Farewell Celebration on Aug. 21 was humbling and appreciated

Michele and I were extremely touched by the lovely and heartwarming Farewell Celebration and Barbecue held in our honor on Aug. 21. We were overwhelmed with the recognition and good wishes, and we sincerely thank all who took part as we prepare to begin a new chapter in our lives.

Representatives of U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, State Sen. Anna Caballero, Assembly Member Robert Rivas and Mayor Mike LeBarre all presented me with certificates of recognition, and it was very special to hear Associated Students President Samantha Saldana offer kind words on behalf of all students. Sen. Caballero also recorded this video, which could not be shown at the barbecue but I am proud to share with you now.

I want to especially thank all the members of the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board who attended and spoke, four of whom were on the board that appointed me seven years ago.

The bronze plaque that will be placed in the newly landscaped Main Quad, carrying a quote about our “students first” philosophy, is an incredibly meaningful tribute that I will cherish for the rest of my life. The plaque was presented by Judy Sulsona, vice president of the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors (pictured). I also was thrilled that so many of you took time to share messages with us on a large banner (pictured).

As I said at the end of my brief remarks, quoting legendary composer Ludwig van Beethoven, “I wish for you all the good and charm that life can offer. Think of me kindly, and rest assured that no one would more rejoice to hear of your happiness.”

Highlights of this special event can be seen in this video by Richard Green.
STEM Internship Symposium
Showcases student research

Seventy-six student interns presented posters at Hartnell’s 13th Annual STEM Internship Symposium on Aug. 17 in the STEM Center atrium, outlining their research experiences this past summer working with university researchers and industry experts in prestigious settings throughout the Central Coast and beyond. (Pictured with her poster is biochemistry student Ethel Aleman, who studied management of downy mildew in organic spinach at the USDA-Agricultural Research).

The STEM Internship Program at Hartnell, unmatched among U.S. community colleges, began in 2006 with the placement of six student interns. Since then, it has placed more than 1,000 students, achieving dramatically higher degree attainment for participants. This year, Hartnell added a micro-internship program, supported by a $1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation’s Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program.

"I want to say hats off to everyone for organizing such an amazing program," said Dr. Sonja Lolland, vice president of academic affairs, during her welcome remarks at the event. "It takes hours and hours of work, and I want to thank the amazing faculty, staff and administrators who mentored our students and coordinated all the internship activities and supported our students."

Six of the internship students participated in a panel discussion led by Joy Cowden, director of the Science and Math Institute.

"My biggest takeaway was the reinforcement I got for the future aspirations I have," said Oliver Enriquez, who completed an internship with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service with fellow panelist Imsah Suddin. "It just cemented my goals more and made me want to pursue my career more. As a STEM student, it does sometimes seem overwhelming, the work we do, and having this internship brings new energy into you to pursue your career."

Also recognized at the symposium was Juan M. Alvarez, central-northern California and Washington regional director for the HSI National Program in the Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement. He was honored as the STEM program's partner of the year. He is pictured here with Joy Cowden, Director of SMI and MESA & STEM Internship Programs.
Week of Welcome events include promo of free MST

The Office of Student Life and Associated Students of Hartnell College (ASHC) presented a series of Week of Welcome Events from Aug. 12-21 to greet and engage incoming students for the Fall 2019 semester.

Staff and students set up a Welcome Tent on the Main Quad on Aug. 12-13 and presented a resource fair to introduce support programs and services on Aug. 14-15 (pictured). They also rewarded students wearing Hartnell gear with a treat on Panther Swag Day, Aug. 16, and held Club Rush for student organizations on Aug. 21, with a Welcome Back Lunch that day in conjunction with Dr. Lewallen’s farewell celebration.

Among organizations represented at the Resource Fair was MST, which is providing free bus service to all students with a valid ID – anywhere, anytime on its entire system. They handed out MST-Hartnell lanyards with sleeves to carry the student ID for easy bus boarding. The $10 fee to acquire a student ID not only includes the free bus access, but also admission to the Western Stage, Hartnell Athletic events and more.

Leadership forums guide use of Measure T education centers

Hartnell College and the Hartnell College Foundation will hold the last of three community leadership forums on Aug. 29 to help plan use of the college’s new education centers in Soledad and Castroville and its expanding center in King City.

The first forum was held at the King City center on Aug. 15, and a second was held Aug. 22 at the Soledad Community Center. The final event will be held at Ocean Mist Farms in Castroville.

The sessions include a project briefing by Joseph Reyes, executive director of Facilities, Planning and Construction Management, and a facilitated discussion that asks participants how they believe Hartnell should use the centers to augment and enhance its current offerings to students and communities.
The Western Stage prepares to present “Of Mice and Men”

The Western Stage at Hartnell College is extending a special invitation to students and college employees for its upcoming performances “Of Mice and Men, A Musical Drama”, resurrected after 61 years. This rare version of one of John Steinbeck’s most popular works will be performed in the Mainstage Theater Aug. 24-Sept. 14.

Hartnell students receive two free tickets with their student ID, and faculty and staff can purchase discounted tickets for $15. Visit the Western Stage Box Office at Building K or go to westernstage@hartnell.edu for more information.

Jon Selover, artistic director of The Western Stage at Hartnell College, is directing the production, which holds a personal significance for him: “Of Mice and Men” was a part of his very first season with The Western Stage in 1984.

“To direct a production that was close to Steinbeck’s heart, to bring it back after 60 years, and to do it here in Salinas is really quite special,” he said.

