Mission Statement: Focusing on the needs of the Salinas Valley, Hartnell College provides educational opportunities for students to reach academic goals in an environment committed to student learning, achievement, and success.

1. Facilities Master Plan community forums

Last week, we held the first two of three community forums to get input on the Facilities Master Plan. At the King City Education Center (top two photos), a nice group of students joined the discussion. They talked about their concerns and outlined their ‘wish list’ that included more high level classes and a specialty in agriculture, among others. The forum at the main campus encompassed a small group of students, staff, and community members. One of the main concerns was the need for more space for programs like nursing and the uncertainty of what will happen to the old science building once the new one opens in less than two years. Trustee Patricia Donohue was present to listen in and to also provide some input.
The purpose of the forums is to bring the community together to provide an open outlet to exchange information, to expand on developing ideas and views, and to promote discussion regarding the current and future needs of the College and community. The next community forum will be in Soledad:

- **Tuesday, March 25, 2014**
  6:00 PM at the Soledad High School, Multipurpose room

### 2. Women’s History Month welcomes Lucia Gonzalez

On Wednesday, we were expecting to have Dolores Huerta as our keynote speaker celebrating Women’s History Month, but as it could happen with high profile personalities, President Obama had a different plan for her that day, and she regretfully had to cancel due to a last minute trip to Washington D.C. She arranged for Lucia Gonzalez, Organizing Director for the Dolores Huerta Foundation to join us in her place (pictured in blue). The day started with an intimate lunch attended by students and staff. Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Elia Gonzalez and Student Trustee, Elaine Duran were in attendance. The program was moved to K-125 where a standing room only welcomed Lucia Gonzalez and enjoyed her story of struggle and success. She too travelled with Cesar Chavez and was part of the movement. The event also included poetry, music, and dance. For more on the presentation, go to the following link:


### 3. Panther Days are always eventful

The Student Center is always busy during lunch hours but even more when the Office of Student Life presents “Panther Days” – an opportunity for clubs on campus to promote their mission, recruit, and sell food items to raise funds for their activities. Last week, the clubs offered an array of goodies, from nachos to boba drinks, donuts to cupcakes. It looked like the students and the Hartnell staff enjoyed buying these special treats while helping each club achieve their purpose.
4. Preparedness is key to readiness

Last week, we held the All Hazards Preparedness Workshop at Steinbeck Hall. It was filled with valuable information that will better prepare us in case of any emergency.

5. Lunch with employees in March

On Friday, I had a nice lunch with six employees; it was a time to get to know one another and hear of their challenges and successes around campus. There is no agenda, just a time to sit and enjoy good company and good conversation.

(Left to right - Al Grainger, Luann Raras, Carlos Chavarin, Tina Esparza-Luna, Liz Estrella, and Nancy Cintron)

6. Community Forum for Juntos Podemos inspires

On Saturday, March 15, 2014, the local community gathered at Hartnell’s Student Center with access to over 20 agencies filled with information on education, security, prevention, intervention, retention, health and others. The program was sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

The Fourth Community Dialogue for Juntos Podemos had the theme “Family Values” targeting the importance of love at home and keeping your children aware of how much you care for them as parents. The forum included presentations from ex-gang member John Pineda who shared his story that resonates with the youth of today and their struggle to be part of a
'family.' His message was strong and honest. He is now a 'youth counselor' through the ACE program at Hartnell providing others with alternatives to a life on the streets. He is also on the Dean’s list here at the College. For the audience, Officer Raul Rosales' presentation was eye-opening, saying that parents need to understand that 'love' is the most important thing when dealing with their children and they need to invest time with their kids.

7. Two Hartnell Students get the Women's Opportunity Award

We should be so proud of students Stefannie Sanchez-Flores and Edna Valdez who were honored at a reception by Soroptimist International of Salinas on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. They are the recipients of $1,000 scholarships for their hard work, tenacity, and strength in overcoming obstacles. Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Here is a little bit about each of the recipients.

Stefannie (on right of me) is the mother of a 4-year-old daughter and is currently a student at Hartnell College working toward an Associate Degree in Nursing. She has a 3.95 GPA with a determination to become a registered nurse in the near future. She has worked as a medical assistant in oncology and gynecology departments working with cancer patients, many of them women and girls with language barriers. She wants to be the person in her community to help cancer patients succeed with their treatments.

Edna is the mother of a 10-year-old son and is currently a student at Hartnell College working toward an Associate of Science degree. Her goal is to obtain a BA Degree in the area of Criminal Justice with a concentration in Criminal Law and to become a Monterey County Deputy Sheriff. She would like to focus on changing troubled youth. Edna wants to utilize her life experiences to help young people understand the value of an education and to give back to her community in a positive way.

