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.

This is the last President’s Weekly Report to the Board of Trustees for 2014. We will resume with the Weekly Report on January 9, 2015.

1. Wishing you happy holidays and a prosperous new year in 2015!!
On December 17, 2014 EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs/Foster Youth programs hosted a joint End of the Year Celebration for students and their children. The event started with a holiday greeting from Director, Paul Casey followed by Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Romero Jalomo. Hartnell staff and students attended; many students brought their children along to partake in the celebration.

Everybody got into the holiday spirit singing songs like *Jingle Bells*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, and *Frosty the Snowman*. The Hartnell cafeteria staff prepared the meal. A children’s craft area was sponsored by the Foster Youth program - children were really into decorating their Christmas crafts. The appearance of Santa Claus was a big surprise for the children! Santa greeted the children and took photos with them and their parents. Thanks to the staff for creating such fun and giving event!

On Sunday, December 14, 2014, the Foster Care and Kinship Education office held its Holiday Christmas Party with the theme T’Was the Night Before Christmas. This year, 57 families and 176 children attended this popular event; the children received toys, participated in craft activities, face painting, and enjoyed seeing a clown, Santa Claus, and Elf. The program provided children with a stocking to decorate and take home plus worked on a photo book. In addition, blankets and books with the story of Christmas were donated to each family. The event is for all county licensed foster and relative caregivers and the children they serve.
4. Director of TRiO Program on the cover of local magazine

We are so proud to share this special cover story with you; Director of TRiO, Manuel Bersamin is featured in Revista Paloma – a bilingual local magazine. To read his story, visit the following sites. Congratulations Manuel!

https://www.facebook.com/PalomaRevista2010

http://issuu.com/julioenriquez

palomarevista.blogspot.com

5. The Foundation held meeting in Rotarium and the Planetarium

The Hartnell College Foundation held its last meeting of the year last week; the business meeting took place in Merrill Hall in the Rotarium. The Foundation welcomed four new members to the board: Al Muñoz, Dr. Roger Patton, Steven Goldman, and Sharon Dilbeck. The meeting was then moved to the Planetarium for food, drinks, and a show. Guest speaker was Communication Studies student, Andrea Cervantes. She spoke of her involvement with the successful Speech Team at Hartnell, being involved in student government, and her goals to become an interpreter for the United Nations.
6. Students present their team projects at Steinbeck Hall

Steinbeck Hall wall filled with about 60 group table displays last week for this semester’s Academic Expo. Students enrolled in COM 1- Introduction to Public Speaking, COM 3- Introduction to Communication, and COM 5 -Organizational Communication, were placed in groups of 3-5 to work on this final project requirement. Instructors assigned research topics to each course of study in order for students to apply communication principles to different scenarios, conduct a literature review, and write an original analysis. Some of the topics include famous speeches, films, and national business, among others. The projects were all interesting, creative, informative, and thoughtful.

7. Hartnell Music all over our community

The Hartnell College Music Department has been busy the last few weeks with their holiday concerts. Students in the voice class (MUS 10) presented a delightful evening of songs; students in the piano classes (MUS 13A, 13B, 14, and 15) presented an equally stunning selection for their recital, and those in the Hawaiian Music classes (MUS 6) gave a multi-cultural concert featuring the music and dance of many Pacific Island countries. The Hartnell College Choir (MUS 20) and Chamber Singers (MUS 21) presented concerts of folk and holiday music for local elementary school students and for the community. The Hartnell Orchestra (MUS 34.1 and 34.4) presented a concert of Scottish folk and holiday music at the Northminster Presbyterian Church. The Estudiantina class (MUS 24) serenaded audience members with Hispanic favorites and the final concert, on December 18th, featured the Hartnell Jazz Band (MUS 26) playing with members of the San Benancio Middle School Jazz Band and recorder students from the Washington Union School District. Music Director, Steve Ettinger said “I couldn’t have been more proud of the students and instructors for the great work they did. Kudos go to everyone involved for making this such a successful concert season.”
Save the date! The next opportunity to hear these groups will be at the Music Department Extravaganza on Friday, March 20, 2015 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. All of our Hartnell ensembles will perform that evening—stay tuned for details.

