At a press conference on Tuesday, January 19 I announced how the Hartnell Community College District will save taxpayers $175 million! We are forever grateful for the support of the community in passing Measure H in 2002. Saving the taxpayers $175 million through this refunding is our way of demonstrating that we are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the taxpayers.

“This is a great accomplishment for the community. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank the Hartnell College leadership for executing the Board’s commitment to ensuring good stewardship of monies the citizens entrust us with,” said Erica Padilla-Chavez, President of the Board of Trustees. “We are committed to continue the effective utilization of resources and to provide our community with the best learning facilities and opportunities to meet their educational and career needs.”

On December 22, 2015, the Hartnell Community College District (“District”) successfully issued a financing (“2015 Refunding Bonds”) that refinanced $94,840,985 of the general obligation bonds that voters approved in 2002 for Measure H to finance the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, and modernization of the District’s facilities.

Through this refinancing, property owners in the district will save $175,000,000 over the next 34 years, which equates to more than $10.64 per $100,000 of assessed value annually. The largest tax rate savings begin in 2035.

“The taxpayers of the Hartnell Community College District put its trust in the Hartnell Board of Trustees and its administration to deliver on the promise through Measure H to create world class learning facilities,” said Dr. Deneen Guss, Chair of the Citizens’ Oversight Committee for Measure H and Deputy Superintendent for Monterey County Office of Education. “The District has delivered on that promise and the community is proud of the work being done here at Hartnell to educate our youth and our adults.”
As part of its preparation in selling the 2015 Refunding Bonds, the District’s credit quality was reviewed by Moody’s Investors Services and Standard & Poor’s. The rating agencies confirmed the District’s excellent rating of “Aa2” from Moody’s and “AA-” by Standard and Poor’s.

The 2015 General Obligation Refunding Bonds were sold with an average interest rate of 4.25% with the final maturity of 2049.

2. STUDENT SUCCESS CONFERENCE IS ENGAGING AND EYE OPENING

School is back in session! The Fifth Annual Student Success Conference welcomed faculty and engaged other employees in two days of interesting talks and interactive workshops. One of the most talked about sessions was the keynote by Dr. Jean Twenge; her talk was called “Generation Me” plus she offered a breakout session on teaching and working with today’s generation of students and another on entitled students. One of the sessions was delivered by Dr. Norval Wellsfry who touched on the revised ACCJC accreditation standards and the new Quality Focus Essay.

I had the opportunity to address important information about the state of the college, faculty positions being considered for the next academic year, our feeder high schools, and the annual Employees for Student Success Campaign. This conference is offered each spring, right before the start of classes.

3. SEVENTH ANNUAL EMPLOYEES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS CAMPAIGN

January 19, 2016 marked the kick-off of the Seventh Annual Employees for Student Success Campaign. Thanks and congratulations to those who have already participated. The Committee is grateful for your support and leadership! Last year, the campaign raised more than $77,000 to support our students. This year, the goal is at $85,000. We need your help to reach this goal!

Each week the Employees for Student Success Committee will hold a raffle and draw the name of someone who has given to this year's campaign.
Congratulations to the winners of our first Employees for Student Success Campaign drawing:
  o James Butler
  o Ligia Polio
  o Parviz Entekahbi

Please take a moment to fill out a pledge form, directing a one-time donation or a monthly payroll deduction, and take it to E-101.

