On Saturday, May 14, 2016 the Associated Students of Hartnell College (ASHC) sponsored the Second Annual Women Empowerment Conference at Steinbeck Hall – a project started by Hartnell student and ASHC member Juana Sanchez Anguiano a year ago. More than 90 Hartnell and high school students registered for the event which began with a welcome from emcee and committee advisor, Esmeralda Montenegro Owen, Director of Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations. She led the room through different ice breaker exercises and networking activities. Everyone was engaged and having fun while getting to know one another. The keynote speaker, Monica Tovar, Sales Director at Mapleton Communications, was informative, inspirational, goofy, and insightful. She spoke of her mom who never got the chance to fulfill her ultimate dream and goal: to graduate from high school. “It is so much easier for you now,” she told the audience. “You have all the opportunities and resources here.”

The attendees had workshops to choose from in wellness, assertiveness, writing cover letters and resumes, money management, and how to transfer to a university.

During lunch, they had a treat. The group enjoyed great music by Tatiana’s War Machine plus ASHC member Frankie Juarez prepared a runway show to display looks appropriate for interviewing, working in an office environment, and for evening events. It was a hit.
All participants received lots of information, had their portrait taken at check-in, received door prizes, and some even won extra goodies at the end of the day. The comments were incredibly positive and the new committee is already forming with student Priscila Amao as co-chair of next year’s conference. This event was made possible by the support of the ASHC; special thanks go to the workshop presenters: Augustin Nevarez, Mercedes Quintero, Millicent Madrigal, Theresa Carbajal, and Dr. Hortencia Jimenez. It was also great to see the male factor in the room with ASHC members helping out in every area of the conference.

2. PARTY IN THE LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS 10TH YEAR!

The Hartnell College Foundation hosted its Tenth Annual Party in the Library, “Technicolor Dreams”, presented by Sam Linder Auto Group. Party in the Library is one of Salinas Valley’s favorite events, verified by the second year of record breaking attendance with over 400 people coming out to support Hartnell College and Foundation, raising over $367,000. The night featured a cocktail greeting, delectable strolling dinner, amazing auction, dancing to the Money Band, and most importantly the opportunity to make the educational dreams of Hartnell students come true. Hartnell students, Jason Vannest and Rivka Garcia, shared their personal educational journeys. Each student spoke about the impact of Hartnell’s programs, student success scholarships, and career preparation internships on their lives.

Each year the event features the presentation of the Hartnell College Foundation’s Leadership Award. The Leadership Award honors exceptional leaders who have exhibited significant effort and leadership on behalf of the Foundation, college, students and alumni. This year’s award was presented to Butch Lindley. Butch has been deeply involved with Hartnell for many years and has been instrumental in securing philanthropic gifts that have launched forward-thinking programs and partnerships that are changing higher education in the Salinas Valley. Hartnell
College Foundation recognizes Margaret D’Arrigo-Martin and Cathy Schlumbrecht for their vision and thanks to the Party in the Library Committee for its leadership and the community for supporting Party in the Library 2016. It was an honor to have Trustees Erica Padilla-Chavez, Pat Donohue, and Candi DePauw enjoying the festivities with us.

3. NEW ASHC OFFICERS AND STUDENT TRUSTEE

Two weeks ago, the Office of Student Life and the ASHC Elections Committee introduced the newly elected officers for the 2016-2017 academic year. Trustee Padilla-Chavez helped me welcome them during May’s Board meeting. We thank all the candidates for the outstanding work in engaging students and the Hartnell community. They all displayed a great level of leadership and commitment to improving student life at Hartnell College. They are:

President, Rafael Mendoza  
Vice President, Brandy Mendez  
Secretary, Max Rivera-Orozco  
Treasurer, Micah Harrigan  
Director of Inter-Club Council, Maria Carrillo  
Director of P & S, Nelida Ponce  
Director of Public Relations, Paola Delgado  
Senator At-Large, Alondra Ruiz

Senator At-Large, Salah Eshack  
Senator At-Large, Julio Perez  
Senator At-Large, Sarina Atkins  
Senator At-Large, Valeria Duenas  
Senator Evening/Online/Weekends, Daniela Ramirez Hernandez  
Senator South County, Alejandra Ponce  
Senator Alisal Campus, Elizabeth Madrigal  
Student Trustee, Hector Moya

