1. TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, the Hartnell CCD Governing Board swore in recently elected Trustees at its annual organizational meeting. In a standing room only, Senator Bill Monning, Monterey County Supervisor Fernando Armenta, and Monterey County Supervisor John Phillips were present to swear in Trustee Manuel M. Osorio, Trustee Aurelio Salazar, Jr., David Gomez Serena, and Patricia Donohue. After the swearing in, we took a little break for a short reception and photo op. After that, it was time to get to business and the evening was filled with a lot of good information from our area leaders, presentations, and decisions. Trustees were appointed as representatives to a number of committees, councils, and organizations. In addition, the Trustees voted unanimously for Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez to be Board President and Trustee Patricia Donohue to be Board Vice President through December 2016. Welcome to the new trustees! The website link for dates, times, and locations for the 2016 meetings follows: http://www.hartnell.edu/hartnell-ccd-governing-board-meeting-dates
Last week, I hosted a President’s Ag Luncheon at the Alisal Campus to meet with from the Ag industry. The purpose of these lunch gatherings is to showcase the Ag programs housed at the Alisal Campus, career options and training to local youth and adults, and the impact that Hartnell College is having on the Salinas Valley Agricultural Workforce. Trustee Candi DePauw was there and spoke of the need for support of the Ag programs at Hartnell in order to fulfill the needs of the local industry.

The program included two testimonials from students. Ignacio Mendoza, Ag Business student, shared his background coming from a farming family in Castroville and transferring to University of California Davis in spring 2016. And, Jesse Aguilar, a promising Diesel Tech student with a vision to become an outstanding technician and be a role model for his young sibling by pursuing a college degree and making his parents proud.

Under the Leadership of the Ag Steering Committee, Hartnell College's Ag Institute will continue to work with the ag industry to develop programs responding to the industry needs, strengthen relations with the industry, provide career options, and training opportunities – to, in turn, change the lives of our students and community. The NASA lab was filled with enthusiasm and pride as the 14 leaders in Ag heard from the students and from the Hartnell administrators in attendance. A tour of classroom labs, the Technical Training Building, Welding Shop, and Fabrication Shop, provided an overview of our programs.
3. OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE – BUSIEST HOLIDAY SEASON YET!

The Office of Student Life and the ASHC have been busy this Holiday Season supporting many charitable activities. Following are several that expressed the true meaning of giving and undoubtedly will make a difference to children and families across our county and beyond.

**A TURKEY MEAL FOR CDC FAMILIES**
The Holiday season began when 50 Child Development Center families received a Thanksgiving turkey meal complete with all the trimmings. The ASHC were there on a Saturday morning delivering the meals to deserving families.

**SALINAS PARADE OF LIGHTS**
The next activity was Hartnell’s participation in the Salinas Parade of Lights. This year’s theme was **95 Years of Excellence**, and the theme was displayed throughout the float. The ASHC collaborated with the AG Ambassador Club to design the float and along with the Cheer and Folklorico Clubs, the float was a huge success with spectators.

**LIGHTS OF LOVE 2015**
The third year of the Lights of Love has been a great success as 360 children names were submitted this year. The generosity of staff, students, the ASHC and the Foster Care and Kinship Program have once again graciously supported to ensure that every child will receive a gift.

**Unspoken Works delivers bikes for Lights of Love!**
On Wednesday, Lisa and Ben Bruce from Gilroy’s First Baptist Church – Unspoken Works, showed up to the Student Center with 15 bikes for Lights of Love! The bikes will be given to an array of age levels and they all come with a helmet and a bike lock (even the tiny ones). The ‘Lights’ were chosen at random by Director of Communications, Esmeralda Montenegro Owen who is a Board
Member for Unspoken Works; this is the second year that she requested and receives the bikes for Lights of Love. The recipient families will get a big surprise this week as presents are picked up!