4. NEW SEMESTER AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

The spring 2016 semester has picked up full-speed this week and with the new semester and New Year, new opportunities are on the horizon for our students. On January 22, 2016, nearly 40 students attended an information session on the opportunity to be part of the UC Berkeley Space Science and Engineering Internship Program. This was an effort coordinated by retiree, Andy Newton and Professor, Joe Welch with a guest presentation by Dr. Claire Raftery, who is a space physicist and science educator who runs the undergraduate internship program at the Space Sciences Laboratory at UC Berkeley. Dr. Rafter shared with our students that her first-generation college experience has been a factor in her commitment to sharing research opportunities and mentoring others as they strive to achieve their own first-generation college goals. She highlighted that there is a nation-wide focus on providing research opportunities for undergraduate students in engineering and science at the community college level. Her internship program, the ASSURE program, is funded by the National Science Foundation and provides up to 10 summer internship placements for community college and first generation students to conduct cutting-edge research projects, supervised by leading experts in the space science and engineering fields--an exciting research
experience that a number of Hartnell alumni have successfully accomplished in the past few summers. This program seeks to provide opportunities for enthusiastic and dedicated first generation and minority students, particularly those students for whom a research opportunity may be a challenge. Although anyone enrolled in a fall 2016 undergraduate course is eligible to apply, rising sophomore, junior and senior students are preferred. Students majoring in physics, math, astronomy, astrophysics, computer science, chemistry, geology, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and other related subjects are encouraged to apply. The deadline to apply to the ASSURE Internship Program is February 1, 2016. To apply students should go to: http://multiverse.ssl.berkeley.edu/assure and are welcome to visit the Transfer and Career Center in C-132 for assistance.

5. AMONG INCREDIBLE WOMEN AT IMPOWER LUNCHEON

I had the privilege and pleasure to attend the IMPOWER luncheon last Thursday as a volunteer raffle ticket seller. The IMPOWER committee asks ‘men’ in the community to volunteer and persuade as many attendees (mostly women) as possible to purchase the raffle tickets for a chance to win beautiful prizes. The funds raised go to support the work of the organization in the community.

The keynote speaker was Diane Danvers Simmons; her topic, *Spirituality in Stilettos* – which attracted Director of Communications, marketing, and public affairs, Esmeralda Montenegro Owen to attend (she also purchased tickets from me.) Diane was engaging and wise in having the audience participate in a few exercises and making us all laugh. Although I was one of very few men in the audience, it was a program fit for all! At the end of the lunch, I was crowned “raffle king” for selling the most tickets! It was also great to see some of my ‘clients’ with winning tickets.

6. CSIN3 HEAVY CONNECT SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Over the three week break, our CSin3 students had the opportunity to participate in the *Heavy Connect Software Development Workshop*. All but one of our students took advantage of this opportunity and
spent 4-6 hours each day programming. This was all in addition to their 3-hour daily intersession course. The workshop provided an incredible environment that challenged and grew each of the participating students! We thank Heavy Connect for caring for and believing in our students.

7. MUJERES EN ACCION: MARTHA SHOOTS FOR THE STARS!

In the fall of 2015, we introduced you to the community group Mujeres en Accion (women in action), a group of women from Salinas and Soledad who act as a support group for one another. They meet every week to talk about how to best support their children, families, and also share their educational and professional goals. Seven of their members have now completed their first semester at Hartnell College with amazing results. Four of these inspiring ladies earned a 4.0 GPA and three earned a 3.0 GPA! “Their college experience has provided them with academic and personal confidence and boosted their self-esteem and sense of self-advocacy,” said Laura Zavala, College Pathways Coordinator. The ladies are looking forward to taking on the spring 2016 semester. Three of them have now qualified for the EOPS program as AB-540 students. Martha Zepeda Zepeda is one of the members of this group. Martha is a mother of four and a former field worker. She immigrated to the United States as an adult and started taking ESL and GED classes at Soledad Adult School. Martha is a clear example of the determination and potential of our local community. She commutes from Soledad on a daily basis to attend her classes and her SI sessions. She tells us that her goal is to one day become a counselor or Social Worker and give back to her community.

8. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICES WELCOMES HERBERT CORTEZ!

