Students Lopez and Garcia receive big scholarship boost for UC plans

It was my privilege over the past week to share life-changing scholarship news with two outstanding members of Hartnell’s Class of 2019 – Maria Yeni Lopez Escobar and Bobbie Joe Garcia, both of whom received two-year $20,000 scholarships.

Lopez, a native of El Salvador and a 2016 graduate of Salinas High School, learned April 25 that she will receive the Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Award to attend the University of California, Santa Cruz. She plans to study psychology. The Pister scholarship goes to students who have overcome adverse socioeconomic circumstances, have a demonstrated commitment to assisting and improving the lives of others, and have financial aid eligibility.

Lopez, who said she’s especially appreciative of help she has received through the Academy for College Excellence program at Hartnell, aspires to become a counselor. “I would like to be the person who helps others, in return for the help I received,” she said.

On April 29, I was again joined by colleagues to share a scholarship announcement with Bobbie Joe Garcia, the 2016 valedictorian at Greenfield High School. Garcia will use her two-year, $20,000 scholarship from the Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation at either UC Berkeley or UC Santa Cruz, both of which have accepted her for admission.
In addition to her studies, Garcia has worked on campus as a Supplemental Instruction Leader and as an intern working with Hartnell and Stanford University students on the Salinas History Project, as well as for MILPA, a leadership and infrastructure development organization in Salinas.

“Whenever I tell people about my education, I always tell them Hartnell was the best decision I ever made,” she said.

**President’s Spring Report provides opportunity to share pride in results**

Affirmation, momentum and growth were common themes in my President’s Spring Report to the Hartnell campus community on April 25. I am grateful to all who attended the presentation in Steinbeck Hall.

I took the opportunity to again acknowledge the excellence and hard work that helped us achieve an outstanding preliminary report from the accreditation visiting team. Receiving several commendations and no compliance recommendations was very gratifying.

I also noted our development of an Operational Plan for 2019-20, which will ensure that we take steps to attain the student completion goals in our pending Strategic Plan for 2019-24, which is in turn in line with the California Community Colleges’ Shared Vision for Student Success. I greatly appreciate the work of our many College Redesign Teams that are preparing us for implementation of Guided Pathways over the next several years.

I shared good news about our head count enrollment, now on track to maintain recent steady growth in 2018-19, at 7,354 or a 2 percent increase over 2017-18. We are one of only two colleges in our region that have seen such growth, and several have faced significant enrollment declines.
Likewise, our gains in transfer of students to the CSU system and in particular to the UC system reflect the synergy of all our many efforts to put students first. It is a direct result of the work our faculty, staff, and administrators are doing to help our students achieve.

**Salinas Valley Promise receives funding commitment from county**

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors on April 23 approved investing $200,000 in Hartnell’s Salinas Valley Promise, which will provide free in-state tuition, mentorship and life skills training for first-time, full-time freshmen beginning this fall. The funds come with the prospect for additional support in 2020-21.

All the supervisors publicly expressed their belief in the value of the Promise program before voting in support. The funding, which we hope will be supplemented with contributions from all cities in the Hartnell Community College District, will provide vital resources to increase college completion and grow the educated workforce in our communities and region.

In addition to me, several people made important statements as part of the college’s presentation, including Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin, Vice President Jacqueline Cruz and students Estefania Escalante Solis and Sergio Parra. Hartnell College Foundation Board President Kurt Gollnick, Salinas Valley Promise Committee Member Monica Tovar and two additional Hartnell College students added public comment in support of the Promise.

We are extremely grateful to the supervisors for their confidence in this innovative program.

**Two weeks, two ‘first pitches’ for President Lewallen, a diamond veteran**

I was honored with an opportunity to throw out the first pitch at the Panthers’ final home game of their 2019 season,
a 6-2 victory over Skyline. Coincidentally, this opportunity came one week before I will again make the ceremonial opening toss on May 2 for the Los Angeles Angels' Cal Poly Pomona Night.

I was invited to represent the university as a 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and a third baseman for the Broncos 1976 National Championship baseball squad. Our team was inducted into the university’s Athletics Hall of Fame last year.

**Rancho Cielo culinary students cater benefit lunch at Casa de Lewallen**

As we have for several years, Michele and I hosted a four-course plated lunch on April 23 at our Prunedale home that was a silent auction item at November’s Gala for the Arts fundraiser.

We and our guests were delighted with the meal prepared and presented by Chef Estevan Jimenez and his students from the Drummond Culinary Academy at Rancho Cielo Youth Campus. I also must give a big shout out to Kurt Gollnick, chief operating officer at Scheid Family Wines, for providing the wine for the event.

The students were wonderful as usual in all aspects of the event, from food preparation to serving. The menu included everything from Swank Farms Gazpacho to Rancho-Spiced Grilled New York Steak to a baked chocolate ganache. It was all delightful.