**CARE PACKAGES FOR LGBT YOUTH**
The Pride Club also participated by preparing care packages for LGBT homeless youth, where over 100 care packages will be delivered to those in need at the EpiCenter and out on the streets. The care packages include basic hygiene products such as: toothbrush and toothpaste, soap and shampoo, deodorant, and shaving products.

**FESTIVAL OF TREES**
We had 25 clubs partake in the 2015 edition of Festival of Trees. The clubs decorated the pine trees to be on display at the Student Center. These will later be donated to families in need. The activity was a great opportunity for clubs to work together for a common cause, and it certainly made the Student Center feel like we are in the Holiday Season.

**4. HARTNELL STUDENT ACTORS CHOSEN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**
The production of “The Birds” was performed by the Hartnell College Theatre department, with great success! Under the leadership of Dr. Marnie Glazier, Director; Steve Ettinger, Composer; Gabriel Alvizo, Student Director; and John Glazier, Designer - this all-student theatre performance production was entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. We were one of 10 selected from a pool of 75 to be judged. Chris Mangels of the College of the Sequoias, came to observe the actors in action on December 5, 2015 and to Hartnell College’s merits, selected some of our students for individual scholarship contests. The judge selected three noteworthy student actors from our show: Jacob Horn, Jose Navarrete, and Daisy Barajas, who are invited to participate in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition. Students Gabriel Alvizo and Norma Delgado received meritorious recognition and will also attend for student directing and design. The performance will be filmed in the coming week. Congratulations to our five selected contest participants and congratulations to our team for excellent work! The team is hard at work raising funds to attend the Festival; the ASHC has granted $3,000 to the students as a good start to their fundraising efforts.
5. SPREAD THE WORD! LATINOS IN TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) has shared information with Hartnell about the Latinos in Technology Scholarship. This scholarship, established with SVCF by the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley, will award up to $30,000 to help 100 Latino students continue their education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Current college students from the Greater Silicon Valley area who are entering their junior or senior year are eligible to apply. View full eligibility requirements and application details online at http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/scholarships/latinos-technology-scholarship. Applications will be accepted online starting Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016. This is a great opportunity for many of our transferring sophomores!

6. GUEST SPEAKER IN CHILD PSYCHOLOGY CLASS

Professor of Psychology, Alicia Samis had a special speaker attend her classes. Monterey County Children’s Behavioral Health Department’s Bob Brunson attended Child Psychology classes on main campus and King City Education Center to talk to students about careers in Child Development plus a talk on how to raise emotionally healthy children.

He was engaging as he shared his personal and professional experiences as a father and as a therapist. “He left my students inspired and touched by his knowledge and compassion,” stated Professor Samis.

At the end of the presentations, he handed out a free book and DVD for every one of the students! The book is "How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children" by Dr. Gerald Newmark. The DVD is "First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain." Both materials are fascinating and completely relevant to what students learned in class. Thank you Mr. Brunson for taking time to inspire and motivate our valued students!
7. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT HAS A CELEBRATION

It is the Holiday Season and the Office of Institutional Advancement got together at The Village in Salinas for a nice breakfast and white elephant gift exchange. Executive Director, Jackie Cruz addressed the staff and student workers in thanking them for all that each one of them contribute to the success of Hartnell College and the Hartnell College Foundation. (Not in attendance: Dr. Susan Pheasant and Melvin Jimenez)

8. CDC BRINGS CHILDREN TO FOUNDATION FOR SOME CAROLING

The Child Development Center staff and children, stopped by the Hartnell College Foundation on Thursday, for some good old Christmas Caroling. The children sang Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Silent Night, and others in front of more than a dozen spectators. It was a sight to be seen!

9. CALWORKS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT- CARMEN HERNANDEZ GOMEZ

As an English Language Learner, Carmen Hernandez Gomez has struggled with the language, especially in written and oral exams, but despite those challenges, she confronts them and seeks out support. She came to this country when she was 16 years of age, attended high school, but had to work
cleaning houses after graduating to help support her mother and five brothers. But higher education was always a goal.

