Ag Tech Summit draws 600-plus, highlights actionable innovation

I joined event Co-Chair Nick Pasculli in welcoming more than 600 people with a stake in technology’s pivotal role in agricultural production, distribution and sales to our Main Campus for the Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit on March 27.

This sixth annual summit underscored the importance of agricultural technology to our mission of education and public service, including the need for innovation to help feed a world population expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050.

True to its theme of “Tomorrow’s Technology You Can Use Today,” the 2019 summit spotlighted products and services that yield greater efficiency and strategic advantage. Presenters and exhibitors focused particularly on the produce and specialty crop industries of the Salinas Valley and Central Coast. I moderated a panel with colleagues from the California Community Colleges, CSU and UC systems about preparing the ag workforce of 2020 (pictured).

Among those soaking up information from the panels, speakers and 79 exhibitors were dozens of Hartnell student volunteers, who assisted with registration and helped greet and direct attendees. Classes were not in session because of Spring Break.

Our dean of career technical education and workforce development, Clint Cowden, said attending the Ag Tech Summit helps students integrate their learning.

“At an event like this, the student starts to see that in classes we may create little silos – we’re going to teach about food safety, we’re going to teach about computers – but in the real world it’s all blended,” Cowden said. “And when they come out of these types of experiences, they’re really excited to jump in and start to bridge those gaps.”

March 29, 2019
One of the student volunteers was Aaron Rivera of Soledad, an agricultural business major, who plans to work in ag-related sales after graduation.

“It helped me understand the parts of the machines, and at the same time, circulating through here I was able to meet eye to eye with what employers are looking for,” Rivera said.

**Classified employees get briefing at Staff Development Day**

Hartnell members of the California State Employees Association, L-39 and our Confidential employees attended the Third Annual Classified Staff Development Day on March 25 in Steinbeck Hall.

I had an opportunity to express my gratitude for the enormous contributions of our many classified employees. Their commitment to Hartnell’s mission, vision and values was a major factor in the great success of the March 4-7 visit by a team representing the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

During a Q&A, I was able to share updates on Measure T projects on our Main Campus and at the King City Education Center, as well as construction of new outreach centers in Soledad and Castroville.

The afternoon’s activities included a presentation by guest speaker Ana Labato from West Valley College, who shared her story of engagement and lessons she learned as a Guided Pathways lead at her institution. Neil Hertsch from MCSIG spoke about wellness programs such as Healthy Reward$, fitness center discounts and health screenings, and Neddie Sarmiento presented on the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and the newly enhanced Teledoc features. The day concluded with a presentation by Dave Phillips, vice president of information technology resources, about ways to defeat stealthy phishing and ransomware threats via email.

Special thanks to all the speakers and to the Staff Development Ad Hoc Committee of the Professional Development Center.
All invited to share goals for presidential search on April 4

Students, employees and community members are invited to attend one of two open forums on April 4 to share thoughts and ideas about qualities most desired in Hartnell’s next superintendent/president.

They also can share input via an electronic form sent March 29 via campus email from Terri Pyer, associate vice president for human resources and equal employment opportunity. The first forum will be from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Steinbeck Hall on the Main Campus, followed by a session from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in room C-107 on the Alisal Campus.

The Board of Trustees of the Hartnell Community College District has selected Drs. Robert Griffin and Pam Walker of PPL, Inc. to serve as our presidential search consultants. (Dr. Griffin is pictured at a Governing Board meeting on March 19.)

Said Pyer: “Your presence and participation will be greatly appreciated. If you cannot make it to one of these forums, please take the opportunity to e-mail Drs. Griffin or Walker your thoughts on the following questions. Your input and suggestions will be communicated to the Board as they finalize the position announcement for the next Hartnell College superintendent/president.”

Questions to be addressed:

1. What are the key issues facing Hartnell College in the next three to five years?
2. What are the ideal characteristics you would like to see in Hartnell’s new president?
3. What are the desirable qualities you think are important in the next Hartnell College president?