Many thanks to longtime Hartnell supporters Whiz and Bruce Lindsey of Carmel for purchasing the auction item and supporting the arts at Hartnell.

**Counselors breakfast on April 12 emphasizes Hartnell opportunities**

Hartnell welcomed high school counselors from throughout the district for an informational breakfast on April 12 in Steinbeck Hall. I presented on our many outcomes and initiatives, along with Dr. Romero Jalomo, vice president of student affairs, Governing Board member Manual Osorio and others.
The attendees learned about such important topics as AB 705, the Salinas Valley Promise, and other collaborative college readiness and completion efforts. Carla Johnson, dean of student affairs/student success, shared a message of “But first, Hartnell,” to drive home the point that Hartnell can be an ideal starting point for any student’s academic journey and not be viewed as a “back-up plan.”

The event planning committee included Johnson as well as Isaura Arreguin, Gabriela Lopez, Bronwyn Moreno and Laurencia Walker.

**WELI and MILE culminate year with workshop and celebration**

The 2018-19 cohorts of the Men’s Institute for Leadership and Education (MILE) and the Women’s Education and Leadership Institute (WELI) participated in their final quarterly workshop and a program graduation on April 20.

MILE scholars began their day with an interactive financial literacy presentation from United Way of Monterey County. The scholars learned how to develop wealth through budgeting and credit management. WELI scholars learned about leveraging cultural strengths to foster professional success in an informative talk on social capital by former WELI scholar and public health researcher Ana Ibarra-Castro.

The students culminated a year of mentorship and professional development experiences in a graduation ceremony emceed by Monica Tovar, a WELI mentor and director of sales for Mapleton Communications, and Gonzales City Manager Rene Mendez, a MILE mentor.

Attending along with the students’ family members were Hartnell Governing Board members Manuel Osorio, Candi DePauw and Vice President Patricia Donohue, as well as community leaders who generously volunteer their time as MILE and WELI mentors.

Said Bronwyn Moreno, director of student affairs/special programs, “The culmination of yet another successful MILE and WELI cohort year would not have been possible without the support and dedication of the many mentors, sponsors and supporters of these programs.”
Community Health Worker program celebrates completion of first class

At Soledad Adult School on April 27, 21 students celebrated completion of the first of three community health worker courses funded by the California Workforce Development Board's SlingShot grant program in partnership with the Monterey County Workforce Development Board, Soledad Unified School District and Hartnell College.

Students in the introductory-level course, taught by Hartnell instructor Carmen Gil, attended class at the school three days a week beginning March 9. Community health workers, who work with both community members and health professionals to assist with health care and promote wellness, are in growing demand because of the versatility of their roles.

Hartnell Governing Board member Erica Padilla-Chavez (pictured with Gil) congratulated the class before the graduation ceremony, and both Soledad Mayor Fred Ledesma and Salinas Council Member Steve McShane addressed the students and their friends and families in Spanish before presenting them with certificates of recognition from the City of Salinas and U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta.

The Community Health Worker program will continue with two higher-level courses for this first cohort. (Also pictured: Ledesma congratulates student Maria De Jesus Arreola Lopez as McShane snaps a photo.)
Successful Career Fair on April 24 includes dual-enrollment students

Hartnell’s Transfer and Career Center hosted the annual Spring Career Fair on April 24 in the Student Center. More than 300 students networked with participating employers. Among those attending were nearly 75 dual-enrollment students from Everett Alvarez (pictured), North Salinas and Alisal High Schools.

The high school students, who are enrolled in COU-27 (Life Planning), also attended a panel presentation by Hartnell students and were briefed on the Steps to Success ahead of the May 3-4 Panther Prep Day activities.

Employers included Reiter Affiliated Companies, the San Jose Police Department and Esperanza Therapy Services, which hired one applicant on the spot. Students were dressed to impress, with resumes in hand. Transfer and Career Center Coordinator Mercedes Del Real expressed a “big thanks to all who contributed to a successful event for our students and community!”

Pop-Up Pantries conclude after aiding nearly 500 students since November

Dozens of bags of fresh produce and other essentials were distributed to students in need on April 26 as the Office of Student Life completed its eighth and final Pop-Up Pantry of the academic year, part of the “Hunger-Free Campus” initiative. Employees and students such as Samantha Saldana (pictured) volunteered to prep the bags.

In partnership with the Monterey County Food Bank, more than 1,100 bags of food were distributed to nearly 500 students since November. Also, department-level food pantries at 10-12 locations across the Main and Alisal Campuses and at the King City Education Center have served more than 800 students since January. The Student Life office also plans to hold student workshops on eligibility and application for the state’s CalFresh food-assistance program.
Lofman elected for leadership in national Campus Pride group

Dr. Brian Lofman, Dean of Institutional Planning, Research, and Effectiveness, has been elected to the board of directors and the executive team as treasurer for Campus Pride, a national nonprofit organization for student leaders and campus groups working to create a safer environment for LGBTQ students.