8. Hartnell Speech Team continues to impress

The Hartnell Speech Team wrapped up its competitive season at the California Community College State Championships, held in Concord, California March 12-16. Maria Hernandez (pictured) led the team, scoring 1st, 3rd, and 4th ranking in preliminary rounds; she missed the opportunity to compete for a position to represent California at the national community college speech tournament by a hair. Out of 52 competitors from 29 community colleges around the State, Hernandez placed 16th. Her speech was on Truvada, a recently
FDA approved pill that blocks HIV infection as effectively as a condom.
“I am very excited to have come so far,” said Hernandez. “I have worked all year to get the speech better and better.”
“Maria has worked so hard and I am very proud of her accomplishment,” said coach Jason Hough. “This is the first time a Hartnell student has come so close to representing the school on the national stage.”
Also competing for the team were Andrea Cervantes, Joy Jubane, Julia Felice, Ariana Valencia, and Marc Dover.
Students must research, write, and memorize an 8-10 minute speech for the competition.
**Save the date!** The team will be presenting their speeches at a special showcase, Thursday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. in Steinbeck Hall. The event is free to the public.

9. **Ag Career Fair at the Alisal Campus**

Last Friday, the Alisal Campus was busy receiving students and ag industry leaders for their annual Ag Career Fair. Students and members of the community took advantage of job opening at the following participating companies:
Thanks to all of these companies for helping us place our students on the road to success.

10. **HEP Student Profile – Gildardo tells his story**

My name is Gildardo Morales Velasquez and it is a great pleasure to share my story with you. I was born in a small municipality of Guatemala, known as Tacana, San Marcos. But my life has taken shape across a few national borders: Guatemala, Mexico, and the U.S.
Guatemala is my adored home country, the place where my life began. It was there that I began my educational path. Through great struggle, I managed to complete my six year primary
education, but economic necessity did not allow me to continue. Mexico is a beautiful place and it was there that my world expanded. At 9, my parents began taking me to Mexico to join my uncles and work the coffee fields. In the evenings, I recall seeing my cousins doing homework, and wishing that school was my only obligation as well. When the crop season ended, we returned to Guatemala. This became an annual endeavor. My greatest adventure was immigrating to the United States. Being here has allowed me to accomplish many life dreams. I attended “Plazas Comunitarias” and was able to complete my primary and middle school education, ultimately leading me to the Hartnell HEP. It is with HEP that I came to appreciate the true meaning of the word “Effort.” I worked two jobs, attended class at night, occasionally working as an ice cream man on weekends, and somehow found time to squeeze in homework. I couldn't maintain this pace for too long, and eventually began drinking energy drinks to make it through the day. This eventually caught up to me. It was precisely when we began to take our HSE exams that I became ill. I felt weakened, was visibly shaky, and was forced to miss class and exams. I immediately felt overwhelming support from the HEP staff. They constantly reminded me “you can do it.” They took an interest in my health and helped me make a plan. Thanks to all of them, I learned a valuable life lesson. We only have one life to live and we must maintain a healthy balance while striving to reach our goals. So long as you are dedicated, diligent and genuine in your attempts to better yourself, everything will naturally fall into place. It is with a great sense of pride and fulfillment that I share this achievement with you, and proudly announce that I have obtained my high school equivalency! But my educational journey will certainly not end here...

11. Spring 2014 Job Fair is next month!

Whether hoping to find a fresh start, a better job, or a new career, Hartnell students and community job seekers will find a wealth of exciting opportunities at this free job fair on Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at Steinbeck Hall. The Spring Job Fair offers an excellent opportunity for students and community members to learn more about the variety of local employment opportunities; connecting Hartnell students and community members with employers looking to hire, are a critical part of our efforts to strengthen our vision of developing leaders who will contribute to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our region and the global community. We expect around 50 vendors/employers to visit us on this day. Employers include, California Conservation Corps, T-mobile, California Highway Patrol, and Penninsula Security. For more information contact the Career and Transfer Center at 831-759-6007.

12. Leon wins three events at DeAnza Invitational

Freshman Diego Leon put on quite the show Friday at the DeAnza Invitational winning three events and setting two meet records in the process. Leon, who prepped at Anzar High School, started the day by winning the 1500 meters in meet record time of 4:00.33. He followed that
with an 800 meter win over last year’s CCS champion David Aguilar in a lifetime personal best 1:59.24. Leon capped his day with his best performance of the meet taking the 5,000 meter run in 14:59.87. The time bested the meet record by 7 seconds, made Leon just the fifth Panther in school history to run under 15 minutes, and helped the freshman be just the second male in the state to eclipse the 15 minute barrier this season. Leon was the CCS Division V cross country champion his senior year and this past fall earned All-Northern California Community College honors with his fourth place finish at the regional meet.

The DeAnza meet was not just a showcase for Leon but for several Panther sophomores as well. Austin Decker won the pole vault with a season best 15'9.75" and breaks his own meet record from last year. Kassandra Peguero leaped out to a season and lifetime best 36'9" to win the triple jump besting her own meet record as well. The mark makes the former Salinas High School standout the sixth best jumper in Hartnell history. Sophomore Lesha Boyd narrowly missed two victories but in taking the double silver set a season best in the 400 meters (58.56) and lifetime best in 200 meters (24.95). Her half lap time makes Boyd only the second female Panther to ever run under 25 seconds trailing behind only school record holder Ashley Jones at 24.68. Boyd is currently ranked in the top three in the 400 and 200 meters in Northern California. Freshman Brandi Hobson won the 5,000 meters in meet record time (19:12.63).