Herbert Cortez is our new Curriculum and Scheduling Technician for the Office of Academic Affairs. He comes to us after having served at Heald College as Director of Academic Affairs, and supervisor of the development, implementation, and management of scheduling as well as academic curriculum policies/procedures. He also served as lead academic liaison with WASC Jr./WASC Sr. representatives. To complement financial management, advocacy and public policy work experiences, Cortez worked as Program Manager for CSUMB, where he was honored by the Faculty Association for his success in the area of student engagement as a First Year Seminar Lecturer. His success in serving a diverse student body has been in establishing an “Every Student Counts” culture. Herbert received a Bachelor of Science in Policy Analysis and Management from Cornell University, with a concentration in Latino Studies. He also holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Pepperdine University. In his spare time, he enjoys playing with his 2-year-old son, training for long distance runs, hiking, and trying out new recipes.
9. A NEW ROLE FOR MELVIN JIMENEZ

Melvin Jimenez has a new title and role. He is now our Academic Follow Up Services Specialist, a faculty position under the Office of Student Affairs. He previously served as the CSin3 program manager, helping successfully launch and implement the college’s three-year computer science program, a public/private partnership between Hartnell College, CSU Monterey Bay, and the Matsui Foundation. Following his success with the CSin3 program, Jimenez will now be working across all three Hartnell campuses, helping institutionalize the Early Support Program.

Jimenez will be working with an amazing team of counselors and staff, including Brenda Jones and Brook Foley on main campus, Wendy Sosa and Violeta Mendoza Wenger at the East Alisal campus, and Ernesto Rodriguez and Gabriela Lopez over at King City campus. He will be reporting to Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Mark Sanchez and together with this all-star team, Jimenez hopes to build stronger ties with faculty, staff, and student services across campuses, institutionalizing the early support program with the ultimate hope of increasing student retention across all disciplines and departments.

“This is an exciting challenge that I’m looking forward to helping tackle,” shared Jimenez. “It’s been a huge honor serving the college as CSin3 program manager, and now I’m looking forward to continuing my work with the institution as the new Academic Follow up Services Specialist. To all faculty wishing to participate in the Early Support Program, my door is wide open!”

10. MEN’S BASKETBALL RANKINGS

Hartnell’s Men’s Basketball team has made tremendous progress in recent polls - ranking in the top 15 in the last three. Currently they stand at 16th overall. Riley Knowles is 4th in the state in scoring and 8th in assists; 22.6 ppt and 5.9 apt. Not only do these student-athletes perform well on the court they also excel in the classroom. Ten out of 13 on the team have above a 3.0 GPA. The team has completed over 400 community service hours and is currently on track to meet their goal of 750 by the end of the school year! Keep up the good work! You are all shining examples of the Heart of Hartnell!
11. UPCOMING EVENTS

Future Farmers of America Field Day
Saturday, January 30, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Alisal Campus

Attesti and Galli Concert
Friday, February 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Mainstage – FREE concert for all!

Cash for College is back!
February 27, 2016
More details to come.

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

Party in the Library
May 7, 2016
www.hartnell.edu/party

Save the date!

Law Day
Monday, May 2, 2016
A conference for students about careers in law and law enforcement

12. IN THE NEWS

Hartnell Lowers Debt, Mulls New Bond

Spanish – Hartnell benefits from Measure H and saves tax payers millions in refunding
http://noticias.entravision.com/monterey-salinas/2016/01/19/hartnell-se-beneficia-de-medida-h/

Hartnell Saves Taxpayers Millions of Dollars

PPT – Spring 2016 Student Success Conference presentation
Employees for student success campaign

Cash for College workshop at Hartnell

Professor Lindsey Bertomen featured

No Shame Theatre Comes to Hartnell

“Pshaw! on the Hawkshaw Society” Coming to Hartnell

Hartnell College Wideout Ronnie Turner is a Junior College Success Story.
http://www.scout.com/college/mississippi-state/story/1634211-turner-planning-two-more-trips

Basketball: Miskin Rediscovers Love for the Game
http://www.sanbenitocountytoday.com/sports/basketball-miskin-rediscovers-love-for-the-game/article_7d78cd3a-be39-11e5-b4f0-b350faa827b2.html

Track athletes set high marks