This upcoming May 2016, Carmen will earn her Associate of Arts for Transfer degree in Psychology, along with certification that she completed her California State University general education.

“In my capacity as academic counselor at Hartnell College for the CalWORKs program, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Carmen whose determination to excel academically is admirable as she maintains a 3.6 grade point average,” shared Counselor Dr. Nancy Reyes. “She often shares with her peers the challenges of being a full time student, part-time employee, and mother of four children.” Carmen finds her motivation in her children and it is that drive that has allowed her to achieve placement on the President’s List for the past two semesters.

“The CalWORKs program staff has been there for me like a family,” said Carmen. “They have helped me understand my educational plan and have been a great support for me, especially now that I am going to transfer to CSUMB.”

“I know I still have a long way to go, but having the support of programs like CalWORKs and the support of my family, and seeing my kids being proud of their mother, makes me have the energy and the eagerness to achieve anything in life,” Carmen added.

**10. IN HER OWN WORDS – ALEXIS MUÑOZ**

Two weeks ago, we had a press conference to present the $1.5 million investment from California Endowment. One of the student speakers was Alexis Muñoz. Here is her speech – it blew everyone away! This young lady exemplifies the grit of our students – a fierce determination to succeed regardless of the challenges and obstacles.

_First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to tell you about the blessings that I have encountered here at Hartnell. Ever since I was a little girl, I knew in my heart that I wanted to be a doctor. The greatest struggle of having that dream as a child, was finding an outlet to implement it. You see, the majority of my family has suffered from drug abuse, gang violence, poverty, homelessness, and a lack of education. My greatest need growing up was not our lack of money, but rather the lack of an educational role model to look up to._

_Hartnell has opened the doors of my educational pathway in ways that I could have never imagined. It has provided me with teachers who are not only brilliant academically but beautiful spiritually. I have received nothing but love and opportunity here at Hartnell from not only the_
Instructors, but from the board of trustees, directors, deans, the president, and financial aid staff.

I have had our loving and caring MESA director as well as my instructors open their hearts, and place faith in my journey to succeed as a scientist, and as a future pediatrician. They have shown me countless scholarship opportunities like the WELI scholarship, Hartnell Scholarship, the Worths' Memorial Scholarship, STEM Scholarship, and several others. These scholarships provided the financial support that I needed to continue my education. I have also had various opportunities within the STEM Internship program, in which I worked for and conducted research at science organizations. I was privileged enough to work and present research at the United States Department of Agriculture, the ACCESS Internship Program at the University of California Santa Cruz, and the National SACNAS Conference in Washington D.C.

Among my various experiences, one of the most influential was the valuable skills I learned at the USDA. My mentor taught me what it meant to work for scientists. Whereas, the University of California Santa Cruz taught me what it meant to be a bio-chemical researcher. These experiences have paved my pathway for becoming a successful medical student. Never in my life did I imagine that someone with my socioeconomic disadvantages would reach such heights.

My goal is to attain my bachelors of Science degree at the University of California Santa Cruz. I then hope to apply to the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences Medical to School to receive my M.D. Ph.D. My dream is to make a difference in the lives of children who came from backgrounds much like mine. I hope to instill the same hope and drive in them that Hartnell has given to me. Had it not been for the grace of God and the encouragement I received from Hartnell’s wonderful teachers, I would not be where I am today. – Hartnell student Alexis Muñoz, Class of 2016

Janet Marie Espinola Pessagno, 60, of Salinas passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, surrounded by her family. She was born November 24, 1955 in Santa Clara to George and Alice Espinola. Janet was a skilled professor, active community member, and, most important, a loving mother, daughter, sibling, and friend. She was an English professor at Hartnell College for almost 30 years, teaching thousands of local students and receiving, among numerous other awards, the 2007 Ercia Harden Teaching Excellence Award, an honor recognizing top instructors in Monterey County. She also served as a Senator on Hartnell’s Academic Senate, an active member of the Basic Skills Initiative Committee, an advisor to the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Program, and an avid contributor to the school through Federal Title 5 Grant work. In addition to being a talented English grammarian and linguist, she was fluent in Portuguese and Spanish and spent two years in Spain. She
loved to cook—always interested in new recipes from the Food Network channel—and she loved even more the sights, sounds, and smells of family and friends gathering for a meal. Her four sons were her center. Janet is survived by her four sons, Anthony, Stephen, Robert, and John; her mother, Alice; her brothers, Doug, John, and Steve; and her sister, Joanne. She is preceded in death by her father, George (Sr.); her brother, George (Jr.); and the father of her sons, Steve. Please keep the Espinola Pessagno family in your thoughts and prayers.