4. TRANSFER MIXER GATHERS EXCITED STUDENTS

On Wednesday, May 11, 2016 the Transfer and Career Center hosted its Third Annual Transfer Mixer to celebrate our graduating transfer students. Over 30 transfer students attended the mixer at Steinbeck Hall where they were able to network with local university representatives, former Hartnell transfer students, and their peers. The students enjoyed receiving heart felt advice from a panel of experienced transfer students from the UC and CSU systems. It was great to see groups forming according to the university they are attending. Having that Hartnell connection can be of great support. Each transfer student
received a Certificate in recognition of Transfer Achievement. Our transfer alumni panel included: Alison Aceves and Brandy Ziriax, both transfers at CSUMB; and Andrea Perez and Edgar Collazo, transfer graduates from UCSB and UCSC, respectively. The Transfer Mixer was made possible with the support of the student Transfer Club, 2015-16. Congratulations, Transfers, we are proud of your achievements!

5. MUSIC REACHES CHILDREN IN SOLEDAD

Last week, the Hartnell College Choir performed in Soledad at Jack Franscioni Elementary School for kindergarten and first grade students. A former Hartnell Panther, Andre Firme, is a first grade teacher there and hosted the travelling choir. This outreach to South Monterey County schools is made possible by a grant from the STAR Foundation of Monterey County.

6. ANDY MATSUI IS HONORED FOR CSIN3 AT ROTARY MEETING

As a member of the Salinas Rotary, I was thrilled when the club decided to honor and recognize Andy Matsui for all the support to students in the CSin3 program and to the community as a whole. It was an honor for me to be a part of helping to recognize Mr. Matsui. It was a full house on Tuesday and we started by showing the CSin3 Heart of Hartnell video which tells of the collaboration between Hartnell, CSU Monterey Bay, and the Matsui Foundation. President of CSUMB, Dr. Eduardo Ochoa helped me welcome Andy on to the stage to receive The Spirit of Rotary Award. The lunch meeting was filled with a lot of feel-good stories. High school students were acknowledged for their academic
achievements and community involvement. The stories were fascinating! It was a great day to say ‘thank you’ to Andy Matsui for his vision and love for his community. His efforts are changing lives!

In group photo: Melvin Jimenez (Hartnell), Dr. Lori Kildal (Hartnell), me, Andy Matsui, Dr. Eduardo Ochoa (CSUMB), Provost Bonnie Irwin (CSUMB), and Sathya Narayanan (CSUMB) (Also in attendance but not in photo: Joe Welch (Hartnell), Esmeralda Montenegro Owen (Hartnell)

7. MEETING OF STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

On Monday, May 9, 2016 I conducted the bi-annual Strategic Planning Advisory Group meeting at Steinbeck Hall. Trustee Manuel Osorio was one of the attendees who received an update of the state of the College and future plans. I provided the stakeholders with an overview of the budget, our growth in enrollment, employee giving, nursing and allied health successes, transfer students, degrees and certificates awarded each year, CTE employment outcomes, and adult participation rates. In addition, I gave a brief update on the current studies on the feasibility of a facilities bond measure for November’s ballot. Other items that we discussed included the completion of the STEM Center Building this summer, the CSin3 Cohort 1 graduation this May, accreditation, Measure H savings after refunding, grants awarded to prepare K-12, and more.

It was a great way to let those leaders in education and in our community know of all the successes happening at Hartnell College and how we are able to collaborate to continue to grow the next group of leaders.

8. HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE SELECTS INDUCTEES FOR 2016

The nominations came rolling in! Dozens of deserving student-athletes, coaches, staff, and supporters were nominated to be considered for the 2016 Athletics Hall of Fame. The committee met on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 to go over all the submissions and voted on the final list. This year, four teams and 11 individuals are nominated for a total of 15 inductees! The calls are being made right now and as soon as all have been contacted and they have accepted the nomination, a press release will be disseminated to announce the honorees.

9. STUDENTS COMPLETE 5-YEAR ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP

My wife Michele and I attended the graduation ceremony for electrician apprentices held at the Monterey Hyatt Hotel on May 6, 2016. Board of Trustees members Ray Montemayor and David Serena also attended the event. I had the honor of being one of the speakers for the ceremony.
In partnership with Hartnell College, the Tri-County Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) is a jointly administered program by the Monterey Bay California Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 234. The JATC covers the jurisdiction of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey County and is the only federally and state registered electrical apprenticeship program located in the Monterey Bay area. The JATC administers a five-year electrical apprenticeship program. Indentured apprentices work for a signatory electrical contractor during the day earning a wage in addition to attending school in Castroville two nights a week. The apprenticeship school year begins in September and completes in May. The Tri-County Electrical JATC also provides continuing education for Journeymen Wiremen who work as Electricians in the Monterey Bay area.