8. Retirement celebrations this week for Al and Stephanie

This week, VP of Administrative Services, Al Munoz and Dean of Academic Affairs, Stephanie Low had ‘Happy Retirement’ gatherings. Hartnell employees had a chance to spend time with them and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives. Many thanks to all of them for their many contributions to Hartnell!

9. Hands-on at the Alisal

As part of a student enterprise project, Ag Industrial Technology students Justin Massa and Brenda Moore are planting Montezuma Oats on a small plot of land at the Alisal Campus. Project is being supported by AIT instructor Albert Graham. Special thanks to industry members for their help and support: Comgro Soil Amendments, Wilbur Ellis, and L. A. Hearne.

10. Student wins essay contest and a laptop

This fall, student Jonah K. Gonzalez is the winner in the Burton Scholars Backpack to Success Laptop Essay Competition. His prize was a Toshiba laptop, which he is proud to accept. The John Burton Foundation, www.johnburtonfoundation.org, sponsors an annual essay contest to current Chafee recipients and eligible Chafee students.
attending a California college. This year’s essay topic was “What Motivates Me to Stay in School.”

Jonah is a 20-year-old young man in his second semester here at Hartnell. What motivates Jonah is his desire to, one day, own his own business. He would be the first of his family to obtain a college degree and his main goal is to obtain his master’s degree in Agricultural Business. This is the first year that we had a student apply. Congratulations Jonah!

11. Speech team continues to inspire and win

The Hartnell Speech Team continued its success in December at the Birney Young Burning Passion Invitational Speech Tournament, held at UC Berkeley. The team placed 5th overall competing against 16 other two-year and four-year schools from three states, including the University of Oregon, the University of Wisconsin Madison, and UC Berkeley.

The team earned multiple individual awards, including:

- Meritzy Ayala- 1st place Novice Informative Speaking;
- Adrian Flores- 2nd place Open Poetry Interpretation; 4th place Open Dramatic Interpretation; 4th place Novice Program Oral Interpretation;
- Victoria Garcia- 2nd place Open Communication Analysis;
- Lourdes Tinajero and Christopher Rendon: 2nd place Open Dramatic Duo Interpretation;
- Tanaya Landry- 3rd place Novice Program Oral Interpretation;
- Andrea Cervantes: 6th place, Open Poetry Interpretation.

“This team is consistently performing well,” said coach Jason Hough. “We are hopeful this will be the year we get to send a Hartnell student to compete at the national level.”

The team’s next competition will be held at Las Positas Community College on January 31, 2015.

12. Baby announcements!

Juniper Elizabeth Plumb

Sweet baby Juniper Elizabeth Plumb was born on Dec. 11, 2014 at 12:53 p.m. She weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and per her mom, English Professor, Meagan Plumb, “Juniper has the longest eyelashes, and has absolutely stolen my heart and her dad’s.”
Elijah Omar Vela
On November 25, 2014, STEM Counselor, Denyss Estrada gave birth to her beautiful son Elijah Omar Vela. Denyss and proud dad Omar are happy to share their joy of this new addition to the family.

Karuna Afiona June
Maya Watson brought Karuna Afiona June into the world on November 28, 2014. “Now the Little Tiny Queen of Everything has a team of six serving her: mom, dad, two grandmas, a grandpa, and visiting dog Argus. Core team members are exhausted and elated and never-endingly grateful!” said Maya.

13. New marketing campaign – featuring the heart of Hartnell

A new marketing campaign was produced to promote ‘the heart of Hartnell.’ These are 30-second commercials featuring students, a faculty member, and an alum. I hope you feel as proud as I do for what we have here at Hartnell.

http://vimeo.com/113760646

14. Upcoming Events

Cash for College Day!
Saturday, February 21, 2015
Starting at 9:00 a.m. (12 noon and 1:30 p.m.)
Session in Spanish at 10:30 a.m.
Student Services, B-110
Students who are applying for financial aid to cover the 2015-16 academic year.
Campus Holiday Closure

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Alvarez is conference player of the year

Signings confirmed
http://www.gogamecocks.com/2014/12/18/657814_gamecocks-officially-announce.html?rh=1

No one gets by former balers standout Perez
http://www.sanbenitocountytoday.com/sports/college/no-one-gets-by-former-balers-standout-perez/article_10c61a42-864c-11e4-b30b-ef10b704891c.html

Leon heads for Montana State

Ernest Hawkins to play for South Carolina