Among its many progressive programs, services, publications and searchable databases, Campus Pride provides safe-space training, sponsors a Stop the Hate program, publishes national benchmarking tools for LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities and maintains a Shame List that identifies “the absolute worst campuses for LGBTQ youth.”

Annual Student Art Show now on display in Hartnell Gallery

The Hartnell visual arts programs are presenting the Annual Student Art Show now through May 17 in the Hartnell Gallery.

The show, which features ceramics, photography, drawing and other student works, opened with an evening reception on April 29.

The gallery is open for public viewing from 9 a.m. to noon and 4-7 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Historian and author James Loewen will visit Hartnell on California tour

The Hartnell-CSUMB Teacher Pathway Program will present “An Evening With James Loewen” from 6-8 p.m. on May 13 at the Mainstage Theater in Building K. The event is free and open to the public.

Following his Hartnell appearance, Loewen is scheduled to speak at Stanford University on May 14-15 and in Santa Clara County Office of Education on May 17.

Showcase for speech team recruits prospects for next school year

The Hartnell Speech Team presented its spring showcase on April 17, with team members providing an introduction to various competitive speaking events.

More than 80 students, faculty and family members attended the biannual event in Steinbeck Hall, and several of the students expressed an interest in auditioning for the 2019-20 team. Other students interested in auditioning can contact Coach Daniel Lopez at drlopez@hartnell.edu.

“The showcase was a successful example of what Hartnell students can do when they are given support by the institution,” Lopez said. “We are also pleased by the interest generated in students who see it as an opportunity to improve their communication skills, themselves and their overall educational experience.”

Team members who presented various categories of competitive speaking were team captain Athena Ramirez (persuasive speaking, pictured), Angel Hernandez (prose interpretation) and Valeri Becerra (after-dinner speaking and dramatic interpretation).
Espinoza (’18) continues research as UROC, McNair scholar at CSUMB

Selina Espinoza, a 2018 Hartnell graduate in psychology, has been accepted into the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center Scholars program at CSU Monterey Bay and also been named a McNair Scholar, with plans to attend graduate school. This spring, she was one of two students awarded the Suzanne Dewar Memorial Undergraduate Research Scholarship through UROC, which includes up to $1,000 a year for tuition. Her research mentor is psychology professor Dr. Jennifer Lovell.

Espinoza participated in CSUMB’s Spring Showcase on April 12, presenting on a proposed study titled “College Students’ and Veterans’ Perceptions of Cannabis.” She also has been accepted into a summer research internship program at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she plans to focus on the effects of cannabis in a naturalistic setting.

While at Hartnell, Espinoza was president of the Psychology Club, president of the Psi Beta Honor Society and a Stanford Phoenix Scholar. She also became Hartnell College’s first General Psychology Supplemental Instructor (SI) Leader for Dr. Yoshiko Matsushita-Arao. She continues to tutor at CSUMB. In her last year at Hartnell, she was part of a team of students who presented a research poster at the Western Psychological Association Annual Conference in Portland, receiving sixth-place recognition in the Anastasi Research Paper Competition.

Twenty-six more students complete Mental Health First Aid certification

The Mental Health First Aid program maintained its strong momentum with three-year certification of another 26 Hartnell students following an eight-hour course on April 19.
Psychology instructor Alicia Edelin and DSP&S counselor Valerie Maturino presented the course, which includes five steps to assess a situation and secure appropriate care for an individual experiencing a mental health problem. “We thank the Hartnell College Behavior Intervention Team for funding this training,” Edelin said.

**Panther women take conference, as track teams look to Nor Cal**

*From John Devine, Monterey Herald:*

On the strength of their distance team, the Hartnell Panthers won the women’s Coast Conference title on April 27 at De Anza College in Cupertino, while the men finished a distant second to Sequoias.

The women secured a 165-123 decision over De Anza while the men fell 220-153. Monica Ruelas led a Hartnell sweep in the 1,500 (5:02.38), with Isabelle Torres finishing second and Nerina Campos third. Ruelas was also second in the 800, just a step in front of Campos, and third in the 5,000 behind Torres, who won the conference title. The Panthers dominated the distance events as Nina Arias was a conference champion in the 3,000 steeplechase, with Maria Aceves finishing second.

