in Hispanic Serving Institutions Open Educational Resources (**CC ECHO**) grant. The CC ECHO grant will focus on developing an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) framework into OER. In addition, the purpose of the grant is to seek to develop culturally relevant OER and training materials for faculty on delivering that OER, host curated and created material on multiple open-license platforms, deploy mini-grants for subject matter experts and students to provide a wide view in OER materials, and engage HSIs, a collective of colleges in critical need of support, in a robust dissemination plan. WHCL is the grant's lead education agency and will partner with three other community colleges (College of Marin, Allan Hancock College, and College of the Canyons). A big thank you to the WHCCD Grant Team, our OER librarians, and our OER faculty leaders for their contributions to the grant writing process.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Professional Development Highlights

A big thank you to the 18 faculty who participated in WHCL's **Canvas Coaching Cohort** in the fall, which included Pedagogical Basics Round 1 & 2 and Pedagogical Conditioning Round 1 & 2, and Pedagogical Fitness.

The WHCL Social Justice and Equity Task Force (SJETF) sponsored training on December 10th titled, "[Is it Okay to See a Therapist](#)". In January the SJETF will sponsor two training sessions:

January 12, 2021--Racial Trauma

January 13, 2021--Safe Zone

The SJETF will host additional training this spring. For more information, visit the SJETF team site.



One thing we all share is our commitment to our students and the relentless pursuit of student success. I hope the winter break provided time for rest, reflection, and a renewed sense of purpose for our mission.

It's a new year and time for a fresh start. Our students are counting on us to help them maintain a sense of hope, to overcome obstacles, and to realize their dreams.

We survived a very difficult year and so did our students. Let's be true to our **North Star** and diligent in our efforts to advocate for students.

Wishing you and our students a happy and successful spring semester!