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 forum in Soledad was stimulating

The last of four forums for the Facilities Master Plan took place at Soledad High School on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. We had a really nice turnout with an array of community members with lots of ideas for facilities that will meet student learning needs and the needs of our communities.

The attendees were divided into two groups and the brainstorming led to a collection of creative ideas and wish lists.

Attendees included Hartnell Board of Trustees President Candi Depauw, Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez, Soledad Mayor Fred Ledesma, Soledad Chief of Police Eric C. Sills, Soledad H.S. Principal Elizabeth Austin, and Soledad USD Superintendent Dr. Rupi Boyd.

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.

Now it’s time for the consultants at Lionakis to take all of the ideas gathered, analyze the data, and present a Facilities Master Plan proposal by late fall 2014.

2. The Haywards award Hartnell with $500,000!

It was a great week! The Hayward Family Foundation informed us that they are committing $500,000 to Hartnell! The grant will extend the current three year grant in support of the Sustainable Design and Construction program at Hartnell College for another five years.

The Haywards were impressed with the progress of the program through their previous support and they were equally impressed with plans for continued growth and development.
The Nancy Eccles and Homer M. Hayward Family Foundation’s initial funding was critical to the development and implementation of a green construction curriculum. Hartnell College is incredibly grateful for their support and leadership in the development of the new Nancy Eccles and Homer M. Hayward Family Foundation Sustainable Design Lab at the Alisal campus. Their continued support of this program will provide for appropriate equipment, supplies, scholarships, and stipends to support the education and internship programs. This support will insure that this program firmly establishes itself as an integral and ongoing program within the college.

(Photo in front of the Pocket House, a micro-grid structure built by our students last year. L to R – Mike Thomas, Dr. Lori Kildal, Karen Hagman, Jackie Cruz, myself, and student Edna Valdez)

3. Andy Matsui continues to amaze with his generosity!

The Matsui Foundation is revising its commitment to scholarships for the CSIT-in-3 program. Effective with the 2014-15 cohort there will be 36 - $30,000 scholarships! This commitment is for the next 3 cohorts 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17. I must tell you that I was speechless when the news was delivered. Combining with the scholarships for the 2013-14 cohort, the total commitment is now $3.96 million dollars in student scholarships! This unprecedented support is a testament to the work that our faculty and staff are doing. Mr. Andy Matsui, pictured left, is delivering a message that our work with students is worthy of his philanthropy. It is a message of belief in our students and their futures. It is an honor for me to be a part of it.

4. Ag Steering Committee meeting is filled with inspiring plans

This week, leaders in ag, Hartnell instructors and staff gathered for the quarterly meeting at the Alisal Campus. The group met the new Director of Agricultural Business & Technology Institute, Dr. Susan Pheasant, whose touch is already apparent on campus.

Some of the conversation was about the need of more instructors to grow the Diesel Technology program; in addition, there were reports of different activities happening on campus to promote recruitment.
The gathering took place inside the new Technical Training Building – some of the members were not at the grand opening back in January, thus took a quick tour to check out the facilities.

At this meeting, the committee met student Roberto Ornelas who told his Hartnell story. Roberto Ornelas, pictured left, is an Agriculture Business major in his last semester at Hartnell. He will be transferring to a four-year university this fall. He was born in Salinas and raised in Castroville and is a first one in his family to attend college. He enjoys community involvement; he volunteers at his local church and was elected Artichoke King in 2009. He attended UCSC and was majoring in Computer Engineering, but he found that his passion was in the ag industry and knew about Hartnell’s successful programs. During his two years at Hartnell, Roberto has participated in various programs, internships, and activities. He is in MESA and met his CISCO mentor through the club. Last year, he was one of the 107 students who completed the STEM Internship-summer 2013; he was placed at the Naval Postgraduate School and assisted the Information Technology and Communications Services department. For this year, his internship is in crop science- he will be testing Bayer products on fruit and vegetable crops. He has big plans. He plans to earn a BS in Business Management with emphases in Agribusiness and Information Systems Management, plus in Agriculture Production and Computer Network and Security. He also is working toward a PCA (Pest Control Advisor) license. After all this, he wants to continue on to earn his Masters degree in Crop Science from either Oregon State or Cal Poly. With his enthusiasm, Roberto will fulfill all of his goals and be a positive example to follow. All the best to this young man!

