Mission Statement: Hartnell College provides the leadership and resources to ensure that all students shall have equal access to a quality education and the opportunity to pursue and achieve their goals. We are responsive to the learning needs of our community and dedicated to a diverse educational and cultural campus environment that prepares our students for productive participation in a changing world.

1. Hartnell College Math Club Hosts President of Naval Postgraduate School

NPS President, Rear Admiral Jan Tighe, visited HC again on May 22, 2013. She was invited by the HC Math Club to make a presentation to STEM students. Dr. Tighe presented to a packed house in Merrill Hall. I was able to attend the event and talked with several students after the event. They all remarked about her open, approachable demeanor. All of our students enjoy hearing about her personal journey in terms of education and career. And of course, the Math Club truly enjoys hearing from her because of her college degrees in mathematics and her passion for studying mathematics. Dr. Tighe has shared with me on several occasions that she supports the "special relationship" between our institutions. She has visited HC twice during the spring semester.

Rear Admiral Tighe earned a B.S. in mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and an M.S. in applied mathematics and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. She was appointed to the position of interim president of the Naval Postgraduate School last November.

HC student Markanthony Rivera (King City) talks with Dr. Tighe and Dr. Silvia Millán-Vossler (Math Club advisor)

2. Hartnell College Hosts Family Science and Health Day at Alisal Campus

On Saturday, May 18, HC hosted the 7th Family Science and Health Day. Usually held at the Main Campus, this free community event was moved to the Alisal Campus for the second time in its history. The day features activities and demonstrations that promote awareness of nutrition,
physical exercise and science. A major partner in planning and promoting this event is Alisal Union School District’s Network for a Healthy California. Although the event is heavily promoted to families in the district, this outreach event is widely advertised and open to all. Led by Andy Newton, Director of the Math and Science Institute, groups helping to organize the event included the Planetarium, New Media Center and HCs NASA/SEMAA program, based at the Alisal Campus.

The event featured tours of the Aerospace Education Lab, a centerpiece of the NASA/SEMAA program’s goal to enrich STEM education in area schools amongst traditionally under-served populations. Veteran NASA astronaut Dan Bursch gave a presentation and circulated among those in attendance, thrilling both kids and adults. Elsewhere on campus there were various booths and rooms dedicated to hands on demonstrations of computer and construction technology, 3D animation, astronomy, geology, physics, robotics and biology. The courtyard area featured a performance by Aztec dancers followed by the festive sounds of live music provided by MG Nortena from Chualar, fronted by HC alum and Cal Poly Civil Engineering major Jaime Barcelos. Outdoor activities included face painting, physical fitness and food provided by the HC Veterans Club.

Family Science and Health Day reflected a wonderful mix of HCl programs, student organizations and community partners. Thanks go out to all the organizers and participants who contributed to the success of this great event.

### 3. Hartnell College Physics Club Hosts First "STEM Harvest" Event

On Saturday, May 18, I was invited to provide a welcome for the first STEM Harvest Event hosted by the Society of Physics Students’ Chapter at HC. Recognizing that one-third of the population of the Salinas Valley is under the age of 19, the club wanted to emphasize the importance of good role models. The club members take seriously that they have a responsibility to serve as mentors and role models. In addition, the club wanted to expose the community to the vast
resources available at HC. The STEM Harvest event focused on the numerous professional development programs, clubs, and research opportunities available to students through HC. Included in this event was a research symposium by HC students and science demonstrations for the community. Dr. Silvia Millan-Vossler, Math Professor and Math Club Advisor, was a guest speaker and shared her education and career journey with the students.

Above and right: Members of the Society of Physics Students’ Club at HC present research projects to high school students during STEM Harvest event.

4. Dr. Eduardo Ochoa, CSUMB President, to Deliver Commencement Address

Dr. Eduardo Ochoa was recently appointed as the permanent president for CSU, Monterey Bay after serving as the interim president for most of 2012-13. Dr. Ochoa will deliver the commencement address at the May 31 commencement ceremony.

Dr. Ochoa returned to the CSU after serving from 2010 to 2012 in the Obama Administration as the U.S. assistant secretary for postsecondary education – advising the secretary on higher education issues, administering more than 60 programs and overseeing financial aid policy and accreditation.

Dr. Ochoa grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before moving to Portland, Ore., with his family while in high
school. He has earned degrees in physics, nuclear science and economics from Reed College, Columbia University and the New School for Social Research, respectively. His plans to return to work in his native Argentina were sidetracked by a military coup.

He refocused his energy in California, teaching at Fresno State as well as at California State University, Los Angeles, where he was a full professor and chair of the economics and statistics department. He also led the university’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research, and served as acting dean of its School of Business and Economics.

In 1997, Dr. Ochoa was hired as the dean of Cal Poly Pomona's College of Business Administration, where he served for six years. This was followed by seven years as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Sonoma State University.

5. UC, Santa Cruz Astrophysics Program Recognizes Success of Hartnell Students

The astrophysics program at UC Santa Cruz is reaching out to regional community colleges to discover and nurture talented students through a new summer internship program. The Lamat Summer Research Program on High-Performance Computing in Astrophysics gives students the opportunity to work with UCSC faculty and graduate students on projects using some of the world's most advanced computers.

Sponsorship as a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates site, awarded this year, has enabled UC Santa Cruz to expand the program, which began on a smaller scale in 2009 with Hartnell College in Salinas.

Led by Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, an associate professor of astronomy and astrophysics at UCSC, the Lamat program (lamat is the Mayan word for star) now includes Hartnell, Cabrillo College, Monterey Peninsula College and De Anza College in Cupertino.

"The program with Hartnell has been very successful. We now have about nine transfer students from Hartnell in the physics department. Our first graduate, Ricky Fernandez, went to Columbia University to pursue a Ph.D. in astronomy, and this year three more are going on to Ph.D. programs," said Ramirez-Ruiz.