Hartnell Students Awarded Scholarships from Coast Hills Federal Credit Union

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, Michele and I attended the Coast Hills Federal Credit Union “Gold Standard” Scholarship Luncheon. The event was held at the Cliffs Resort at Shell Beach. Coast Hills provides $2,500 scholarships for two students at each of the community colleges on the Central Coast. It was an honor to be there to support these Beatriz Garza and Celeste Gallegos. In addition, Coast Hills provided $217 to each scholarship recipient to be designated to a charity of each recipient’s choice. Each student has a powerful story of grit, determination, and courage that exemplifies the students of Hartnell. Jeff York, CEO of Coast Hills, is a Salinas native having grown up by the College and attended Palma High School. It is always great to catch up with him and he always tells me that Salinas has a special place in his heart. Although both students were unable to attend due to illness, I proudly accepted the scholarships on their behalf. Here is a little bit about each of them:

**Beatriz Garza**

Beatriz first started attending college in 2002. In her first two semesters, she got four A grades and had a GPA of 3.4 - a great start. Then her cousin moved away, which might have been sad for some, but for Beatriz, it also meant a major life change. That cousin was her ride to college, and she no longer had the ability to commute. So, she changed her path, became a stay-at-home mom, raising three boys and serving as the glue for a family of five that has always needed to save in an up-
and-down job market. Beatriz was active in parent organizations at her kids’ schools. And recently, she teamed with six other moms to complete a restroom beautification project at a major local park. Spurred by her civic pride for Salinas, it was important to her to help improve the city’s image. Now that her oldest is in college and her younger boys will be there soon, she wants to set an example. Going back to college, learning more English, earning a degree and securing a job in social work, those are her new goals. And this time, she’s ready to clear any hurdles that come her way.

**Celeste Gallegos**

Just like 7 ½ million other Americans, Celeste has a speech impediment. Kids have bullied her for being different and she has felt discriminated against by prospective employers. But she refuses to view her stammer as a disability — she did not even mention it in her application — and she will be danged if she is going to let it stop her from accomplishing everything she sets out to do. Finding this place has not been easy; she has gone through periods of depression where she did not believe in herself, believe that she was smart enough to go to college or would have enough money to pay for it either. But through enduring persistence, she is doing all of the above. She is holding down a job at Wal-Mart, has found a passion for studying photography, and she is helping the theater department produce agricultural documentaries as a leading student videographer. She hopes to transfer to San Jose State to pursue a career behind the lens.

And, Celeste, we believe in you.

Congratulations to these amazing students!

**Olympic Day at the Home of the Panthers**

On Saturday June 11, 2017 Hartnell College hosted the first Olympic Day at the Tony Teresa Diamond. This event featured six Olympians: Ariel Rittenhouse, Blake Russell, Victor Plata, Gary Figueroa, Tim Hutten, and Robert Sevne. The event was organized by Monterey Bay Olympians in order to promote community involvement and recognition of local Olympians. During the day, attendees were able to speak, take photos and interact with the Olympians. The free event included a workshop led by Olympians. They shared and encouraged people to stay in shape with simple every day exercises. According to organizer and Olympian, Victor Plata, he intends to continue to bring Olympic Day to Salinas for years to come.
Welcome Back Sports Summer Camps!

On June 12, 2017 the Hartnell College Athletics Department kicked off its annual summer camps with our boys’ basketball and co-ed soccer summer camps! The boys’ basketball camp was a blast for about 70 children between the ages of 5 to 14. Men’s Basketball Head Coach Andrew Vasher and his Assistant Coach Steven Terry organized and led the camp with the help of student-athletes Jessy Hurtado and Matt Vasher. At the same time, Men’s and Women’s Soccer Head Coaches, Daniel Ortega and Ivan Guerrero hosted their annual co-ed soccer camp. They led over 70 boys and girls through basic and advanced skills workshops. “This is one of my favorite activities to do. We get kids from all over the area, from Carmel to Gonzales and all the way to Hollister. It gives student-athletes the opportunity to be role models and leaders in their own community,” said Ortega. The co-ed soccer camps are also led by student-athletes who volunteer to help out. Every member of both teams has volunteered so far. Both camps are scheduled to come back and we hope to welcome even more children to our camps next summer. What a great way to expose children to the game and also to leadership, teamwork, and respect. Go Panther Cubs!

Student-Athlete Spotlights

This week we have three student-athletes to feature: Jessy Hurtado from Men’s Basketball, Jocelyn Gonzales from Women’s Soccer, and Brandon Hernandez from Men’s Soccer. These three student-athletes are volunteering their time this summer to help in the summer camps with their perspective sport. We want to recognize each one of them for their commitment to give back to our community.

Jessy Hurtado is originally from Sonora, Mexico. He came to the United States at the age of 15. He is a proud Alisal
High School alumnus where he played three years for the Varsity Basketball team. He decided to come to Hartnell to improve his basketball skills and stay close to his family. He plans on transferring to Fresno State to major in Spanish. Jessy enjoys helping children learn new basketball techniques.