Pyer also encourages individuals to pass on the name of persons whom they believe have the experience and leadership skills to be an outstanding superintendent/president for the district.
Students honored at PTK luncheon on March 25 in Sacramento

Students Yousef Al-Shinnawi and Roberto Martinez Diaz represented Hartnell on March 25 at the California award luncheon for Phi Theta Kappa in Sacramento. They were nominated by college staff to compete in the honor society’s nationwide scholarship program.

Al-Shinnawi (pictured, at left) received a financial award for the All-California Second Team, and Diaz received an award for the All-California Third Team. They were among only 100 California Community College students selected for the top three teams.

Al-Shinnawi, an SSS/TRiO student, also is a semi-finalist for the $40,000 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, based on his excellent GPA, strong leadership and community service. The winner is to be announced in May 2019.

Slam dunk: MC Weekly again names Hartnell region’s ‘Best Ag Educator’

For the fifth year in a row, Hartnell has been named “Best Ag Educator” by the readers of Monterey Coast Weekly, announced March 28 in the publication’s 2019 “Best of Monterey Bay” competition.

“The Salinas Valley and Monterey County’s hearty agriculture industry owes a debt of gratitude to Hartnell College,” the Weekly said.

“For decades, the community college has been producing a well-educated workforce in all areas of agriculture. That workforce is what helped the industry hit the billion-dollar mark in value in the 1980s – not once, but four times. (It’s now valued at more than $4 billion.) It’s thanks to Hartnell that a young former migrant worker named Henry Gonzales – laid off after the Firestone tire plant closing in the early ‘80s – got his associate’s degree in agricultural mechanics, transferred to Fresno State, and today is Monterey County’s Agricultural Commissioner.”
‘Come join us,’ say organizers of April 4 drive against cancer

Students on the Hartnell Nursing Relay for Life Team on April 4 will continue an awareness and fundraising effort that they began April 1 in support of the American Cancer Society.

As part of a program called “Ribbons of Hope,” the group will be in the Student Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., hosting an interactive art activity and staffing a booth to share information about cancer. For each dollar they donate, participants may choose a ribbon and dedicate a message to people fighting cancer, cancer survivors and those who have died from cancer. Beginning at 12:30 p.m., the first 20 donors will be given free hotdogs.

“Bring your friends and family and come join us!” said the team’s announcement. “We would love to chat with you. Together we can make a difference in our community.”

Autism Awareness Month to feature walk and Panther baseball fundraiser

The Associated Students of Hartnell College are joining with the San Andreas Regional Center for people with developmental disabilities to raise awareness and financial support for people with autism.

From 12-4 p.m. on April 6, ASHC will present its third annual Walk for Autism, which include family-friendly activities such as a health fair, face painting, games and music.

On April 20, they will hold a barbecue scholarship fundraiser at the Hartnell Baseball game against Monterey Peninsula College, which starts at 1 p.m. Players will participate in a post-game activity to share the fundamentals of baseball in a fun and supportive environment.

HEP students take rewarding trip to see San Jose’s many cultural offerings

Students in Hartnell’s High School Equivalency Program (HEP) traveled to San Jose on March 16 for a day filled with history, art and culture.

Their first stop was Martin Luther King Jr. Library at San Jose State University, the largest public library on the West Coast. A highlight was the display of monarch butterflies on every floor of
the staircase, honoring migrants’ contributions to the San Jose area. Students had lunch at San Jose State’s quad, where they admired an arch dedicated to Cesar Chavez and learned the history behind a sculpture of Tommie Smith and John Carlos, American sprinters who raised their fists for civil rights at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

During an afternoon visit to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum (pictured), they learned about the rich history and culture of ancient Egypt. Students were quick to notice that ancient Egyptians loved life, and their desire to preserve and honor their dead was very similar to modern ways of honoring loved ones when they pass.

