1. Hartnell College Alumna Appointed President of Merritt College

On March 20, Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz returned to her alma mater to address students during Women's History Month and share her educational experiences, including her recent appointment as president of Merritt College in Oakland. She advised students to focus on something they love and be persistent in trying to achieve their dreams.

After graduating from Hartnell, Ambriz-Galaviz transferred to San Diego State University and began working for its extended opportunity programs and services departments. Her experiences counseling students made her realize there were other ways to serve her community. Dr. Ambriz-Galaviz decided to pursue a master’s degree in counseling. She also completed a doctorate in education-organizational leadership at the University of La Verne. She returned to Hartnell as a counselor, then worked for Cabrillo College, Chabot College and Mission College before landing her new position at Merritt.

2. Hartnell College Hosts U.S. Congressman Luis Gutierrez

Congressman Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., appeared before nearly 500 people at Hartnell College's Western Stage on March 17, a gathering largely composed of farmworkers and their political supporters, including Monterey County supervisors Simon Salinas and Fernando Armenta, and several Hartnell CCD trustees.

Gutierrez has been a staunch supporter of immigration reform for many years, with a big emphasis on giving an estimated 11 million undocumented workers a path to citizenship. His stance has drawn much sympathy from immigration reform advocates, and his presence usually draws big crowds as he tours the United States.

3. Hartnell College Alumnus and Former Coach Honored

Mike Maker, head coach of the men's basketball team at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., was named the Northeast Region Coach of the Year by D3Hoops.com. Maker, a former North Salinas High and Hartnell College point guard, has taken Williams to a pair of NCAA Division III Final Four appearances. In five seasons, he has compiled a 118-26 overall record.

In the NCAA Division III tournament for the fourth time, Williams is 25-4 overall, finishing 9-1 in conference. Maker started his coaching career as the women's head basketball coach at Hartnell College in the late 1980s.
4. **Accreditation Site Visit Team Delivers Exit Report**

Hartnell Colleges Accreditation Site Visit concluded on Thursday, March 21, 2013, with the visiting team issuing its preliminary findings during an exit interview at noon in Steinbeck Hall. After thanking the college for its hospitality and friendly cooperation, the visiting team issued five commendations and 12 recommendations to the college.

The college was commended for its cooperative spirit in making necessary changes, for offering unique and innovative programs that contributed to student learning and engagement, for providing architecturally interesting and inviting learning spaces for students, and for the innovative use of physical resources in King City and at the Alisal Campus that respond to the needs of the community. Its foremost commendation went to the president of the college, who was commended for assessing the institution’s needs immediately upon arrival on July 1, 2012, and his leadership in facilitating the processes that will lead to necessary improvements.

Among the team's recommendations to the college were to develop processes for the regular and systematic evaluation of its mission; to develop comprehensive integrative planning processes, including strategic and annual plans; to standardize student learning outcomes, service learning outcomes and program-level outcomes, and provide training for staff on how to accomplish this; to improve staff evaluation processes; to develop and implement a stable administrative structure; and to evaluate its participatory governance model. The team noted that much of this work has been started at the college, but that the college must work diligently to continue this work and complete the planning and assessment cycle.

In response to the team's findings I made the following statement. "Accreditation is a process that ensures institutional quality through a comprehensive assessment of the institution's effectiveness. The team's recommendations will form the basis for Hartnell College moving from a college of excellence to one of pre-eminence."

Over the next few months, the team will provide its commendations and recommendations to the college in a written report, inviting the college to respond to any factual errors. Then the report will be forwarded to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The Commission will meet in June to consider all of the evidence submitted to it, including the college's self-evaluation and the report of the visiting team, and will issue its decision on the college's accredited status.

5. **Hartnell College Proud to Host County Spelling Bee**

I was invited to attend the spelling bee and gave a greeting to the contestants, parents, and organizers on March 17. The event was held in the main theater of the The Western Stage. For the first time in 18 years, a student whose first language is not English is officially the county's best speller. Chualar School eighth-grader Cecilia Trujillo beat out 49 of the county's best spellers in sixth, seventh and eighth grade to capture the 18th annual Countywide Spelling Bee at Hartnell College. Cecilia, the daughter of farmworkers who attends a 300-student K-8 public school in the tiny community south of Salinas, beat out runner-up Jonathan Capuyan, a Palma School seventh-grader. She never missed a word through a dozen rounds of spelling during the contest, and after Jonathan finally stumbled, Cecilia won the title by spelling "paradigm."

6. **Western Stage Springfest Underway**

Several students stopped by my office and invited me to attend one of the shows that is part of the Springfest series ([http://184.173.221.23/~wstage/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/SpringFest2013-2.pdf](http://184.173.221.23/~wstage/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/SpringFest2013-2.pdf)). I attended the March 17 show and enjoyed a wonderful performance of **PUCK'D!: A**
Midsummer Night’s Dream REMIX’D. Hartnell College theatre students performed their own and unique version of William Shakespeare’s classic tale.