5. Hartnell College Foundation Board meets a promising Ag student

At this month’s Hartnell Foundation Board meeting, the members got a treat and met Selena Pereda, a second year Agriculture Production student. She shared her passion for the study of ag-related topics more specifically plants and the way researchers study the quality of plants. She commented about how happy she is with her program, the stimulating classes, and the good relationship she has with the instructors. Selena plans to transfer to a four-year university and continue her immersion into the study of agriculture.

6. Monthly lunch with students

On Friday, March 28, I had the pleasure of hosting a lunch with students, faculty, and staff in Nursing and Allied Health. A program that is a model of success, it is refreshing to hear all the wonderful learning experiences our students go through as they participate in the program. These students get hands-
on experience at local clinics and hospitals as part of their curriculum – this is how they are prepared for real-world practice. Every month, I have these lunches to hear directly from students. I am always inspired when I hear their personal stories and successes.

7. Students and staff attend Latina Leadership event

The Associated Students of Hartnell College sponsored seven female students to attend the 27th Annual Latina Leadership Network Conference hosted at Ohlone College. The conference provides attendees with leadership development and network opportunities. The theme of the conference was Leading, Loving, Living-Life in Balance.

Faculty member Hermelinda Rocha is now the Region IV representative of the network and Laura Zavala from the Office of Student Life, was appointed webmaster for the organization. In attendance were Theresa Carbajal and Millicent Madrigal who assisted with the planning of this successful conference. Hartnell student Miriam Munoz received a $500 scholarship from the LLC.

About our scholarship recipient

Miriam Munoz was born and raised in Salinas, California. Her goals are to graduate spring 2014 and earn an Associates of Arts degree in Psychology. She plans to transfer to California State University Fresno and major in Psychology and minor in Sociology – after this, she will pursue her Master’s degree. She is involved in various clubs that include the Christian Fellowship Club, WELI, the Performing Arts Club, the Life Skills Club, and the ASHC Senate. She is proud to have acquired skills in teamwork, critical decisions, and developing relationships. “As a Latina and the first in my family to go to college, I have to admit, I am very proud of myself,” said Miriam with a smile.

8. Literacy and a call to action

This week, Literacy Campaign for Monterey County invited me to be guest speaker at their monthly meeting at the Harden Foundation. My presentation was titled The high cost of low literacy. Although this topic is not new to the audience (representatives from education, social service agencies, business/industry, Hartnell staff, and journalists), my presentation
was more a call to action. Hartnell Board of Trustees Vice President, Elia Gonzalez and Trustee Pat Donohue were present.
For more on the staggering figures regarding literacy challenges, click on this link to view the presentation.

9. Let’s welcome a couple of adorable Hartnell babies!

MAXIMILIANO LAZARO JIMENEZ
CSIT-in-3 Program Manager, Melvin Jimenez and his wife Martha are the proud parents of son Maxemiliano Lazaro Jimenez who was born on March 11, 2014. He weighed 7 lbs. 1 ounce and measured 18 1/2 inches. The baby boy is named after the short lived reign of the Mexican King, Maxemilian I, as well as after one of Mexico’s greatest presidents, Lazaro Cardenas. “After only crying for about 5 seconds, he opened his eyes and immediately stopped crying and starting observing his new surroundings,” commented the new dad. “Since then he has been quite an observant son.”

LUCA SMILES ZEPEDA
Track & Field Head Coach, Christopher Zepeda and is wife Kim are so happy to welcome their first child. Lucas Miles Zepeda was born on Friday, March 14, 2014 at 3:07 p.m. at CHOMP. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 15oz and 21 inches long. “He might be a future discus thrower with those long appendages!” exclaimed Christopher. “Mother and baby are doing well and father is still trying to catch up on sleep! Lucas is very excited to be a part of the Panther Family!”

Congratulations to Melvin and Christopher!
On Tuesday, we played #1 in NorCal, San Mateo. We went toe to toe with them and in the end we lost 3-0, but Dani Blaylock threw a 6 hitter for us. We had 2 hits by Isabella DeLeon and Andrea Estigoy.