They said they were very excited to learn about these Silicon Valley gems and look forward to sharing them with their families. HEP is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education, and was established to help migrant and seasonal farm workers achieve their High School Equivalency and pursue post-secondary education, vocational training, military service or obtain other gainful employment.

**Dozens of employers set for Spring Career Fair on April 24**

The Transfer and Career Center will hosting its annual Spring Career Fair on April 24 in the Student Center. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is open to students and the entire community.

The fair is intended as a way for students from all disciplines and members of the public to meet prospective employers. Job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and be ready to make connections that will increase their success in reaching their career development goals. So far, more than 30 employers have signed up, with an April 12 deadline to register.

**McElhenie named secretary of State EMS educator association**

Matt McElhenie, full-time Emergency Medical Technician faculty member, has been elected secretary of the new California Emergency Medical Services Educator Association. The mission of the new non-profit is to unite and support individuals and educators associated with academic programs related to emergency medical and
first responder programs. A former Marine, McElhenie joined Hartnell in 2017 after a career that included work as a firefighter/engineer and paramedic with the Selma Fire Department, the U.S. Department of Defense and Cal Fire. He is working on his doctorate of public administration from California Baptist University in Riverside.

**Heavy schedule at home awaits**

**Hartnell Baseball in final stretch**

**Hartnell Baseball**, 12-14 as of March 30, has the momentum it needs to finish its 2019 season with a winning record. On March 26, the Panthers won a slugfest at home over San Mateo when sophomore catcher Andrew Mier (Salinas H.S.) smacked a walk-off single in the bottom of the 10th inning. Freshman outfielder Chase Lindemann (Saugus H.S.) went three for four on the day, with three runs scored. Sophomore Anthony Fashano (Elk Grove H.S.) earned the victory in relief. Two days before, Hartnell beat Chabot at home, 8-3, with Fashano dominant on the mound, allowing a single run in 6 2/3 innings. Sophomore outfielder David Ortiz (King City H.S.) led the offense, going three for four at the plate, with two RBIs. The team lost a step in a March 30 loss to visiting West Valley, 9-6. Seven of their final 11 games are at home, including matchups with Monterey Peninsula on April 16 and 20.

**Panthers Softball**, 4-21, had a tough road trip at the Ventura Spring Tournament on March 23-24, dropping two in shutouts (East Los Angeles, 7-0, and Long Beach, 10-0) and two by only a run (Compton, 9-8, and Ventura, 6-5). They fell to Foothill at home on March 28, 11-1. The squad will seek to regain its footing against Chabot at home on April 4, followed by two final home games on April 11 and 16, against Gavilan and Monterey Peninsula, respectively.

**Catching up:**

**HEP conference includes workshops and powerful examples of success**

Hartnell’s High School Equivalency Program (HEP) held its annual Student Success ARRE Conference on Feb. 2, encouraging students to develop their academic and career development skills, financial literacy and awareness of healthy lifestyle choices.

This year’s program featured a visit by two HEP alumni: Maria Carmen Parra ‘09 and Artemio Duje ‘18. Upon HEP graduation, Parra continued her education at Hartnell and CSU Monterey Bay, where she received a bachelor’s degree in Collaborative Health and Human Services. She now works for the Monterey County Bright Beginnings project. Parra shared the many obstacles she faced while attending HEP classes. Duje, who had only attended
through fifth grade before joining HEP, shared a message of determination and drive. After a job layoff, he faced a major obstacle: the lack of a high school diploma or GED. He now is in his dream job as a permanent, full-time custodian for the Alisal Union School District. Duje is pictured with HEP instructor Claudia Flores.

Along with workshops on reading comprehension skills for HiSET testing and school-work-life balance, United Way provided a session on financial literacy, the organization Lideres Campensinas presented on healthy relationships, and Hartnell Transfer and Career Counselor Mercedes Del Real delivered a career skills inventory. Participants in a resource fair were: Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas, Lideres Campesinas and Loaves, Fishes and Computers.