7. Women’s Softball Team Continues Winning Ways with Championship at March Madness Tournament at Ohlone College
The Lady Panthers won the tournament by beating our cross-town rival, MPC, in the championship game. They played six games in two days. With one day rest, the team traveled to San Mateo to face the #1 ranked team in northern California. The score was 0-0 through 5 innings, but suffered a 4-0 loss in the end. The team followed the loss with a 4-2 victory over De Anza College. HC now has an overall record of 25-5, a 7-2 conference mark, and a #6 ranking in northern California.

Highlights for the tournament weekend and season:
- Pitcher, Danielle Shipman is 16-3 for the season, 4-0 for the weekend
- Pitcher, Ashley Andrew is 7-1 for the season, 1-1 for the weekend
- Kaycee Gonzales is 12-21 at the plate this weekend with 1 homerun, 2 triples, and 3 doubles
- Alyssa Seva’aetasi is 8-20 at the plate with 1 homerun
- Ceina Smith is 6-11 at the plate with 1 homerun, 1 triple, and 1 double
- Andrea Estigoy had 6 RBIs and 1 homerun

8. Hartnell College Track Student-athletes Continue to Set New Records
Sophomore Ashley Jones has raised the bar for Hartnell College female sprinters. As a freshman she reset the long standing 100 and 200 meter school records on her way to a sixth place showing at the California Community College State Championship. On Friday at De Anza College, Jones once again did something that no female sprinter has ever done in a HC uniform. In winning the 200 meters, she clocked the first sub 25 second performance with her 24.63. The mark improves on her school record 25.16 she established at the Coast Conference Preview. The former Monte Vista Christian Mustang also won the 100 meters in 12.10, just off her school record 12.02. In addition to being the first at 200 meters, Jones could become the first female to dip under 12 seconds in the 100 meters this season.

The DeAnza Invitational served as an excellent show of strength across all events for the Lady Panthers as they added first place finishes in nine other events to go with the two by Jones. Freshman Iesha Boyd won the 400 meters (58.83) to go along with her second place in the 200 meters (25.22). The mark in the half lap makes her the second best performer only to Jones in school history.
Sophomore Amy Johnston won the 1,500 meters in a season best 4:59.38. Coupled with Jones and Boyd, Diana Chobanian and Lenae Stevens helped both the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams to victory in 49.04 and 4:09.80. The 4x400 time is under the State B qualifying standard. Chobanian won her first 400 low hurdle race of the season at 69.63 with teammate Michaela Trevino in second (72.49).
Freshman Kassandra Peguero put together a very impressive day as she cleared the Norcal provisional in the high jump (4'8.75"), state automatic in triple jump (36'0.75"), and set a season best in the 100 meter hurdles (16.86). Her triple jump and high jump marks were lifetime bests and move her into the top spot in the Coast Conference in both. Sophomore Erica Williams pulled the javelin to the third best mark in Hartnell history and a state automatic qualifying 120'6". As a freshman in 2011, Williams was a Norcal finalist in the javelin.

For the men, Omar Pelayo won his second 3,000 meter steelechase race (10:30.73). Freshman Michael Ramirez dipped under the State B qualifying mark in the 5,000 meter run (15:25.28) to go along with his second place in the 1,500 meter run (4:07.38). Austin Decker was victorious in the pole vault (13'9") with teammate Nathan Napolitano reaching the regional provisional mark with his 13'3.50". Sophomore Marvin Milligan cleared the provisional height in the high jump (6'1.50") to
take second place. Sophomore Phillip Cuevas put up impressive marks in the 100 meters (11.11) and 200 meters (21.96). Sophomore Alejandro Padron tossed the hammer to lifetime best 136’1” which gives him the third best throw in the conference.

Full Results Link
http://www.sml1.com/norcalstat/inftes/deanza_inv_res.htm

Coast Conference Rankings
http://www.directathletics.com/lists/track/26_1039.html

9. Baseball Team Has Tough Losses in Close Games
The Hartnell College baseball team concluded the week with a tough loss to Ohlone College 4-3. Ohlone scored 3 runs in the eighth inning to take the lead and the Panthers could not recover. Earlier in the week, the Panthers lost to San Mateo 10-8. HC battled back from a 9-2 deficit in the third inning, to have the tying run on 3rd with 2 outs in the seventh and down 9-8, but could not get the big hit. With the two losses the Panthers are still one game behind first place Ohlone College.

The team highlights for the week are:
Robert Wayman, 4-8, hitting .385 for the year
Matthew Antopia, 3-7, hitting .290 for the year
Kyle Cantu, 3-8 hitting
Sean Safko, 3.1 scoreless innings in relief, 1.86 era/year and 0.00 era/conference
Cody Gessell, 4.2 scoreless innings in relief, 3.14 era/year and 2.57 era/conference