Mission Statement: Hartnell College provides the leadership and resources to ensure that all students shall have equal access to a quality education and the opportunity to pursue and achieve their goals. We are responsive to the learning needs of our community and dedicated to a diverse educational and cultural campus environment that prepares our students for productive participation in a changing world.

1. Hartnell College Students Awarded Prestigious Baskin Scholarships

We were recently notified by the Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation with exciting news.

"Due to the exceptional caliber of the applicants, we are very excited to announce that we have decided to select two recipients from Hartnell College for the first time in the history of the Baskin Scholarship. Our Board has unanimously decided to select both Ana Ibarra-Castro and Anthea Maniulit as this year's recipients."

L to R: Andy Newton, HC Director of the Math and Science Institute; Ana Ibarra; Anthea Maniulit; Jackie Cruz, HC Executive Director of Advancement

Anthea will be attending UC, Davis this fall majoring in bio-chemical engineering. Last summer Anthea completed a research internship at UC, Santa Cruz in a molecular, cell and developmental biology lab. Her topic was "Isolation and Characterization of a Novel Mycobacteriophage and the Annotation and Analysis of Mycobacteriophage Krakatau." She plans to have a career in pharmaceutical research.

Ana will be attending UC, Santa Cruz this fall majoring in bio-molecular engineering. Ana has completed summer research internships at UC, Santa Cruz and at the USDA Agricultural Research Service. She received the 2012 Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship from the American Phytopathological Society for her work at the USDA in plant pathology. This was the first time this award had ever gone to a community college student as opposed to a four-year university undergraduate.

These young women will each be receiving $20,000 scholarships. Congratulations to these outstanding students and their accomplishments and congratulations to the HC faculty, staff, and partners for their contributions to the success of these students. We are so appreciative of the support provided by the Baskin Foundation for our students.
2. Oscar the Panther Full of History

At the southeast entrance to HC you’ll meet “Oscar,” as students long ago named him. He is a 10-foot long, 16-ton granite panther sculpture guarding the college entrance. People like Oscar. They pat him on his noble head and admire his sleek lines. They wait beside him for others they’re supposed to meet. They take photos. On a hot day, his surface is cool to the touch.

Oscar was created by Raymond Puccinelli, a prominent artist. The Class of 1940 gifted the panther to the college. The idea of a panther as the symbol of the college came from then-president Richard Wener.

There has been only one slip-up with Oscar. A time capsule was buried under Oscar. It was to be opened Dec. 9, 2140. Oscar’s hefty size and weight, alas, crushed the historic time-traveling capsule and cut short its journey into the future. Otherwise, Oscar has led a perfect life.

An old college guide describes many adventures for Oscar. “He has been dressed up for different occasions. He’s been painted pink. Once he was found at the bottom of the pool ... at Monterey Peninsula College!”

3. Hartnell College Engaging in "Incident Command System" Training

Several HC employees have started training in the Incident Command System (ICS). In the event of an emergency this team will come together and work jointly with law enforcement, fire fighters, and other community responders as needed to ensure the safety and security of Hartnell College staff, students, visitors and property. The ICS approach was developed in the 1970s following a series of catastrophic fires in California. Studies revealed that response problems were not tied to a lack of resources or tactics, but response problems were linked to inadequate management of the crisis. The ICS:
is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or nonemergency situations.

represents "best practices" and has become the standard for emergency management across the country.

may be used for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism.

is a key feature of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Training will continue into the fall 2013 and will culminate with a mock emergency exercise.

4. Hartnell College President Goes Back to School

I was accepted into the 7th "AgKnowledge" class and the group had its first class meeting on Friday, April 12. The AgKnowledge program is presented by Grower-Shipper Association Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is “To promote and educate about the health, social and cultural benefits of agriculture to the community and society as a whole.” AgKnowledge is co-sponsored by Grower-Shipper Association and Monterey County.

This Executive Seminar Program provides policy makers, educators, media, and other community leaders the opportunity to “walk in the shoes of a farmer”, to see Monterey County through the eyes of those involved in the many facets of agriculture. AgKnowledge class members will better understand the heart of those that work the land or otherwise contribute to the production and distribution of agricultural commodities. The class meets monthly through November 2013.

The first class meeting included a visit to the 4,300 acre Dorrence Family Ranch on the northern ridge of Mt. Toro. The Dorrence family settled the property in the 1940s and have grazed cattle on the ranch through a stewardship approach that promotes biodiversity and improves grazing production. The Dorrence family recently provided a "conservation easement" to the Nature Conservancy because of the desire to preserve this unique property forever and to protect it from unwanted development. The views of the Salinas Valley from the ranch are spectacular.
The Lady Panthers went into the game at San Jose City College with high expectations. In the bottom of the 2nd inning SJCC scored 2 runs on a homer with 2 outs. The Panthers came back in the top of the 3rd inning with a 2 run double by Kaycee Gonzales. The game ended with a 7-2 loss for HC.

Against Gavilan on April 11, pitcher Ashley Andrew had 14 strikeouts. An 8-1 victory for the Panthers was aided by homeruns from Alyssa Seva’aetasi and Jessica Shipman. The Lady Panthers are now 29-6 with an overall ranking 2nd in Nor-Cal and 5th in state.

Freshman Austin Decker upped his season and state leading best to 15'8.5" moving him to seventh all-time in school history. Decker's clearance is the third highest in the nation for community college athletes and leads Josiah Becker of Cuesta College by 1.5 inches for the California community college lead.

The women's 4x100 relay team of sophomore Ashley Jones and freshmen Iesha Boyd, Diana Chobanian, and Lenae Stevens finally bettered the school record of 48.61 set in 1996 with their 48.52 time. Jones also placed third in both the 100 meters (12.51) and 200 meters (25.09) into a slight headwind. Sophomore Amy Johnston ran the fifth fastest 1,500 meters in school history with her 4:49.95. She is also becomes only the fifth female in Hartnell history to run the metric mile in under 4:50. She was followed by teammate Victoria Alcala who just missed the milestone timed in a heartbreaking 4:50.01. This was a lifetime best for Alcala by two seconds and sixth best performance in school history. The school record of 4:39.5 is held by Olympian Maria Trujillo set in 1980. Freshman Omar Vasquez improved to 4:04.05 in the 1,500 meter run to move into the second position in the Coast Conference behind teammate Michael Ramirez. Sophomore Aaron Vaughan just missed the all-time 400 meter intermediate hurdle list with his lifetime personal best 56.72.