**12. NEW FIRE ALARM COVERS ON CAMPUS!**

Due to the false fire alarms we have experienced in the last few weeks, we have installed protective covers over the fire alarm pull stations. These covers have helped to stop false fire alarms around the world for more than 30 years, without restricting legitimate alarms. These offer excellent protection against physical damage (both accidental and intentional) for both interior and exterior locations. These covers have been used in schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, stores, hotels, and public buildings of almost every kind, where there is a threat of false alarms.

Stopper II consists of a clear, tamperproof, tough polycarbonate shield and frame. When the Stopper II with horn is lifted to gain access to the protected alarm, a piercing self-contained 95 or 105 dB warning horn (at one foot) is activated. Immediate attention is drawn to the area and a prankster will either run or be caught. The cover is connected to the frame by a cable. When the cover is lifted, it drops off of the frame and a horn will sound until the cover is snapped back onto the frame.

**13. A WEEKEND TO INSPIRE THE ENTREPRENEUR IN YOU**

This is a great opportunity for our innovative students and staff! Register now for **Startup Weekend Monterey**, January 29-31, 2016. It is a weekend to inspire ideas— a 54-hour marathon offering a chance to learn the basics of developing startup businesses and launching successful ventures. Startup Weekend Monterey is courtesy of CSU Monterey Bay’s Institute for Innovation and Economic Development. Surrounded by smart, passionate people and with the best tools and approaches at your disposal, you will take giant leaps toward creating a business, becoming a founder, and connecting with the right people and resources. For more information and tickets go to startupweekendmb.co.

Early Bird registration fee, available prior to January 4, is $75 ($39 for students). Regular fee is $99 ($49 for students). The fee covers seven meals from Friday night through Sunday, and parking for the weekend.
14. TOY AND BOOK DRIVE – STILL TIME TO HELP AND GIVE!

Toy & Book Drive
Help the Transfer Club bring joy to the children in the hospital this holiday season.

We will be accepting:
- New, unwrapped plastic toys (durable enough to withstand heavy disinfecting)
- New children books
- & hand knit baby hats for newborns

For donation drop-off please stop by the Office of Student Life in room C-140. We will be collecting items until Thursday, December 17th at 5 pm.

15. UPCOMING EVENTS

ASHC Canned Food Drive
December 1-14, 2015
Drop off canned goods in the Office of Student Life.

Future Farmers of America Field Day
Jan. 30, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Alisal Campus
Competitions in vegetable judging, floriculture, farm power (i.e. tractor driving), and Ag welding.
Attesti and Galli Concert
Friday, February 19, 2016
Mainstage – FREE concert for all!

Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit
March 30, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Alisal Campus

Ag Institute Open House
April 23, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Alisal Campus

16. IN THE NEWS

Watch our STEM students and Alumni in this incredible internship at UC Berkeley
http://multiverse.ssl.berkeley.edu/assure
Centro de Innovación y Tecnología “Western Growers” Abre Sus Puertas
http://noticias.entravision.com/monterey-salinas/2015/12/08/centro-de-innovacion-y-tecnologia-western-growers-abre-sus-puertas/
Bobcat Harriers Pass out Team Awards- Diego Leon
Comets dulled in bowl rematch
http://cccadvocate.com/3324/sports/comets-dulled-in-bowl-re-match/
Hartnell in Bowl Game Against Contra Costa Again