1. Hartnell College Student Earns Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honors

On March 6th, Rolando Perez was recognized as a top community college student in California. There were a total of 80 students representing some of the best of the 2.4 million students enrolled in California’s 112 community colleges. Mr. Perez traveled to Sacramento along with Mary Dominguez, interim vice president of student affairs, to receive this very prestigious award.

The Phi Theta Kappa All-California Community College Academic Team Program looks at grades, leadership, and community service to determine their awards. There are three All-California Teams.

Rolando Perez in center with other community college award recipients

Rolando is the first-born son of Mexican immigrants. He is a U.S. Air Force military veteran and a NSF STEM scholar. He works with numerous community organizations in the STEM fields and was named as a co-author on a research publication for work done during an internship at the Naval Postgraduate School. He has chosen to pursue a career in bioengineering and in ten years hopes to be a post-doctorate fellow conducting research into applications of synthetic biology. He plans on transferring to UC Santa Cruz in the fall 2013.

Vice President Dominguez with Rolando Perez

2. Hartnell College Hosts Creative Technology Expo

On March 2, 2013 HC hosted the annual Monterey County Business Council’s Creative Technology Expo, an event that has never taken place further east than the CSUMB campus...until this year. Matt Coombs, vice president of information technology co-chaired MCBC’s Creative Cluster earlier this year. The Cluster is a collaborative group that brings together technologists and creative artists to share ideas and encourage innovation throughout the county. He suggested that the event be held at HC this year.
The Expo attracted 25 exhibitors who encouraged 300 participants, including 170 high school and college students, to engage with and merge creative and artistic ideas with modern technology. It was a great team effort with support from MCBC, Monterey Bay Arts Council, MCAET and HC. MCBERI (Monterey County Business & Education Research Institute) persuaded 130 high school students to spend a precious weekend afternoon to increase their awareness of future opportunities right here at HC and the surrounding communities. Andy Kreyche hosted students in the planetarium, and Olivia Davalos helped students view and vote a winner for multiple high school film project submissions.

The exhibitors ranged from NPS' Cebrowski Institute, to Monterey Film Council, to our own Hartnell Digital Media Program and NASA's Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy. Maggie Melone, director of the Hartnell SEMAA program commented, "We're teaching these kids that they can be engineers, mathematicians and scientists, and they don't have to have a lot of money and go to Stanford to accomplish it. Anybody can do it."

Other exhibitors included the MCOE Techmobile, Coder Dojo, Media Center for Art Education and Technology, based at the county Office of Education, and Loaves, Fishes and Computers, a service that helps provide computers to low-income families and teaches others how to earn a living refurbishing computers. The planning committee has already asked if HC would host the event again for next year.

3. Hartnell College Hosts the Liberty Initiative and Sergio Garcia
The Liberty Initiative, in association with Hartnell College, hosted Sergio Garcia on March 8 for an inspirational talk on the crucial need for immigration reform. Mr. Garcia is the embodiment of the American Dream, a belief based in the notion that hard work and perseverance result in boundless opportunity within our nation. After attaining a law degree and passing the bar exam, Mr. Garcia was denied a license to practice law for solely one reason, his lack of citizenship. His presentation centered on his personal struggle, the deficiencies of existing immigration policies, and the hope for a better future.

The Liberty Initiative (http://thelibertyinitiative.org/) is an organized group of young professionals with the drive to be the change they want to see in the world.
4. Hartnell College Softball Team Improves to 18-2 Record with Number 9 State Ranking and Number 5 Northern California Ranking ([http://www.cccaastats.org/sports/sball/2012-13/Rankings/3CFCA_Poll4.pdf](http://www.cccaastats.org/sports/sball/2012-13/Rankings/3CFCA_Poll4.pdf))

The Lady Panthers started the season winning many close games, often coming from behind and started conference play with wins versus Gavilan, San Jose, and Monterey. All three games could have gone either way. So, this week’s challenge was to beat undefeated 3-0 Cabrillo on Tuesday and 16-3 West Valley ranked 5th in the state.

In Tuesday’s game vs. Cabrillo the Lady Panthers took the lead 1-0 with Ashley Andrew on the mound only to get tied in the 4th at 1-1. In the top of the 5th inning Dani Shipman took the mound. In the bottom of the 6th with 2 outs, Bri Pacias gets a base hit scoring 2 runs. Shipman was able to hold on for the win and she is 10-2 for the season so far.

Against West Valley and with Dani Shipman on the mound the Lady Panthers took the lead 1-0 in the 2nd inning. West Valley came back and tied us 1-1. HC scored and West Valley came back in the 5th and tied it up at 4-4. In the bottom of the 7th inning, Brandee Ho gets a single and steals second base. Kaycee Gonzales hits a gapper to score the walk off run.

