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. Former Hartnell College Student and Academy Award Winner, Dustin Lance Black, Receives Distinguished Alumni Award from CCLC

I am pleased to announce that Hartnell College Alumnus, Dustin Lance Black, was recently selected as a Distinguished Alumnus of the California Community College system by the Community College League of California (CCLC, www.ccleague.org). Mr. Black credits his experience at Hartnell College and with The Western Stage as helping him to find his voice and his passion.

Mr. Black received the Academy Award for best screenplay in 2008 for Milk. He also wrote the screenplay for the movie J. Edgar and has several projects currently underway. After Hartnell College Mr. Black attended UCLA and graduated with honors from the School of Theater, Film, and Television. In July of 2012 Mr. Black attended a VIP reception at Hartnell College and showing of "8," his play that documented the court case arguing that California’s Proposition 8 was unconstitutional. In June this year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that part of the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional and struck down California’s Proposition 8 ballot initiative that prohibited same sex marriages.

Mr. Black will be honored at the annual CCLC Convention to be held November 21-23 this year. Details about the specific date and time are still to be determined.

2. Local Leaders and Organizations Unite to Support Immigration Reform

On July 23 I was invited by the California Strawberry Commission to be part of a press conference urging Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. The press conference was sponsored by the California Strawberry Commission and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. It
was an honor for me to be invited to speak at this press conference along with several other community leaders that included:

**Joe Gunter, Mayor** – City of Salinas  
**Rogelio Ponce Jr., Strawberry Farmer** - Sun Valley Berries & Board Member - California Strawberry Commission  
**Luis A. Alejo** – Assemblymember – 30th Assembly District  
**Simon Salinas**, Supervisor – County of Monterey  
**Scott Miller**, Sheriff – County of Monterey  
**Paul Farmer**, President & Chief Executive Officer – Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce  
**Pete Delgado**, President & Chief Executive Officer – Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital  
**Maria Giuriato**, Consultant, Government Relations – Clínica de Salud del Valle de Salinas

All participants signed a letter urging immigration reform that will be delivered to Congress by the California Strawberry Commission and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

What follows is the text of my remarks.

"At Hartnell College we are growing leaders through opportunity, engagement, and achievement. However, engagement and achievement are not possible without opportunity. In the most recent academic year we enrolled 543 undocumented students. Among these students are some of the best and brightest that have ever stepped foot on the Hartnell campus. Many are engaged in our STEM programs pursuing education in science, technology, engineering, and math. These are fields that are important the economic vitality of our communities, our state, and the nation. With the passage of AB 540, undocumented students who meet the eligibility criteria are treated as California residents for tuition purposes and they are also now eligible for Cal Grants. We now have some of these students receiving Cal Grants, but we are having a challenge in delivering these funds. They are provided a check, but they have challenges cashing the check because they can’t open a bank account without legal
identification and a social security number. These students also face enormous obstacles when transferring to four-year colleges and universities because they are not eligible for federal financial aid, particularly the Pell grant. Other obstacles are present as well. For example, one of our students was selected for a prestigious internship with IBM, but was unable to take advantage of the opportunity because he was not a U.S. citizen. Perhaps the classic case of the problems inherit in current immigration law can be found in Sergio Garcia, a young man who completed a law degree and passed the California Bar Exam, but is unable to practice law because he cannot be licensed due to his undocumented status.

Hartnell College was proud to host several deferred action events this past year where we assisted community members and our students with completing the application for deferred action. This temporary “amnesty” for undocumented youth prevents deportation for 2 years, but what happens after that? It is but a band aid being applied to a serious injury. We were also proud to partner with the United Farm Workers in hosting U.S. Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D – Illinois), a leading proponent on immigration reform.

Besides a solution to the horrible issue of splitting up families when a family member is deported, immigration reform is needed so that our communities can benefit from the outstanding talent that is found within the undocumented immigrant population. Our communities, our state, and our nation will be the beneficiaries of this talent when they are provided with opportunities to fully participate and contribute.”

3. Welcome New Employees

Slava Bekker, chemistry instructor. Slava comes to us from the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, where she has been an assistant professor of chemistry for two years, teaching general chemistry, organic chemistry, and general physics. Prior to her job in Oregon, she was an adjunct instructor of chemistry at Sacramento City College. At Oregon Tech, she was the faculty advisor to the Bio-Sustainability Student Club and a member of the college’s Sustainability Committee. Slava earned her bachelor’s of science degree in chemistry at the University of Illinois. She earned her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of California, Davis, where she performed molecular dynamics simulations of valinomycin in order to study the mechanism of ionophore mediated K+ transport across a lipid bilayer. Slava is a native Russian and Ukrainian speaker, and is fluent in French as well.

Douglas Eden, clinical coordinator of Respiratory Care Practitioner Program/instructor. Douglas has 33 years of cumulative experience in respiratory care practice and public school science instruction. He started his career in respiratory care at Rochester General Hospital, where he was supervisor of respiratory care. He also has worked at four medical centers in Virginia: the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Fairfax Hospital, Culpeper Regional Hospital, and Fauquier Hospital. He has taught biology, anatomy, and physiology at Culpeper County Schools for 10 years. Douglas earned his certificate in Respiratory Care Practitioner from Santa Fe College, his BS Ed., health and physical education from Towson University, his master’s of education in
administration and supervision, and is expected to earn his Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction in 2014.

