



AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 6

APRIL 2010

Editor: Neil Ledford

Ag Steering Committee

- David J. Gill (co-chair)
Rio Farms
- Jim Bogart (vice-chair)
Grower-Shipper Association
- Karyn Azzopardi
American Cooling
- Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin
D'Arrigo Bros. Co. of California
- Kenny Dozier
Pringle Tractor Co.
- Andrew Fernandez
Taylor Farms
- Kurt Gollnick
Scheid Vineyards
- Louis Huntington
Huntington Farms
- John Inman
Inman Consulting
- Aaron Johnson
Johnson & Moncrief
- Bob LaBrier
American AgCredit
- Emmett Linder
Driscoll's
- Butch Lindley
Lockwood Vineyards
- Bob Martin
Rio Farms
- Mike Moser
Consultant
- Al Parolini
Coastal Tractor
- Kevin Piearcy
Industrial Pump
- Brad Rice
Salinas Land Company
- Tom Russell
Pacific International Marketing
- Dennis Sites
Consultant
- Gary Tanimura
Tanimura & Antle
- Bruce Taylor
Taylor Farms

A Word from our Students

As we continue to grow we are taking the opportunity to talk with our current students, and get their feedback on the programs. In this issue we introduce you to Anabel Garcia. Anabel graduated from high school in Mexico, moved to the United States and now she is enrolled in the first semester of the Agriculture Business certificate program.

Anabel shared her educational and career goal with us and said that her interest in the industry came from seeing the importance of agriculture in the Salinas Valley. "It is a strong, growing industry, with potential to offer lots of jobs, and this is what I was looking for. I came to Hartnell to obtain a certificate in Ag Business, and I think this is the best college in this area for agriculture. Instructors are really helpful, and this a great program," she commented. She has taken general education classes, and is also enrolled in Agriculture Computer Applications and Ag Laws and Regulations.

Anabel attended a field trip with her classmates to the World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA. "It was amazing seeing so many companies and people around the country visiting the Expo," she said.

She told us that she hopes the agriculture program will continue to grow and keep providing hands-on activities, field trips, and start some internship opportunities and on-the-job training for the students.

Anabel plans to stay in the Salinas Valley and work in sales for a local agriculture company after graduating from Hartnell College.

We are really happy to see an ever-growing number of students committed to the programs in the Ag Institute.

We are pleased to assist students in obtaining the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in this dynamic industry.



*Anabel Garcia, student in the
Ag Business Certificate Program*

Inside this issue:

Topics	Page
A Word from our Students	1
Ag Mechanics Training	2
Food Safety Program	2
Meet the Instructor	3
Alisal Campus	3
Articulation...A Path to the Future	4
Calendar of events	4
Scholarships	4

Innovative Mechanics Training

The Monterey County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in partnership with Hartnell College is offering a training course in Agriculture Mechanics as part of the federal stimulus plan. Twenty-one students participated and completed the first program last December.

The course is focused on hands-on learning and students complete 240 hours of training in ag fabrication, drafting, basic fabrication skills, reading blue prints, design (using orthographic projection), hazmat training, hazwoper certification & industrial safety. The program was designed to teach sufficient skills for them to return to the workforce, and it brings economic benefits to employers.

Many of the “grads” from this first WIB training program have found placement in entry level mechanics positions with local companies such as Ramsay Highlander, Anzu, Fresh Express and Church Produce. As part of the stimulus plan the WIB will pay for the first three months of the employees’ wage and workman’s compensation expenses. For further information about this program please contact Chris Berthiaume at (831) 796-3341 or BerthiaumeCJ@co.monterey.ca.us.

A second session of this training program is currently being offered with completion scheduled for May 27, 2010, and we are very enthusiastic about placing these students in the workforce.



Ko Cooper, ag & industrial technology instructor, with 21 students who graduated from the Ag Mechanics training program in December/09

Food Safety – A Critical Issue!

We all know what a critical issue food safety has become! The Ag Institute took action in this area and has partnered with growers, processors, industry associations, UC Cooperation Extension, the Natural Resource Conservation Agency, and the Monterey County Health Department to address education needs. Hartnell is offering for the first time a Certificate of Achievement in Food Safety which is made up of a series of seven college courses. Food safety professionals from the groups mentioned above are also serving as faculty for the courses. This program is the first of its kind in California and likely the nation, that focuses on food safety from the growing and fresh processing side of the industry.

Students completing the certificate program may pursue a career in food safety specializations such as quality assurance technician, food safety supervisors and managers, research technicians or field auditors for government agencies, retailers, processors, among many others.

In addition to the Food Safety Certificate, the Food Safety Advisory Committee at Hartnell College will be presenting a two day “Food Safety Summit” on May 20-21, 2010 at the college. Summit speakers will address issues relating to pre-harvest and post-harvest safety issues. Topics include: microbiology, sanitation, habitat assessment, standard operating procedures, product sampling, how to manage a recall, the role of research, government and the consumer, audits among others.

Registration materials are available and those interested in obtaining further information please call (831) 770-6118 or 755-6960/6879 or email Cristina Westfall at cwestfall@hartnell.edu.