Don’t miss a special program following the Aug. 25 matinee featuring a panel discussion with Steinbeck experts. This event is exclusively for ticket holders on that day and will take place directly following the performance.

Micro-internship facilitators attend mentor workshops

Fourteen Hartnell faculty and staff members who have facilitated STEM micro-internships or will do so this year attended a four-day workshop on Aug. 5-8 to build capacity for the ongoing program, jointly funded by the National Science Foundation and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Research scientist Zoe Buck and research associate Brae Salazar from BSCS Science Learning led the training, which explored theory and practice for short-term internships that help students gain confidence and skills to succeed in full summer internships in STEM fields.

“It was extremely helpful,” said Dr. Moe Yahdi, math instructor and principal investigator for the micro-internship program. “It gave us an opportunity to come...
together as professionals in STEM and talk about ways we can establish the sort of culture that is usually found only at universities – where faculty and professional staff are talking about innovative research projects and helping each other.”

Dr. Yahdi is pictured here with fellow math instructor Jennifer Morehouse during a workshop visioning session on Aug. 7.

**Creighton University coach gives baseball coaching clinic**

As part of a weekend of free events for youth and high school baseball players and coaches, Hartnell Baseball on Aug. 16 hosted Ed Servais, head baseball coach at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., who presented a clinic for local coaches of all-age teams.

Hartnell Baseball Head Coach Travis Babin said Servais led an outstanding clinic full of insight for about 30 participants, focusing particularly on infield fielding and throwing techniques.

“He spoke for almost two hours and elaborated on game strategy and his experience in the game,” Babin said.

**Transfer and Career Center hosts reps from two UCs and two CSUs**

With a reminder to students that it’s never too early to start preparing for transfer to a four-year university, the Hartnell Transfer and Career Center will open the year with a series of transfer information opportunities from University of California and California State University campuses.

Staff at the center say it’s a good practice to meet with university advisers to learn about the requirements and process to transfer successfully to their university. Here is the lineup of events for Aug. 26-Aug. 30 in Building C, room 132:

- Fresno State University: Aug. 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- UC Santa Barbara: Aug. 26, 1-3:30 p.m.
- UC Santa Cruz: Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- CSU Monterey Bay: Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Chancellor-appointed team to support college planning

In Spring 2018, Hartnell’s College Planning Council (CPC) identified deepening institutional dialogue as an important issue to address and established a work group to deliberate on this issue. The work group developed a set of recommendations that was approved by the CPC in spring 2019 as the Plan for Engagement. During Fall 2019, the College will begin implementing strategies and action items in this Plan.

The Chancellor's Office's Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative will provide technical assistance to Hartnell in Academic Year 2019-20 through a Partnership Resource Team (PRT). The PRT model leverages expertise of faculty, staff and administrators from other community colleges in California. The PRT will visit Hartnell three times during the year to consider issues of engagement and governance and to assist in developing a plan for innovation and effectiveness.

Dr. Brian Lofman will serve as Hartnell’s lead in working with the PRT. The Academic Senate through the AS president and others will be asked to participate.

In the News

Rancho Cielo aims to grow ag-tech skills for Salinas-area youth with new program

In the trenches: Pena a “tough joker” at center:
http://www.reflector.com/ECU/2019/08/19/In-the-trenches-Pena-a-tough-joker-at-center.html

Pioneering orchid grower brings beauty to the world:
https://www.capitalpress.com/specialsections/nursery/pioneering-orchid-grower-brings-beauty-to-the-world/article_6e45e188-9142-11e9-b1b2-9f491f36147b.html

Rancho Cielo aims to grow ag-tech skills for Salinas-area youth with new program:
Upcoming Events

Note: All event locations are on the Main Campus in Salinas unless otherwise noted.

“Of Mice and Men, a musical drama”
7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday
Aug. 24-25, 30-31; Sept. 1, 7-8, 13-14
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

CSUMB Transfer Application Workshop
10 a.m-12 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 30
Transfer & Career Center
Building C, room 132

Children’s Show – “Astronaut”
5:15 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 30
Planetarium, Building S

Evening Show – “Incoming!”
5:15 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 30
Planetarium, Building S

Vocational Nursing Info Session
2:30 a.m.
Friday, Sept. 6
Building B, room 204

Registered Nursing Info Session
3:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 6

Anthony Ray Hinton speech
7 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 12
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Xicanx Institute for Teaching and Organization (XI TO) Institute
Sept. 20-21
Alisal Campus
Transfer Day, College Night
9 a.m.-12 p.m. community college students
6-8 p.m. high school students
Wednesday, Oct. 30
Student Center (Building C)

EXONERATED
death row inmate
Anthony Hinton
to speak Sept. 12
7 p.m., Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Exonerated death row prisoner Anthony Ray Hinton will speak at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 in the Mainstage Theater, sharing the experience of being wrongfully convicted of two 1985 murders in Birmingham, Ala., being sentenced to death and serving 28 years on death row.

Hinton’s appearance, which will be free to all, will be followed by a book signing of Hinton’s book, The Sun Does Shine.

Although the event is free, tickets will be required. They are available from the Office of Student Life in the Student Center (Building C) on the Main Campus.

Parking rules will be in effect.

For more information, call 831-755-6734.

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring sign-language interpreters, real-time captioners or other accommodations should contact Cristina Westfall, (831) 755-6810, as soon as possible.