PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY
June 2014 Newsletter

Western Texas College receives various sources of funding for program support and initiation. One of these sources, a Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Fund grant, allowed WTC to expand the offerings for the Petroleum Technology program. One of the most promising is a "Pipe, Pump, Tank, and Valve" concept. Project Based Learning will be instituted to include exercises at the field lab where three (3) tanks, measuring 10 feet in diameter and 15 feet tall with a capacity of 210 barrels (each) have been installed. The abbreviation for barrels (in the Petroleum and Process) industries is bbl. These tanks were set in place on gravel rings this month.

(*Left*) The second tank is being set in line on the gravel rings.

(Right) The third tank is now set in line on the gravel rings.

The tanks were set in place on steel rings filled with gravel. This type of support placement reduces the potential for the caliche of the pad to corrode the bottom of the tanks. Caliche* is commonly used for preparing compacted bases for the construction industry. Placing tanks upon the gravel in the rings also raises the locations of the bottom-of-tank fittings and plumbing (not yet in place) to make installation and servicing easier.

(*Below*) Tanks set in place at the field lab on the gravel rings. Note: on the back of the tanks is a rectangular hatch. This "hatch" can be removed, for cleaning out the tank, or to use the tank for enclosed-space training purposes.

**Caliche is a sediment rock found in arid and semi-arid regions. Generally comprised of calcium carbonate and other carbonates such as magnesium carbonate, and can be corrosive to metal when wet.*