A special tribute

**Remembering Our Fallen Opening Ceremony**

A somber feel was immediately felt this week as you entered Steinbeck Hall. The music, with a tone of honor, gave way to the spectacular exhibit ‘Remembering our Own,’ a memorial of almost 5,000 soldiers and service men/women who have died since 9/11 in the war against terror. You could not help but be saddened by the faces of individuals who lost their lives to protect ours. Some photos, show the families they left behind. Hartnell College is proud to be one of the first locations in the country to display the emotional exhibit.

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, we held the opening ceremony in the Student Center led by faculty member Peter Calvert and I was honored to give the welcome. It was an emotional ceremony, that included the Posting of the Colors by Everett Alvarez HS NJROTC; the National Anthem by Celestina Ripley; a note from Representative Jimmy Panetta read by Marina Perepelyuk; words from Salinas Mayor, Joe Gunter; the Battlefield Cross Ceremony by Trustee Candi DePauw; the POW/MIA Table Ceremony by Trustee Manuel Osorio; a touching speech by Gold Star Mother, Noala Fritz; another testimonial from Gold Star Uncle, Tony Virrueta; reading of Monterey County Fallen names by Gemma Uribe-Cruz; and Taps by Carl Triplett.

**Remembering our Fallen**, reminds Americans of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan while serving with honor to defend our Country.

The memorial includes 31 Tribute Towers with military and personal photos of almost 5,000 of our nation’s fallen since 9/11/2001. This memorial was unveiled nationally at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on September 7, 2017; the memorial includes a Tribute Tower to recognize our service men.
and women who died from training accidents or attacks while stationed stateside or in combat overseas. In addition, the memorial honors those who return from war with the invisible wounds of PTSD and succumb to suicide.

The tribute was on campus for an entire week and hundreds of people came to pay their respects.

Eric Becerra, Director of HEP

From a farm working family to Harvard

Growing up in Castroville, Eric Becerra never imagined himself living on the East Coast – let alone, attending one of the most prestigious universities in the world. But life has a way of placing opportunities out there for those who really want to make a difference in the lives of students. This is Eric’s case. He grew up in a farm working family and credits his migrant counselor in high school for guiding him towards higher education and advocacy. He graduated from UC Santa Cruz and continued on to earn his Master’s in Counseling from San Diego State University. He came to Hartnell four years ago to lead our High School Equivalency Program (HEP) with great success.

Thanks to a fellowship with the National Community College Hispanic Council, Eric found out that only .03% of Latinos complete a doctorate degree. He was inspired to be one to move the needle thanks to inspiring words from Dr. Ted Martinez from the NCCHC and speaker Cesar A. Cruz.

After years and years of taking local students in the Salinas Valley Dream Academy to visit Ivy League schools, he allowed himself to also imagine himself at one of those institutions completing a doctorate. Eric applied to the Doctorate in Educational Leadership program at Harvard University. Only 25 spots were available.

“This whole process has never been about myself,” said Becerra. “It is a collective win for my family and my community.”

Indeed, a few days after a 2-day interview process, he received the call inviting him into the doctorate program, with a full scholarship plus a stipend. This will be a three-year accelerated program – two years at Harvard and his third year in California for his residency. His family is fully supportive and excited.

“To think that someone from Castroville, CA is making a way for other farm working families to think of themselves as able and deserving of such opportunities is mind boggling,” expressed Becerra with tears in his eyes.

He did a special reveal with his four children (Alicia, Andrea, Tlaneci, and Cuauhtemoc), wife Clarissa, and other family members. Although he will be away for two years, they are all so
proud of him and his dad even cried at the great news. All happy tears. He says that he can see how this is making a huge impact in the lives of his children. He says that having a doctorate will open up a world of opportunities for him. For now, he wants to continue telling his story and becoming more comfortable doing so because of the lives he can transform with his message. His HEP family is beyond proud and happy for him — they will miss him, but know that greater opportunities await.

“My goal is to lead from where I stand – to be led to where I can have an impact,” concluded Becerra.

Congratulations Eric!

Employees for Student Success BBQ

The Employees for Student Success Committee and the Hartnell College Foundation hosted a BBQ on April 3, 2018 to raise funds for student scholarships and to also gain a few more Hartnell employees to sign up to be constant donors to special funds. The event supported the Employees for Student Success Campaign for 2018 — the only one of its kind and with proven success in the entire state. Over 240 lunches were sold, which grossed over $2,000 in support of Hartnell students.

