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.

SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

1. Commencement Ceremony May 31, 2013

The 2013 graduating class was the largest ever for Hartnell College.

- 616 Associate Degrees were earned
- 379 Certificate of Achievements were earned
- 336 graduates participated in this year's ceremony which is the largest participation and class to date

Dr. Eduardo Ochoa delivers commencement address

We had 4 valedictorians.
- Melissa Johnson, Summer 2012, AS Administration of Justice (completed our ADJ Fast Track program online)
- Pablo C. Tavares, Spring 2013, AA General Studies/emphasis in Natural Science, transferring to San Jose State University
- Cody Lucas, Spring 2013, AA Psychology, transferring to CSU, Monterey Bay
- Stefanie M. Ruelas, Spring 2013, AS Business Administration

Richard D. Schlotthauer and Maria E. Schlotthauer, husband and wife, graduated with AS degrees in Administration of Justice, both with Honors.
Norma Urzua was our oldest graduate at 62 years young. She received her degree in fall 2012 in General Studies with a Natural Science emphasis.

Mark Anthony Rivera (King City) at 17 years old was our youngest graduate. He received his degree in spring 2013 with a degree in General Studies-Social & Behavioral Science emphasis and with Honors.

We had six members of our 2012-2013 ASHC Student Government graduate with Associate Degrees.

We awarded our first ever Posthumous Degree to Anna Flores-Martinez and her daughters were present to walk across the stage to accept the degree on behalf of the family.

We were honored to have Dr. Eduardo Ochoa, CSUMB President, as our commencement speaker.

2. TRiO Program Celebrates Graduates on June 1, 2013

We had 34 graduating and transferring TRiO students this year. The celebration event included some 280 plus guests. Dr. Jalomo, vice president of student services, attended along with me and governing board members Patricia Donohue, Bill Freeman, Candy DePauw, and Demetrio Pruneda.

- Madeleine Guzman graduated CUM LAUDE and will attend Sacramento State University.
- Xenia Centeno graduated CUM LAUDE and will attend CSU, Monterey Bay.
- Mayra Martinez graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE and will apply to campuses of the CSU and UC this fall.
We are proud that 17 of the 34 2013 TRiO graduates come from the Alisal area. Congratulations to Manuel Bersamin, director of TRiO, and his staff for their outstanding work in helping these students to succeed.

There are many compelling student stories in the TRiO Program. Here are two that are representative of those stories.

**Kathy Rodriguez** (at left, King City) comes from a farm worker family. She is a GREAT student who doesn't realize how gifted she is. When we recruited Kathy into TRiO in 2011, we realized that while she was a very dedicated student, she was not familiar with the different CSU/UC campuses. However, we did realize that her father had taught Kathy to set her goals very high.

She traveled to the main campus by Monterey-Salinas Transit bus from King City several days a week and she finished the 60 units in just two years with a high GPA. During her HOUR commutes from King City to the main campus, Kathy tried to study so she would have the weekends free to work at the King City Flea Market to contribute to her family's income.

Kathy could see that education can be a way to assist her family and so she worked very hard to achieve the best grades.

Kathy was accepted to each of the CSU campuses to which she applied. She will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as a psychology major in the fall. Once her father learned of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo's academic reputation, he was very proud indeed.

The other student story is **Victor Arreola** (at right). He came from Greenfield High School to attend Hartnell College in 2010. Victor also comes from a farm worker family and he has worked alongside his father in the fields.

Victor enrolled in Hartnell's Agriculture and Business Technology Institute and under the
direction of their faculty, Victor started to compete in the Collegiate Agricultural Leaders (CAL) competitions. These academic competitions helped Victor to grow in public speaking skills and he became more confident as a result. His determination and hard work has earned him admission to Fresno State University this fall where he will be attending the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and will major in Plant Science.

Victor also volunteered to help recruit more students from Greenfield High School for the 2013 TRiO freshmen cohort.

3. Nursing Program Holds Pinning Ceremony on May 31, 2013

There are few ceremonies that have the long history, tradition, and pageantry associated with the Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Vice President Stephanie Low attended with me along with governing board members Erica Padilla-Chavez, Candi Depauw, Elia Gonzales-Castro, and Patricia Donohue. Congratulations to the graduates, Dean Debra Kaczmar, and the nursing program faculty and staff.

This year's ceremony included the following:

- 30 RN graduates (left photo below)
- 17 VN graduates (right photo below)
- Age of graduates: 20 to 59
- Stacy Sanchez-Soria and Giovan Espinosa met in the program and are engaged!
- 480 relatives and friends attended the Pinning Ceremony
On May 30th, approximately 480 people filled the Hartnell College gymnasium to take part in the 2013 High School Equivalency Program (HEP) GED Recognition Ceremony. Families from around Monterey County cheered on as 108 graduates took to the stage that night. Of the 138 students HEP enrolled this academic year, 124 students successfully attained their GED and completed the program . . . that is a 90% graduation rate! The night ended with a well-attended dessert reception held in the Student Center. Vice President Stephanie Low joined me for the ceremony along with governing board members Candi Depauw, Demetrio Pruneda, Bill Freeman, and Patricia Donohue. We are very proud of our HEP graduates and look forward to their transition into credit courses. Congratulations to the graduates, Carla Johnson (director of HEP), and all of the faculty and staff in HEP.

The HEP has been a part of Hartnell College since 2006 and has helped more than 500 migrant, farmworking students and families attain the GED and move on to higher education, career/technical training, and/or improved employment.