I had the pleasure of helping kick-off the Third Annual Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at our East Alisal Campus. The event included an all-day trade show, simultaneous educational tracks, robotics and coder dojo demonstrations, two keynote speakers: A. G. Kawamura (former California Secretary of Agriculture) and Jaime Strachan (CEO of Growers Express). I served on a panel with CSUMB President Eduardo Ochoa, California Director of USDA Rural Development Janice Waddell, and Associate Dean for the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Dr. Richard Cavaletto. The day was a hit and leading up to it was incredible. We had:

- 49,000 Facebook connections
- 500-600 attendees
- 53 participating vendors
- 75 industry sponsors and volunteers
- 12 individuals/businesses pitching their ag tech ideas and solutions in through a “shark tank” style competition
- 6 continuing education credits available for Pest Control Advisors and 5 credits for Certified Crop Advisors
- 1 winner of a flat screen television given away for successfully collecting vendor/trade show passport signatures
- Amazing media coverage (see links at end of this report)

The success of the Ag Tech Summit took a village! Special thanks go to Ag Tech Advisory Committee Chair, Steve McShane for his enthusiastic leadership of both the committee and the event. Additional thanks go to Ag Tech Advisory Committee
members: Dennis Donohue, Don Ostini, Lisa Dobbins, Seana Day Hull, Dawn Klawitter, Jacky Luna, Aaron Magenheim, Erica Riel Caren, Cristina Westfall, Andy Myrick, Maggie Melone-Echiburu, Susan Duggan, Paulina Reyes, Pedro Ibarra, James Hunt, C3 Salinas, Robotics at Alisal High School, Salinas High School as well as Ag Institute staff Iris Medina and Director Susan Pheasant, Ph.D. Hartnell volunteers included Elsa Brisson, Wendy Sosa, and Laura Zavala. And more thanks are bestowed on Daniel and his I.T. team for handling all of the A/V and Paco and Connie for all their work in beautifying the campus.

Congratulations to Illucen Inc. as they won the “shark tank” style competition for Best Start-UP for their black soldier fly animal feed and to Fish Cubed for their home aquaponics system.

The Salinas Valley Ag Technology Summit was founded in 2014 by Converted Organics and donated to the Hartnell College Foundation/Ag Institute in 2015. The mission of the summit is to develop a strong community of leading agricultural research, business and education in the Salinas Valley Region. Governing Board members Pat Donohue, David Serena, Candi DePauw and Manuel Osorio were in attendance.

Save the date for the Fourth Annual Summit on April 12, 2017!

2. AG AND BUSINESS TECH INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES NATHAN DORN

As part of the 2016 Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit, Hartnell’s Ag Institute, in collaboration with the Western Growers Association, was pleased to initiate an Ag Tech Innovator Award and announce Nathan Dorn as the first recipient. Nathan Dorn is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Food Origins – a startup focused on precision data collection and analytic services for hand harvested produce. Dorn is also Director of Knowledge and Innovation for Reiter Affiliated Companies. In this role he administrates worldwide organizational mechanization programs for fresh berry harvest and non-harvest activities with hundreds of internal clients in 7 districts of 2 countries. Previously, he was the technical manager for Gallo Family Vineyards and was an operations and maintenance engineer for Pepsi Bottling Group.

Dorn began his career as a US Navy nuclear mechanic for the submarine fleet. He received his BA from University of Phoenix and his MBA from Pepperdine University.
3. HARTNELL VOTED BEST AG EDUCATOR – AGAIN!

The Agricultural Business and Technology Institute is honored to be the recipient of the Monterey County Weekly “Best Local Ag Educators” recognition for the second consecutive year. Each year, Monterey County Weekly readers vote on the “Best of Monterey County.” Ag Institute Director, Dr. Susan Pheasant is enthusiastic about the combination of certificates, Associate of Science degree programs, and internships available to our students in agribusiness, Ag production, food safety, automotive, diesel, Ag industrial technology, sustainable ag/PCA, horticultural technician, and small farm management. Additionally, the Ag Institute looks forward to launching a Farmworker Education and Advancement Program through a donation from Driscoll’s. Two more new initiatives will focus on a seed science technician track and a food safety facilities technician track, both of which include pathways between high school and Hartnell. Thank you for voting for Hartnell once again!

