1. Hartnell College to be Featured at AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament

We were recently notified by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation that AT&T will be featuring Hartnell College as part of the publicity for the 2013 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (February 4 – 10). The Monterey Peninsula Foundation is asked by AT&T to recommend an organization to showcase and they recommended us! This will entail national TV exposure for HC, and AT&T is drafting up the script and talking points for the TV spots. There will be TV crews visiting HC soon to film the TV spots. They want to focus on our STEM efforts and particularly women in STEM.

This is a unique opportunity for us and we are so grateful to our friends and partners at the Monterey Peninsula Foundation for creating this opportunity. Special thanks to Laurel Lee-Alexander, Director of Philanthropy, and Cathy Corey, Senior Director of PR and Marketing.

2. National Philanthropy Day (for the Central Coast) Honors Cathy Schlumbrecht, a Member of the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors

Cathy Schlumbrecht, Senior Vice President Business Banking Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties for COMERICA Bank, was recognized as a Distinguished Honoree during the 2012 National Philanthropy Day at the Inn at Spanish Bay. She was recognized for her support and leadership of Party in the Library and the Women’s Education Leadership Initiative (WELI). Cathy has been involved with Party in the Library since its inception. More information about National Philanthropy Day can be found at http://www.centralcoastnpd.org/index.htm.

Cathy Schlumbrecht and Coralee Linder have formed a high performing and dynamic team that has produced incredible fundraising outcomes. Cathy’s dedication has supported the efforts of the foundation to raise funds for important initiatives at Hartnell College. Just in the last two years alone, Party in the Library has raised over $500,000. Additionally, when Cathy heard that the Foundation was going to launch a Women’s Education leadership Initiative she immediately jumped on board and helped secure the first major gift for the program.

The WELI Program is a life-skills and mentorship program that is designed to increase the leadership capacity, workforce skills, college enrollment, and college completion rate of women, single parents,
and re-entry students in the Salinas Valley. The program supports students who have the desire to improve their lives and the lives of their families through higher education. More information is available about WELI can be found at:

WELI Brochure
WELI Newsletter

Just hot off the press we are excited to announce that COMERICA Bank will be the presenting sponsor for Party in the Library on May 11, 2013.

3. Salinas Northeast Rotary Club, January 10
I was invited to present the program at the Salinas Northeast Rotary Club on January 10. My presentation was an update on Hartnell College. The challenge in making these presentations is what to include in a 20 minute time slot. There are so many activities, events, and initiatives that translate into achievements and success that it is difficult to choose. What a wonderful problem to have. There were several K-12 educators in attendance as part of a "student of the month" recognition program. When I asked at the end of my presentation if there were any questions, one teacher said no, but asked if she could make a comment. I said of course and her comment was simply "wow." Thanks to all of you for contributing to that "wow" factor.

4. Information Technology Department Rolls Out Wireless Improvements
The Hartnell College IT Team recently completed a successful roll-out of a new campus-wide Meraki wireless modernization project on the main campus and will upgrade the Alisal and King City campus locations by January 18th. In July, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation and approved the expenditure to upgrade the wireless system throughout the three campus locations. The initiative increases the number of access points throughout the college to over 100 from a previous count of 75. For the first time ever, wireless access is available for the Human Resources offices as well as throughout the physical education facilities, fields, press boxes, stands and gyms with exception of the soccer field and tennis courts. Wireless access points will be part of the new field house when completed. Coverage is also more consistent and stronger throughout the rest of the campus.

5. American Opportunity Tax Credit Program Extended as Part of "Fiscal Cliff" Legislation
The “fiscal cliff” legislation passed by Congress includes some good news for community colleges, including an extension of tax credits that benefit two-year college students. The American Taxpayers Relief Act (H.R. 8) extends for five years the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), which in 2009 replaced the Hope Scholarship tax credit. AOTC is larger than Hope ($2,500 vs. $1,800) and uses a formula that helps students attending low-tuition institutions cover expenses such as books and course materials, in addition to tuition.

In addition, AOTC is partially refundable, so low-income students with little or no tax liability can benefit from the credit. The credit is reaching millions of community college students each year, and close to 10 million colleges students and their families overall, according to the American Association of Community Colleges.
Initially, prospects for continuing AOTC were dim. Its five-year extension had a $67-billion price tag—roughly twice the annual expenditures on Pell Grants—that was not offset by other spending reductions or tax increases, so it added to the federal deficit.

6. Paulette Bumbalough, Dean of South County Education Services, Presented Quilt from Local Quilters Guild

Retired dean Paulette Bumbalough was presented with a quilt from the local Quilters Guild in South County for her many years of exceptional service to the community. The quilt includes Hartnell College colors and photos of Paulette at various events and with students and employees. Paulette mentioned she is a novice quilter and made about 5 quilts with the Guild and so was truly touched by the gift. The Guild thought of including south county community photos, but they decided she is not leaving the community, just retiring from Hartnell College :).

7. State of the College Presentation at Faculty Flex Day

I, along with other senior administrators, provided a college update during the faculty flex day on January 18. The presentation has been posted at http://www.hartnell.edu/president/docs/Flex%20Day%20Presentation%20011813.pdf.

8. New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC) Extended for 2 Years

During the fall 2012 the Board of Trustees received considerable information and presentations on regarding the NMTC Program. As part of the "Fiscal Cliff" deal recently approved by Congress, the NMTC was extended for 2 years. Our contact, TJ Cox, informed me about this early in January (see http://www.lisc.org/content/article/detail/20619). He will be assisting us in putting together materials about our projects that can be reviewed by various Community Development Entities (CDEs). These are the agencies that receive the federal dollars that can be applied to facilities projects. I will keep you informed as we move forward with this initiative. Additional information about the NMTC Program can be accessed at http://cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/programs_id.asp?programID=5.