Janet Flores, Spanish instructor. Janet comes to us from the Defense Language Institute, where she has been an assistant professor of Spanish for three years, teaching elementary, intermediate, and advanced Spanish. She completed her student teaching at Washington Union High School in Easton, CA after being a tutor and a teaching associate at Fresno during her college years. She earned her bachelor’s of art degree *cum laude* in Spanish, and her master’s degree, with distinction, in Spanish with an emphasis in linguistics. Both of her degrees are from CSU Fresno. She also studied advanced Spanish at Escuela Internacional Malaga, Spain during the summer after her junior year. Janet grew up in the Salinas Valley, and took courses at Hartnell before attending Fresno State.

Andrea Marble Gomez, human resources specialist. Andrea comes to us from Oracle America, where she held the position of human resources shared services center support analyst, responsible for all current, former, and prospective employees. Her responsibilities included managing, organizing, and restructuring several employee processes for the North American and South American regions, consisting of 11 countries and more than 80,000 employees. Andrea is fluent in English and Spanish and is proficient in French. She earned a bachelor’s of arts degree in economics and a bachelor’s of arts degree in French from UC Davis. She also holds a human resources development and management certificate from UC Davis extension in Sacramento. Andrea grew up in Gonzales and graduated from the York School in Monterey.

Debra Kaczmar, dean of nursing and allied health. Debra came to Hartnell in 2005 to teach in the nursing program. She took on the role of assistant director of nursing in 2006 and again in 2010, and served as interim dean of nursing and allied health in 2012. Before coming to Hartnell College, Debra worked as a home health services case manager and nurse for Hospice and Home Health Services of the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula for 11 years. Debra has taught nursing as an adjunct or guest lecturer at Monterey Peninsula College, Eli Whitney Technical College, and the graduate nursing program at Yale University. She has worked as a consultant, writer, and editor in the field of nursing, and began her career as a staff nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is a board member of the Monterey Bay Geriatric Resource Center. Debra earned her bachelor’s of science degree in nursing education from Southern Connecticut University. She was in the master’s program in health service administration of Quinnipiac College before finishing a master’s degree in nursing education at San Jose State University. She holds a certified nurse educator credential as well as a registered nurse license.

Lori Kildal, vice president of academic affairs. Lori has more than 20 years’ experience in higher education. She comes to us from Victor Valley College, where she started as dean of science, technology, engineering, and math in 2006, and most recently served as dean of instruction. Prior to that, Lori served as the executive director of the San Diego regional campus of Azusa Pacific University, and as associate dean and athletic director at Grossmont College. Lori has taught health and physical education, has advised students, and has coached at the high school, community college, and university levels. She earned her bachelor’s of science degree in physical
education from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, a master’s degree in physical education from Azusa Pacific University, and a Ph. D. in health, physical education, and recreation from the University of New Mexico. She holds a single subject teaching credential from Biola University.

**John Perez, mathematics instructor.** John began at Hartnell as an adjunct instructor in 2010, teaching pre-algebra and intermediate algebra. He also has taught math at MPC and at Cabrillo. He has worked as a math lab instructional assistant at Cabrillo’s Integrated Learning Center, Watsonville Center, since 2003. In John’s teaching, tutoring, and mentoring roles he has taught students of all ages, from middle school to adult schools. John earned his bachelor’s of science degree in mathematics from San Jose State University and his master’s degree in mathematics teaching and learning from Drexel University in Philadelphia. He earned an associate’s degree in mathematics and physics from Cabrillo College.

**Meagan Plumb, English instructor.** Meagan began at Hartnell as an adjunct instructor in 2011, teaching integrated writing and reading courses at both the developmental and transfer levels, before working for us full-time in a temporary position last year. Prior to that, Meagan provided writing guidance and instruction at the Online Writing Center at College of Marin, where she also worked as a tutoring coordinator and tutoring assistant. Meagan earned a B.A. in English from U.C. Berkeley and a master’s degree in English literature from San Francisco State University, where she earned a Certificate in the Teaching of Composition.

**Tracey Richardson, controller.** Tracey comes to us from San Jose State University, where she was the financial manager responsible for budget management, as well as forecasting and sensitivity analysis. Previous to that she was the campus enterprises manager at California State University San Marcos where she was involved with WASC accreditation reporting in relation to student retention. She also has worked in university events scheduling and accounts management during her 19 years working in higher education. Tracey earned her bachelor’s of arts degree in communications and international relations from University of Southern California and her MBA from California State University Long Beach. She is currently pursuing her master’s of science in accountancy at San Francisco State, and expects to have completed it in December 2013.

**Christopher Zepeda, physical education/track and cross-country coach.** Chris has been coaching cross country and track & field at Hartnell College since the fall of 2006. For the last six and a half years he has been the head coach of both programs. While coaching Hartnell athletes to conference, regional, and state championships, Chris also has involved the community in fitness and running activities through his Train Like a Panther community training group, Toro Park Trail Challenge community run, Sunset in the Park community run, and summer track camp for area youth. Chris also has coached at Butte College and at Neosho County Community College in Kansas, where he also taught physical education. Chris earned an associate’s degree at Cuesta College and a bachelor’s of science degree in exercise physiology at California State University, Chico, where he later earned a master’s degree in kinesiology. Chris was named the Northern California Women’s Coach of the Year in both 2009 and 2010, and this year was selected for the USATF Level II Endurance Certification School.
4. Former Student-Athlete Selected to Represent the United States in Moscow

Former HC student-athlete Daniel Tapia has accepted an invitation to represent the U.S. in the marathon at the IAAF World Track & Field Championships to be held in Moscow in August. Tapia received the invitation while he has been preparing for the California bar exam. He was one of only 3 runners chosen to represent the U.S. at this event.

5. Hartnell College in the News

Former student-athlete Daniel Tapia chosen to represent U.S.
Immigration reform press conference.
http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20130724/NEWS01/307240009
The Western Stage.