Thursday’s game against De Anza was away. De Anza has been a thorn in our side the last ten years, but we have come out on top against them. Losses have been harmful in seeding for playoffs. We came out quick scoring 4 in the first inning. It looked like we would be able to take control of the game. The momentum could have easily changed when we stranded runners and De Anza threatened. Dani Blaylock pitched her 1st shutout allowing only 1 hit in a 6-0 win.

Next week, we are away with both games at San Francisco and Ohlone.

The Hartnell College track & field team took advantage of a beautiful Bay Area sunny day to show some solid improvement across all events. The Panther men enjoyed five victorious event marks while the women had four.

Freshman Diego Leon continues to run his way into Hartnell track history this time adding his name to the 1,500 meter all-time list. His winning time of 3:58.25 puts Leon 11th all-time in school history and at the top of the Northern California rankings. Leon also ran a personal best while taking fourth overall in the 800 meters (1:58.62). Teammate Michael Ramirez led four Panthers under the Norcal qualifying mark in the 10,000 meter run. Ramirez won in 32:22.19 with Andres Guerrero (33:11.23), Robert Valencia (33:26.73), and Conrad Preciado (34:11.92) all putting up solid first marks over 25 laps. The men’s 4x100 relay team of Austin Vojvoda, Marcus Washington, Glen Felix, and Quentin Minor took the victory in a season best 42.30. The 4x400 relay team of Austin Decker, Glen Felix, Adrian Valdez, and Nolan Fuqua crossed the line easily in first at 3:28.50. Decker was also victorious in the pole vault (15’9.75). Sophomore Glen Felix became the first Panther to eclipse the 11 second barrier in the 100 meters placing second overall in a lifetime best 10.99. Felix also placed third in the 200 meters (22.39). Adrian Valdez took second in the 400 hurdles (56.27).

Sophomore Kassandra Peguero won the long jump with a lifetime best 17’2.75”. Iesha Boyd was victorious over 200 meters (25.18) and placed second in the 400 meters (59.75). Sophomore Lenae Stevens enjoyed her best
sprint day of her career. Stevens dashed to a very close second place in the 100 meters at 12.42. The mark is the third best in school history behind her teammate last year Ashley Jones and former school record holder Regina Lambert. Stevens also moved up the 200 meters all-time list with her second place 25.76. That mark makes Stevens the eighth fastest female in school history. Both relay teams took top honors with the 4x100 relay timed in 49.93 and 4x400 relay at 4:03.89. Freshman Brandi Hobson just missed becoming one of the few females in school history to run under five minutes in the 1,500 meter run. Her second place time of 5:00.58 moves her to 14th best. Hobson was also second in the 800 meters (2:30.72). Freshman Maritza Ruelas got her NorCal provisional qualifying mark in the 1,500 meters (5:14.91) as well. 
Link to full Bob Rush Invitational Results: 

12. Upcoming Events

- **Sixth annual Farm Worker Awareness Week – Main event**
  Thursday, April 3, 2014
  Mainstage Theater – 6:00 p.m. FREE

- **Diesel Technology Open House**
  Saturday, April 5, 2014 - 10 AM - 3 PM
  Alisal Campus, 1752 E. Alisal Street
• **Spring 2014 Job Fair**
Thursday, April 10, 2014
Steinbeck Hall – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

• **President’s Forum**
Friday, April 11, 2014
Steinbeck Hall – 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

• **Participatory Governance Workshop**
Monday, April 21, 2014
At Mainstage – 12:30 noon – 2:00 p.m.

• **Groundbreaking Ceremony for new science building**
Thursday, April 24, 2014
At Lawn in front of Gymnasium – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### 13. IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

- **Facilities Master Plan community forum in Soledad (Spanish)**
  [http://www.ksmstv.com/2014/03/26/expansion-del-hartnell/](http://www.ksmstv.com/2014/03/26/expansion-del-hartnell/)

- **Donations needed for children found starving and abused outside Salinas**

- **Photo gallery of Alisal Campus**

- **Hartnell’s Leon posts top 1,500 time**

- **Hartnell readies for Ed Adams Invitational**

- **Maker takes team to title game**

- **Hartnell Alum - Leo Lanini obituary**