10. STAFF RETREAT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Last week, the Office of Institutional Advancement had its annual staff retreat. Jackie Cruz, Loyalne Flinn, Esmeralda Montenegro, Karen Hagman, Kira Bona, Terri Ugale, Cristina Westfall, and Ashton Clarke came ready to share and learn! The day started at Cristina Westfall’s home with a potluck breakfast followed by session filled with activities, reflections, and work plan review facilitated by consultants Sonja Koehler and Kim Stemler. The group then moved to Patria’s for a hearty lunch and ended the day at Roaring Mice Art Studio to paint and for team building. This was a day filled with revelations, good energy, hope, solidarity, and teamwork. (The artwork to the right is an example of what everyone achieved on this day! All in Office can now be called ‘artists.’)
11. WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE ASHTON CLARKE

The Hartnell College Foundation is happy to announce the new addition of Ashton Clarke as the new Philanthropy Officer. He will work closely with the arts and athletics. He brings years of non-profit and fundraising experience to the foundation. He has a passion for securing funds from many different constituencies to create meaningful outcomes for individuals, organizations, donors, and the community. He received his bachelors of arts in economics from Claremont McKenna College, where he also played football and lacrosse. He enjoys taking advantage of all that Monterey County has to offer such as great local productions, wonderful food and wine, fantastic golfing and scenic views. Ashton can be contacted at aclarke@hartnell.edu.

12. HARTNELL'S KOENIG TO CONTINUE AT UC SAN DIEGO

Hartnell College freshman Paul Koenig did not arrive on campus last fall on the same path as most of the new Panther tracksters. Despite being contacted during his senior year by hurdle coach Steve Villegas, Koenig had already lined up an appointment to the Air Force Academy coming out of Seaside High School. Paul was a Gen Giammanco scholarship recipient, state finalist in the 300 hurdles, and carried an outstanding GPA. Fortunately for Hartnell College, Paul found immediately the Air Force Academy was not a good fit for him and returned quickly to the Monterey Bay. He was released from his appointment but with no college to attend. Paul quickly remembered the high school teammates who had attended Hartnell College and the contact made by Coach Villegas. Paul enrolled full-time in the fall and continued to build his strong academic resume. He met almost daily with Athletic Academic Counselor Rich Givens, making sure he had all his bases covered for transfer to CSU or UC after a year. In the meantime, Paul was learning how to tackle the longer 400 intermediate hurdles. Just last week, Paul was the Coast Conference Champion in the 400 hurdles in a lifetime best 55.11. The mark will place Paul's name among the best long hurdlers in school history. His point contribution helped the Panthers to a fourth consecutive team title. Paul is currently ranked #5 in Northern California in the 400 hurdles. Heading into the May 14th regional championship, Paul will be seeded third with an excellent opportunity to extend his season to the CCCAA State Championship to be held at San Diego Mesa College. Purely coincidence, Paul will be attending UC San Diego and...
competing for the Tritons next year and is hoping to get a brief preview of his future home in a few weeks.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

New season at The Western Stage starts with,
Arthur Miller’s timely drama A View from the Bridge
Performances are May 28-June 19, 2016 in The Studio Theatre

A Vocal Extravaganza
(Featuring students from the Hartnell College Voice class)
Directed by Sandy Rudo
Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:00 PM in K125

Hartnell Commencement 2016
Rabobank Stadium
Friday, May 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

14. IN THE NEWS

College? Give it a try
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2016/05/12/hartnell-college-salinas-high-school-graduation-roberto-robledo/84286296/

National news – NPR: Embodiment of grit in how children of farmworkers became tech professionals
http://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2016/05/15/477794854/embodiment-of-grit-how-children-of-farm-workers-became-tech-professionals

Class of Computer Science Grads Breaks the Mold
http://kazu.org/term/local#stream/0

Hartnell softball players receive honors
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2016/05/14/hartnell-softball-players-receive-honors/84366674/