1. Hartnell College Celebrates Black History Month

The Associated Students Hartnell College coordinated a vibrant and hope-filled event on February 14 in celebration of Black History Month. I have had several conversations with our student leadership during the year and I have encouraged them to "stretch" and find ways to engage students and the community in events and activities that celebrate diversity, that stimulate thought and action. I provided a few suggestions for Black History Month, including a recommendation to bring Traciana Graves to the campus as a featured speaker. Ms. Graves did not disappoint as she engaged our students and our community and challenged everyone to take a look within. From my few suggestions and encouragement our students staged one of the most impressive events in celebration of Black History Month that I have ever witnessed. We should all be extremely proud of our students for what they accomplished with this event. I want to particularly commend ASHC president Wayne Ross for his tireless efforts to make this event a memorable one. Student government programs on college campuses should focus on developing leaders and providing opportunities for our students to demonstrate leadership. I can say proudly that our students demonstrated leadership at the highest levels in coordinating this event. The Salinas California provided a wonderful news story that captured the essence of this event. See http://www.thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=201302150014&nclck_check=1.

2. Hartnell College Participates in Two College Outreach Events in Greenfield

On Saturday, February 9, HC staff participated in two events for the community of Greenfield designed to assist students and family understand and navigate the processes for preparing to go to college. HC partnered with Assemblymember Luis Alejo’s office to provide a "Cash for College" event at Greenfield High School. The goal of the Cash for College event was to help students and their families fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Cal Grant GPA verification forms required for Cal Grants by the March 2nd deadline. Julia Mena, HEP
Outreach Specialist, and Benjamin Grainger, Financial Aid Technician, coordinated HC’s efforts at this event. On the same day, HC participated in a “Parent University” event at Vista Verde Middle School in Greenfield. Renata Funke, Dean of South County Education Services, and Carla Johnson, Director HEP, meet with over 30 parents interested in either HEP/GED, ESL and/or inquiring about college for their children. They conducted three workshops in which they presented a variety of information ranging from the admission process, financial aid, Dream Act vs AB540, HEP/GED and ESL. After the workshops, Dean Funke set up an informational booth in their multipurpose area.

3. Welcome New Employees to Hartnell College
Please join me in welcoming the following new employees to HC.

Robert Ramirez began work as our new food service/barista worker for our Alisal Campus on January 28. Robert has substituted as food service worker since 2010. He last worked as a counter sales person for a locksmith company, making keys and delivery parts. He also currently works weekends as a valet manager for a popular Greek restaurant in San Jose.

Marina Reyes begins work as an enrollment services specialist at our main campus on February 19. Marina started at Heald College as administrative assistant to the director of admissions, where she also worked as a student loan advisor and a financial aid advisor, responsible for assisting new, continuing, and returning students. She most recently was employed by Brandman University as a student services specialist, responsible for a caseload of approximately 300 student accounts, and academic advisor. Marina earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from American Intercontinental University, and a master's degree in organizational leadership from Chapman University.

4. Hartnell College Involved with Startup Weekend Monterey Bay
Hartnell College collaborated with California State University, Monterey Bay on January 25-27, 2013 to host the very first Startup Weekend Monterey Bay. This was a great opportunity for community members, including local students to get hands on experience in the exhilarating world of startup businesses. The event is considered highly successful as it produced approximately 75 original ideas, 20 chosen for development, with four winners. Startup Weekend was extra special for Hartnell College as the 2009 Valedictorian and past president of Hartnell’s business organization (Students in Free Enterprise), Paul Fuller, earned two awards: 1) Most Popular Idea; and, 2) Most Innovative. Also, Renie Berry, another past President of HC SIFE participated on one of the competing teams.

Matt Coombs, vice president of information technology, and Robert Maffei, accounting and business faculty member, were not only on the organizing committee for Startup Weekend Monterey Bay, but also served as coaches and mentors due to their entrepreneurial backgrounds. The event started on Friday at 4 PM and continued over the weekend concluding Sunday evening at 9 PM.
Startup Weekend is a non-profit, community-building event that brings together would be entrepreneurs of different backgrounds, including software developers, marketers, designers, and other enthusiasts. They gather to pitch ideas, form teams and start companies in just 54 hours. The participants that attend have 60 seconds to make a pitch, the pitches are whittled down to the top ideas, and then teams form organically around the best ideas to come out with several developed companies or projects. Finally, the weekend culminates with demonstrations in front of an audience of judges and potential investors.

This is the first time Startup Weekend has come to the Monterey Bay region, but the event occurs all over the world throughout the year with over 80,000 Startup Weekend alumni. Consideration is being given to HC hosting the event in the future since it speaks to the mission of our college as well as many of the school’s desired outcomes for business.

Inc. Magazine covered the event, and Paul Fuller (HC graduate) has since been asked by a venture capitalist to make a second pitch. Great article from the Monterey County Herald can be accessed at this link http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci_22468877/startup-weekend-winner-wastes-no-time.

5. **Distinguished Mathematician Visits Hartnell College**

On February 6, HC Math Club sponsored a presentation by distinguished mathematician Dr. José Antonio de la Peña. His presentation was titled Social Networks: A Mathematical Perspective. Professor de la Peña, from México, is the Deputy Director for Scientific and Academic Development of CONACYT, the National Council for Science and Technology of Mexico and Professor of Mathematics at the Institute of Mathematics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), where he is researcher since 1986. From 1984 to 1986 he held a postdoctoral position at the University of Zurich.

Professor de la Peña was President of the Mexican Mathematical Society (1989-1990), President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences (2002-2004) and Director of the Institute of Mathematics at UNAM (1998-2006). The main research area for Professor de la Peña is algebra. He was distinguished with the TWAS Prize (2002) and the National Prize in Science of Mexico (2005).

6. **Board of Trustees Members Attend Accreditation Institute**

Board of Trustees members Candi DePauw, Pat Donohue, Demetrio Pruneda, and Erica Padilla-Chavez attended an Accreditation Institute February 8-9 in San Jose. The institute was jointly sponsored by the state wide Academic Senate and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. I attended along with Dr. Brian Lofman, dean of instruction. All presentations and materials are available at http://asccc.org/events/2013/02/accreditation-institute.

7. **ACCJC Releases Actions on Institutions and Other Reports**