For the men’s team, Victor Nambo won the men’s 3,000-meter steeplechase (10:12.46), while Jack Fling took second in the pole vault. Former Seaside sprinter De’Antae Williams ran 10.72 in the 100 meters to finish second, while North Salinas product Isaiah Guerra took second in the javelin. Brandan Lepe was third in the 400 intermediate hurdles (56.65). Jesus Avalos, who won the 10,000 meters last Wednesday, finished third in the 5,000, just in front of Hartnell teammates Nick Merillano and Alex Ojeda.

Next up are the Northern California Trials on May 4.

**Baseball finishes 18-20, achieving most wins in more than a decade**

The Hartnell Baseball team finished with an overall record of 18-20 and 9-9 in Coast Conference play. This marks the most wins in the program since 2008 and provides strong momentum heading into 2019-20.

The Panthers finished with a win over Skyline College on April 26, 6-2 (celebration pictured from the stands). Once again, Hartnell’s starting pitcher went the distance as Anthony
Fashano (Elk Grove H.S.) threw a complete game for his final start in maroon and gold. The offense was led by sophomore second baseman Davin Kapuras (Pearl City H.S.) as he was four for four on the day, with three RBIs and an eighth-inning homer that sealed the victory. He finished the season with a school record nine home runs.

Hartnell also won at Skyline on April 25 and lost to the Trojans at home on April 23, 7-3. Sophomore starter Tommy Castro (Gilroy H.S.) threw for the win in the road game. He finished the season with a 5-3 record, earning 61 strikeouts in 73 innings. Surging freshman outfielder Travis Madison (Laguna Creek H.S.) was the star at the plate that day, going three for five, including a home run, double and two RBIs.

**Softball takes lessons, pride from a challenging season**

After concluding their season with an 8-1 loss at San Jose on April 23, the Hartnell Softball team will build on the learning and experience from the 2019 campaign, which ended with an overall record of 6-26.

First-year Head Coach Erin Houston saw improvement early in the season as four members of the Panthers basketball and volleyball teams joined her squad: Megan Flores, Danielle Taylor, Alexis Andrade and Valerie Quinones.

The strengthened squad significantly narrowed its scoring margins, and claimed all six of their wins at home. “It was definitely a learning experience all the way around,” Houston said. “Our main goal was for them to get better, and they definitely did.”

The team had two home runs, a .270 team season batting average and a .336 on-base percentage.

**Hartnell great Malena Grover continues running success**

*From John Devine, Monterey Herald:*

Former Salinas High and Hartnell distance ace Malena Grover was the top Division II finisher for Adams State University in the 10,000-meter run at the Bryan Clay Invitational, held April 17-19 at Azusa Pacific University.

Grover, who has already qualified for the United States Olympic Trials in February in the marathon, was sixth overall in the 10,000 among all
athletes, clocking 34 minutes, 55.08 seconds.

The senior helped Adams State, in Alamosa, Colo., win the 2019 conference track and field indoor title. She also finished among the school’s all-time leaders in cross country. Grover was an All-American in cross country and track at Hartnell.

Upcoming Events

Note: All event locations are on the Main Campus in Salinas unless otherwise noted. Occasionally there are changes to dates/times for athletic contests due to weather and other circumstances. Check the Hartnell Athletics website for the most current schedule information (http://www.hartnellpanthers.com).

Summer and Fall 2019 Registration
Continuing Students and New Matriculating Students
Summer through June 16; fall through Aug. 11

Annual Student Art Show
9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 4-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday
Through May 17
Hartnell Gallery
Building J, room 100

Spring Ceramics Sale
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1
Building C, room 140

Transfer Workshop: “ADT vs. AS/AA”
2 p.m.
Thursday, May 2
Building C, room 131

Panther Prep Day – South County
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, May 3
King City Education Center

Panther Prep Day – Main Campus
8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 4
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Hartnell College Student Film Festival
hartnellfilmfest@gmail.com
6 p.m.
Friday, May 10
“An Evening with James Loewen”
6 p.m.
Monday, May 13
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Study-A-Thon
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
May 13-14
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Study-A-Thon – Alisal Campus
3-7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14
Building A, room 214

Study-A-Thon – King City Education Center
12-8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15
Building A, room 214

Study-A-Thon – STEM
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
May 15-17
Building E, room 217

Study-A-Thon – English
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
May 15-17
Building A, room 214

Study-A-Thon – all subjects
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, May 18
Building E, room 217

Teacher Pathway Program Graduation Celebration
2 p.m.
Sunday, May 19
Scheid Vineyards, Greenfield

Commencement
5:30 p.m.
Friday, May 24
Rabobank Stadium, Salinas

Child Development Center Bridging Ceremony
Friday, May 31
Morning session: 9-11 a.m. (Studio Theater, Building J)
Afternoon session: 12:45-3 p.m. (Building M)

**Hartnell Football Golf Tournament**
10 a.m. registration, noon start
Friday, May 31
Crazy Horse Ranch, Salinas