**Jocelyn Gonzales** is originally from Castroville and a proud North Monterey High School alumna. She enjoys volunteering at the summer camps because she is always surprised on how talented some of the children are despite their young age. Jocelyn has volunteered to help teach these children some tricks of the trade for as long as it takes.

**Brandon Hernandez** has helped out for several summer camps here at Hartnell. He enjoys being at the summer camps because he gets to see these children grow as athletes from the first day of the camp to the last. “I love being here because when I was young, there was nothing like this available. I am glad to be a part of this and give back to my community and encourage these children to be more active,” explained Brandon. We are so proud to have student-athletes such as Jessy, Jocelyn and Brandon; their efforts to continue to give back to our community and the younger generations are impressive. Thank you and all the other volunteers for all your work. Go Panthers!

**Student Spotlight – Stephen Carrillo**

Stephen Carrillo signed up for Hartnell in January 2016, a few months after he moved from Mexico to the Central Coast. Stephen did not know the English language, but he found the support he needed to learn at Hartnell College. And boy did he learn quickly! A semester after starting at Hartnell College, he became a tutor for English, Spanish, and ESL in the Panther Learning Labs. “I love learning,” commented Stephen. “The discipline I bring from Mexico has allowed me to be persistent and consistent in my learning and campus engagement.”

He is a Business and Marketing major with the goal to transfer to either UC Berkeley or UCLA to finish a bachelor’s degree and eventually acquire a master’s. Six months ago, Stephen got the opportunity to join Director of Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations, Esmeralda Montenegro Owen as her intern. Together, they have worked on various marketing campaigns including: Take one more, Take 15, and inspirations posters. He enjoys doing photography, writing creatively, engaging with other students, and volunteering for Foundation fundraisers. He practices what he preaches by taking 15 units each semester plus earning a 4.0 GPA or close each term. His motivation for academic and social success impresses and encourages those around him.

“Stephen is a cut above the rest with a tremendous work ethic,” said Montenegro Owen. “He is an impressive young man who wished there were more hours in the day so he could do even more than what he is doing now.”
He recently joined the Hartnell Speech Team to enhance his communications skills and compete against other community colleges. Stephen is currently doing another internship at the public relations and marketing firm Chatterbox PR, where he is also gaining experience in his field of work. He will continue to intern for marketing at Hartnell, work at the Panther Learning Labs, and tutor outside of Hartnell. He plans to graduate and transfer in spring 2019. Keep up the good work!

**Division retreat for Academic Affairs**

Academic Affairs Deans, Directors and staff gathered together under Dr. Lori Kildal's leadership for the annual Academic Affairs Division Retreat on June 9, 2017, in the STEM Center. The team participated in a day-long CPR/First Aid Training organized by Dean Debra Kaczmar and Susan Derichsweiler. Dean Shannon Bliss led the group on a tour of the new STEM Center building and participants had the opportunity to join in a chemistry experiment. The group was also treated to a Planetarium show on exoplanets presented by Coordinator Andrew Lindsey.

**Five-Day Experimental Learning Institute**

The week of June 5th – 9th, 2017 was an exciting learning opportunity for a group of 15 staff, faculty, and administrators! The attendees participated in the Five-Day Experiential Learning Institute (FELI) held at the National Steinbeck Center. Facilitated by Master Mentor, Anne Endris from Cabrillo College, the FELI provided professional development experience opportunities around themes such as: Successful Students, Student Bonding and Community Building, Productive Conversations Between Classmates, Becoming Aware of Perception and Judgment, and Recognizing Student Strengths. Participants gained greater awareness of how to work effectively with different learning styles, however, some of the biggest take-aways were what they learned about themselves! Managing their own bio-reactions, learning about their personal working styles and energy flows, and sharing their own “Hero’s Journey” provided a safe space for all to share openly and authentically. Participants walked away with materials, resources, and exercises to take back to the classrooms, and an even deeper understanding of SELF.
Graduates – more celebrations!
Daughter, Athena Ramirez graduated with honors from Greenfield High School. She will be attending Hartnell in the fall and is excited to have been selected to join the Speech Team. She was heavily involved with the FFA in high school, has raised livestock, and served as the reporter for the Greenfield FFA Chapter. She earned the highest possible accolade, a California State FFA Degree. Athena is excited to begin this new chapter of her life at Hartnell and transfer to a university to continue her education.
-Ariana Rodriguez (Assessment Testing Coordinator)

UPCOMING EVENTS
The Western Stage launches its 43rd Repertory Season with:
-Born Yesterday
June 10 through July 2, 2017
-Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson
July 8 – 29, 2017
Details are at westernstage.com.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK
Hartnell College – Classes of 2016-17

Softball looking to build off strong season
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2017/06/06/panthers-softball-looking-build-off-strong-season/375938001/