Michele Peregrin and husband, Joe, welcome baby boy Aidan Gerald
Director of Public Grants Development Michele Peregrin and her husband, Joe Wold, are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Aidan Gerard Wold. He arrived at 6:49 a.m. on Feb. 12 – 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

In the News

Morsels: Cooking classes, classy fundraisers, new openings and a lot more: http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/food_blog/morsels-cooking-classes-classy-fundraisers-new-openings-and-a-lot/article_c9a1d1d8-4f46-11e9-a01e-5fd8ea5c9f59.html

Sixth Annual Ag Tech returns to Salinas: https://www.montereyherald.com/2019/03/26/sixth-annual-ag-tech-summit-returns-to-salinas/

Salinas Valley Ag Tech focusing on today: https://www.kion546.com/news/salinas-valley-agtech-summit-focusing-on-today/1063023304

Salinas Ag Tech event features Blockchain traceability: https://www.thepacker.com/article/salinas-ag-tech-event-features-blockchain-traceability

Cumbre agrícola en Salinas exhibe tecnología utilizada en los campos agrícolas como alternativa a la escasez laboral: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=744044652656041


Upcoming Events

Public Health Career & Wellness Day
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3
Steinbeck Hall (Building C, Main Campus)

Mi CASA Scholarship Workshop
3-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3
Building D, room 383

Career Development Workshop
3-5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3
Building C, room 132

Fresno State Transfer Advising
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3
Building C, Room 132

Ribbons of Hope fundraiser
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Student Center

UC Admissions: What’s Next?
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday, April 4
Building C, Room 132

Softball vs. Chabot
3 p.m.
Thursday, April 4
Hartnell field
Film/Q&A: “Last Harvest” by Driscoll’s
4-6 p.m.
Thursday, April 4
Planetarium (Building S)

Walk for Autism
12-4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6
Main Campus quad

2X4 Bash auditions: “The Wolves” and “Hand to God”
2-4 p.m.
Saturday, April 6
Band Room, Building K

“SOUTH: A Nautical Musical”
7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 6
Studio Theater (K-116)

“SOUTH: A Nautical Musical”
2 p.m.
Sunday, April 7
Studio Theater (K-116)

The Assembly: College Re-Design Teams
1-2:30 p.m.
Monday, April 8
Building A, room 116

Baseball vs. Cabrillo
2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9
Tony Teresa Diamond, Hartnell

EOPS/CalWORKS Financial Literacy Workshop
2-3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10
Building B, room 110

Career Development Workshop
3-5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10
Building C, room 132

Mobile Maker Lab
1:30-5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10
Greenfield Cultural Arts Center

**Softball vs. Gavilan**
3 p.m.
Thursday, April 11
Hartnell field

**High School Counselors Breakfast**
8-11 a.m.
Friday, April 12
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**“Breakfast at Nudlemans”**
7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 13
Studio Theater (K-116)

**“Breakfast at Nudlemans”**
7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 14
Studio Theater (K-116)

**Money Monday Lab**
3-5:45 p.m.
Monday, April 15
Building B, room 110

**Baseball vs. MPC**
2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16
Tony Teresa Diamond, Hartnell

**Softball vs. MPC**
3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16
Hartnell field

**Career Development Workshop**
3-5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
Building C, room 132

**Baseball vs. MPC**
& **fundraising barbecue for autism**
1 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
Tony Teresa Diamond, Hartnell

“Red Altar”
7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS Pre-Priority Registration for Fall 2019
Wednesday, April 24
2-3 p.m.
Building B, room 110

Spring Career Fair
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24
Student Center

Spring 2019 President’s Forum
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thursday, April 25
Steinbeck Hall

“Quilters”
7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 26
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

“Quilters”
2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 27
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

“Quilters”
2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Sunday, April 28
Mainstage Theater (Building K)