Hartnell Softball mid-season recap

With seven games remaining on the schedule for the Hartnell Women’s Softball Team, they are now looking towards the postseason. Hartnell currently sits at 11-16 (.407) overall record and with a 3-5 (.375) conference record, featuring big wins against West Valley (W 10-9) and San Jose (W 6-3). Sophomore pitcher, Danielle Caoili, has shown her versatility pitching a 3.45 ERA and earning 30 strikeouts so far this season, but most impressively, ranks third in conference with 4 home runs! Not to mention sophomore Angelina Ruiz, who has been a force to be reckoned with on the base; Ruiz has had 15 stolen bases so far on the season and sitting atop
conference. The postseason is not the focus for the Lady Panthers, since there are still 7 games remaining in the season. The Softball Team is looking to exceed the .500 record. However, their schedule speaks for itself, as they have played in multiple showcases and tournaments against high ranked teams. Hartnell has had 128 runs, a .292 batting average, and a 393% slugging percentage so far. They look to succeed as they play three of their final seven games home against league teams. Next home game for the Hartnell Women’s Softball Team will be against Cabrillo on April 12, 2018. Go Panthers!!

Panthers keep grinding towards the end of the season
Our Hartnell Panthers Baseball team continues to dig their claws into the mound and keep pounding away. Standing at (9-20) our Panthers haven't had the easiest season, at one point dropping 10 games back to back. Head Coach Babin and the rest of the coaching staff’s continuous push of the team’s preparation and play has produced a huge turn around. At one point, Hartnell won 5 games in a row against tough competition, now reaching conference play Hartnell continues to fight and have a solid (5-4) record in conference. In their last 5 games, the Panthers were only able to walk away with one win. In this stretch Hartnell only produced 13 runs while allowing their opponents to dish out 37 runs in total. Offense has been a big part of the team's success. In their last 3 wins they had a total of 22 runs behind (#12) Timothy Burkhardt’s batting average of .358 and (#2) Nick Gardoni’s .342 batting average. Moving forward Hartnell has to get back to hitting these balls with precision. Along with that, the pitching has allowed a total of 39 runs in the last 5 losses. With the games getting tougher towards this end of the season the Panthers need to limit those huge run games and keep them within a competitive distance. Pitchers such as (#3) Joseph Gutierrez, (#15) Anthony Fashano and (#8) Ricardo Torres look to get that job done to put Hartnell in a position of success. Hartnell faces conference/division rival Cabrillo College Tuesday, April 10 at 2:30 p.m. on Cabrillo’s Home field. Go Panthers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Estudiantina, University of Guanajuato, MX
Thursday, April 12, 2018
K-125 at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
Student Center – Lunch time

Western Food Safety Summit
May 9, 2018
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
At the Mainstage Theater
President’s Forum
Monday, April 23, 2018
Steinbeck Hall at 11:30 a.m.
Retirees’ Recognition

EDUCATOR IN RESIDENCE
DR. CAROL MCKIDDEN

February 27, 2018
What Does It Mean to Be a Minority-Majority City in California in the New Millennium?

March 14, 2018
Imagining Warriors: How They Shaped American History

April 10, 2018
Public Health and American Policy in Historical Context

May 2, 2018
Environmental Activism in Agricultural Communities: The Salinas Example.

Building B, Room 208
1:00 PM
FEBRUARY 27, 2018
MARCH 14, 2018
APRIL 10, 2018
MAY 2, 2018

For more events, go to Calendar at www.hartnell.edu
IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Salinas residents invited to 'Remember Our Fallen' during exhibit at Hartnell College

An emotional tribute at Hartnell (KION)
https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=4225&DateTime=4%2F3%2F2018+11%3A05%3A59+PM&Term=Hartnell+College&PlayClip=TRUE

Vikings drop non-conference game in roller coaster against Hartnell College

World class rodeo champion still aiming for new goals
http://www.tahlequahdailypress.com/sports/world-class-rodeo-champion-still-aiming-for-new-goals/article_c1387a2d-c3b0-5ab4-9f04-71a842130385.html