So the weekends with HC at 18-2 overall and 5-0 for the conference. Next week the Lady Panthers take on Mission College at home on Tuesday and travel to Foothill Thursday.

5. Hartnell College Track Student-athletes Shine at American River College Relays

Hartnell College freshman Austin Decker now joins the long line of pole vaulters in Hartnell College history who has a chance to become a Northern California champion in the event. On March 2, he won the pole vault competition at the American River College Beaver Relays in Sacramento. His mark of 14'8.75" was not only a season best, but the first state championship automatic qualifying mark for the Panthers. Decker also moves into second spot in the region and top ten in the state.

Sophomore Julian Nagata placed second for the 400 meter hurdles in 54.97, just off his lifetime best, in a state B qualifying mark that ranks him second in the region. Sophomore Omar Pelayo dipped
under the provisional mark in the 3,000 meter steeplechase (10:20.29). Freshman Michael Ramirez continued to impress in his first season of college racing running a fine 1,500 meters (4:03.79) and 5,000 meters (15:37.90). Sophomore Guillermo Cuevas improved on his season bests in the same events with his 4:06.86 and 15:52.28. Freshman Omar Vasquez was right behind Cuevas in the 1,500 meters at 4:07.06. In addition to Ramirez and Cuevas, another five Panthers dipped under the provisional mark for the 5,000 meters lead by Andres Guerrero (16:05.13), Luis Romero (16:06.82), Michael Young (16:07.44), Robert Valencia (16:12.69), and James Palaniuk (16:12.84). Sophomore Alejandro Padron narrowly missed the provisional mark in the hammer throw but did toss a lifetime best 128'2".

Freshman Ilesha Boyd is inching her way toward a school record in the 400 meters. Running against the top ranked women in the region, Boyd improved her season best to 58.07 to move to second spot in school history trailing only Julie Coy's 57.47 in 1984. Freshman Davina Marshall continues to surprise not only her coaches, but the region as she placed second in the 400 low hurdles in an excellent time of 68.94. Marshall's mark is ranked second in the region and now places her into the top 20 in school history in just her third race in the event. Sophomore distance runners Amy Johnston and Victoria Alcala put out a solid showing taking the top two spots in the 1,500 meters running 4:59.66 and 5:01.84. They also placed second and third in the 800 meters in 2:28.77 and 2:29.31, both marks bettering the regional provisional mark. Sophomore Jessica Dobbins pole vaulted closer to state mark clearing 8'11" with teammate Diana Chobanian clearing 8'5". Freshman Kassie Peguero had a season best in the triple jump (34'4") that puts her fifth in the region.

6. Hartnell College Baseball
The HC baseball team finished the week with a split. On Tuesday, HC lost to MPC 6-5 in 10 innings. Mark Velasquez was 3 for 6 and Paul Arakaki 2 for 5. Sean Safko pitched 4 scoreless innings in relief. On Thursday, HC defeated Cabrillo 5-3. Sean Safko picked up the win by pitching 1.1 innings in relief. Jacob Cabral pitched 6.2 innings as the starter. Jose Guzman was 2 for 4 and hit our 1st homerun of the year and Paul Arakaki was 2 for 4. With the win Hartnell is now 2-1 in conference play and 7-8 overall.

7. Strategic Planning Process Initiated
On March 7 and 8 the Strategic Planning Groups (SPGs) received an orientation to the strategic planning process. The organization, procedures, timelines, tasks, and outcomes of the process were presented by Dr. Richard Prystowsky, dean of institutional planning and effectiveness, along with Langston Johnson, research analyst. A strategic planning web site has been established and will be updated as progress is made (http://www.hartnell.edu/ipe/strategic_planning/). The orientation included a review of the strategic priorities established by the Board of Trustees that will guide the strategic planning process (http://www.hartnell.edu/board/goals/).

8. Accreditation Town Hall Meetings Held
In preparation for the accreditation site visit that will take place the week of March 18, four town hall meetings were held. Two were held on the main campus and one each at the Alisal Campus and the King City Education Center. The purposes of these meetings were to review the accreditation self evaluation report, review the site visit procedures, review what happens following the site visit, and answer questions related to the accreditation process. Over 220 employees attend the town hall meetings. The accreditation self-evaluation document with embedded, online links to the evidence supporting the self-evaluation is now available at http://www.hartnell.edu/accreditation/documents/Hartnell_College_Self_Evaluation_Report_Spring_2013_Final.pdf.