Also taking second overall in their events was Michael Ramirez in the 1500 (4:02.06) and 5000 meters (15:19.58) and the women’s 4x400 relay team of Boyd, Karina Carcamo, Lenae Stevens, and Stephanie Powers (4:03.32). Marcus Washington achieved regional provisional marks in the 100 meters (11.05) and 200 meters (22.41) as did Glen Felix in the 200 (22.62). Felix Cervantes (4:11.72) in the 1500 meters, Michaele Trevino (1:10.46), and Rebeca Lopez (13:28.99) in the 3000 steeplechase also achieved qualifying marks.

The Panthers will head to College of San Mateo on Friday for the Bob Rush Invitational. College of San Mateo will host the 2014 Coast Conference Championship last this season.

13. Softball – the girls are moving on up!

What a week - 8 games in 5 days! It began Tuesday at Mission - both pitchers threw well and we hit the ball well in the win. At home Thursday, after an early lead against Foothill, Dani Blaylock was unable to hold it when a 5-run 5th inning looked like it would be enough to do us in. We had bases loaded in the bottom of the 7th only to line out to right field with one out then get doubled out at 1st base to end the game.

Now, came the weekend lead against Solano, but unable to hold that lead in game one. Game two, a comeback versus San Francisco. Game three, we went toe to toe with Shasta until the 6th inning, but lost. Day 1 finished with 1 win and 2 losses for Saturday’s tournament play. Sunday was single elimination.
One of our 2 pitchers on Sunday needed to work! Larissa Perez has all pitching responsibilities. We played Chabot, a team much like ours. We win a back and forth game. Now, we have Merced at 1 p.m. Keep in mind Sunday is single elimination. We go up early, but in the 5th inning Merced gets 5 runs and is up by 4 runs. In the top of the 7th inning, we start off with a base hit that comes off the pitcher's glove then to short stop, but not in time. Then another hit, and another. All runners are advanced one base at a time. Cienna Smith's triple cleared the bases! Walk to the next batter, then stole 2nd base, runners at 3rd and 2nd bases - 2 runs scored when Erica Peters singled to right field. We go up by 1 run. In the bottom of the 7th, Larissa Perez holds Merced scoreless for her 2nd win of the day!

So, here we go to the championship game. Larissa Perez pitching her 3rd game of the day. Catcher, Alyssa Seva'aetasi out with a sore knee. We are up 5-1 after 2 1/2 innings. In the bottom of the 3rd, they get 3 runs. Hartnell is up 5-4. Larissa was done. We almost got out of the bottom of the 4th, but a long blast by their catcher with bases loaded did us in. We played hard! Sunday gave us 2 wins and 1 loss. In the beginning of the season it was lose 2 games, win 1 game; win 1 lose 1 mood. We were 4-4 for the week and we will try to do better the last third of the season.

### 14. Baseball shots this week

![Baseball game](image)

### 15. Upcoming Events

- **Facilities Master Plan Community Forum**
  Tuesday, March 25, 2014
  Soledad High School - 6:00 p.m.

- **Sixth Annual Farm Worker Awareness Week**
  Tuesday, March 25 – April 3, 2014
  Call 831.759.6042 for a list of events and films

- **Salinas Valley Ag Technology Summit**
  Thursday, March 27, 2014
  31677 Johnson Canyon Road, Gonzales, CA
  [www.sv-ag-summit.com](http://www.sv-ag-summit.com) for information and registration
Pianists Elena Martin and Jose Meliton in Concert
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Main Stage
Students free. Tickets $20 for general, $40 for VIP (reception in Gallery following concert)
831.755.6810 for tickets

Spring 2014 Job Fair
Thursday, April 10, 2014
Steinbeck Hall – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

16. IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Two great CSIT-in-3 stories on KQED
http://blogs.kqed.org/newsfix/2014/03/20/from-fields-to-computer-science/

Dr. Lewallen a speaker at Literacy Campaign event
http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/calendar/learning-literacy/event_5bdfd17e-ac6a-11e3-b327-0017a43b2370.html

About NASA SEMAA (Spanish)
http://www.ksmstv.com/2014/03/21/promueven-ciencia-y-tecnologia/

Labor organizer shares her life’s tale of tragedy and triumph
http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20140320/NEWS01/303190048/Labor-organizer-shares-her-life-s-tale-tragedy-triumph

Tribute to women and female farmworkers at Hartnell (Spanish)
http://www.ksmstv.com/2014/03/19/homenaje-a-campesinas/

Your town: Dolores Huerta

Ag and business news
http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20140317/BUSINESS/303170021/Business-news

Juntos Podemos – Community Forum held at Hartnell

Professor Robert Barminski on earthquakes (Eureka)

Barminski on more California earthquakes (Los Angeles)

Salinas says goodbye to fallen soldier