

# DR. BRENDA THAMES

PRESIDENT AT WEST HILLS COLLEGE COALINGA



Brenda Thames is the President at West Hills College Coalinga and has over nineteen years of experience in instruction, student services, and administration in California Community Colleges. Brenda has a passion for developing the capacities of individuals, institutions, and communities. She is committed to maintaining educational access, facilitating student success, and attaining equitable educational outcomes for students in community colleges.

Brenda is a 2016-2017 Fellow with the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence. In 2014 she completed the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management. Brenda has served in a broad spectrum of positions at Modesto Junior College, American River College and at the Los Rios Community College District Office including adjunct faculty, tenured faculty, faculty coordinator, department chair, program director, dean, and vice president in both Student Services and Instruction.

In addition, Brenda has over five years of experience as a mental health clinician in county social services, county mental health and California Department of Corrections.

Brenda earned a BA with a double major in Sociology and Social Welfare from UC Berkeley, MA in Social Work from the USC, and a MA in Public Administration from USC. Brenda is a doctoral candidate in Education with a concentration in Community College Leadership at Oregon State University.