Above some of the Food Safety Summit presenters. From left to right: Neil Ledford, Hartnell College, Steve Koike, UC Cooperative Extension, Andrew Fernandez, Taylor Farms, Lisa Fuentes-Intveld, The Nunes Co., Dr. Barry Eisenberg, River Ranch Fresh Foods, Larissa Daniel, Missionero Vegetables, David Cramer, Grower-Shipper Association

Meet the Instructor

Valentin Rodriguez joined Hartnell College in 1990 and he has a combination of 20 years of education and extensive experience in the area of heavy diesel equipment and automotive technology. Val Rodriguez obtained his AA degree in General Education at Hartnell College and completed coursework at UC Berkeley and San Jose State University in adult learning and education.

In addition to coursework through the community and four-year college, Val has had comprehensive training and education to be certified in the following areas: air conditioning and refrigeration, BAR Certified Trainer for the smog check program, certified in hybrid and advance technologies vehicles, ASE master technician in heavy/medium duty diesel and automotive technologies, and federal certification in commercial refrigeration.



Many Hartnell College students who complete their coursework can apply for jobs in the heavy diesel and automotive technology that required training under a certified instructor/trainer. Val Rodriguez is very enthusiastic about Hartnell College's new facility - Center for Advanced Technology - that will host the Diesel Program in the Fall 2010.

Center for Advanced Technology - Alisal Campus

— We are moving!!

Hartnell College's Alisal Campus will become the home of the Ag Institute in the Fall of 2010. "We are looking forward to bringing the Ag Institute programs along with all the programs that are part of the college's Advanced Technologies to the same campus," commented Neil Ledford. "We will be able to offer all classes required in the program at the Alisal Campus."



Neil Ledford, Dean of Advanced Technology, leads the planning for the move to the new building located on East Alisal Street, and he is very excited about having a college campus in the heart of the Alisal community. The building, named the Center for Advanced Technology, will host programs in agriculture business, agriculture production, agricultural & industrial technology, food safety, diesel technology, welding, drafting, computer science, sustainable construction program, and automotive technology.

"The college will also offer general education courses there to avoid having the students commute from the Alisal campus to our main campus," commented Neil Ledford. The classrooms, laboratories and shops will be equipped with state-of-art technology and equipment to allow students to learn, using the most recent technology available in each area.

The Alisal Campus will also offer some student services, as well as food services in the new building. A grand opening for the donors and supporters is planned for September 17, 2010 followed by an open house for the community.



Articulation...A path to the future

A community college like Hartnell is one stop on a career pathway that may begin as early as middle school and reaches on beyond into graduate school. In Career Technical Education, which includes the courses and programs offered through Hartnell's Agricultural Business and Technology Institute, part of the process of building this pathway depends on articulation.

It works this way: At various high schools and Regional Occupational Program (ROP) centers in the region, high school students are already engaged in studies of agriculture, health sciences, construction, digital media and many other technical programs. Sometimes, the content of these courses mirrors what is taught at the introductory level at Hartnell.

Periodically through the year, high school/ROP instructors in a given field are invited to campus to confer with representatives of the Hartnell faculty in their disciplines. Together, the two sets of teachers review course content, assessment, and expected learning outcomes. If they determine that the high school course reflects at least 85% of the content and outcomes expected at the college level, the student is able to register (through the process of concurrent enrollment) for college credit at Hartnell, assuming he or she successfully completes the high school course.

Articulation agreements assure that a student, on arriving at Hartnell or any other college after finishing high school, is ready to step into the next level of coursework in the chosen field. This articulation process helps provide a young person with continuous, positive progress towards career goals, and is a key element in a career pathway in the technical professions.

Molly Lewis, Director of Community Collaboratives and Articulation

\$\$\$ * * Last Call for Scholarships * * \$\$\$

The Ag Business and Technology Institute will award up to **30 scholarships of \$1,000 each** for incoming students majoring in the areas listed below:

***Ag Business - Ag Production - Ag & Industrial Tech
Diesel Mechanics - Food Safety - Welding Technology***

For application forms please contact (831) 755-6879/6960 or cwestfall@hartnell.edu

Forms are also available online. Visit us at www.hartnell.edu/agriculture

Applications for the Fall 2010 semester are due on **May 12, 2010**



Quarterly Events

03/12/10 - Articulation Workshop

03/24/10 - Teacher Externship Day

04/14/10 - Non-traditional Career Panel for Women

04/28/10 - FFA Project Competition Awards Ceremony

05/11-12/10 - Industry Technology Day

Hartnell College will host over 500 local middle and high school students visiting our campus

05/20/10 - Food Safety Conference

- addressing Pre-Harvest Issues

05/21/10 - Food Safety Conference

- addressing Post-Harvest Issues

05/27/10 - Ag Mechanics Graduation

(by Monterey County Workforce Investment Board)

06/2/10 - Hartnell College Graduation

For further information on our upcoming events please contact us at (831) 755-6879/6960

If you would like to unsubscribe or add staff to receive our newsletter, email Cristina Westfall at cwestfall@hartnell.edu