4. UNDER THE STARS SPRING FLING

Just before Spring Break, the Associated Students of Hartnell College and the Intercollegiate Club Council partnered up to help kick off the break by hosting a night of dance, music, and fun under the
stars. On Friday, March 25, 2016, over 120 students attended the feast and enjoyed food, live entertainment, and more. All proceeds were donated to the Relay for Life Campaign for Team Hartnell.

5. ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF HARTNELL COLLEGE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

The Office of Student Life invites all Hartnell students to take a leadership role in Student Government and run for an officer position in the ASHC. The online elections will take place April 27-29, 2016. The online application can be found at www.hartnell.edu/ashc. There are 15 positions available within the ASHC, and one Student Trustee seat. Stipends available.

You may recall the success of some of our former ASHC officers:
- Wayne Ross (ASHC 2012-13): Became the Director of Victory Mission.
- Ali Saleh (ASHC 2015-16): Current ASHC President, once a shy student, is now actively participating in shared governance and no doubt will leave a legacy.
Hartnell College sophomore Malena Grover set a new school record in the 1,500 meters Saturday at the American River College Invitational. Her mark of 4:38.85 bettered the 35-year-old record set by Jody Cobb in 1981 of 4:39.5. Grover, who prepped at Salinas High School, is currently ranked #2 in the state in the 1,500 meters and #3 nationally for community college women trailing Marleena Eubanks of Central Arizona Junior College at 4:34.59 and Micayla Rennick of America River College at 4:38.18. In addition to her 1,500 meter record, Grover established a season best in the 800 meters at 2:20.07 to place second overall and as the highest community college female. With four regular season meets left and the championship competitions, Grover will attempt to break the school records in the 3,000 meters and 10,000 meters as well in hopes of establishing herself as the best female distance runner in Hartnell College history.

Also competing well for the Lady Panthers were Nancy Rodriguez, Stephanie Powers, Alyssa Pochop, Adriana Jimenez and Marissa Gonzalez. Rodriguez placed second with a personal best in the 3,000 meter steeplechase in 11:56.56 to record the third best mark in Northern California. Rodriguez is one of just three Lady Panthers ever to complete the event in under 12 minutes. Stephanie Powers has overcome an early season hip injury and surgery to regain fine form in the 400 low hurdles. Her time of 68.01 moves her into fifth in Northern California and is the best performer in the Coast Conference. Freshman Alyssa Pochop improved on her all-time hammer throw mark with a toss of 134'1" this week. Fellow freshman Adriana Jimenez chopped five seconds off her season best in the 1500 meters (5:08.79) to dip comfortably under the regional qualifier standard. Also joining her is Maria Rodriguez at 5:11.03. Marissa Gonzalez got two season best and regional qualifiers competing in the pole vault and triple jump. Her clearance of 9'3.75" was a lifetime best and her triple jump mark was 32'7.75".

For the men, Rhett Gonzalez, Paul Koenig, Andrew Martinez, Skye Keller, Thomas Salao, and the 4x400 relay enjoyed solid performances. Sophomore Rhett Gonzalez shaved more than a half second off his season best and lowered his lifetime best in the 110 high hurdles from 14.75 to 14.66. Koenig lowered his lifetime best in the 400 meter intermediate hurdles to 56.36. Frosh Andrew Martinez took 18 seconds off his 3k steeplechase best to qualify for the regional final with his 10:11.88. Skye Keller sprinted a season best 22.56 in the 200 meters. Thomas Salao recorded a regional qualifying javelin mark with a toss of 154'0". The 4x400 relay team lowered its season best to 3:27.35.
7. BASEBALL FINISHES THE WEEK WITH AN OVERALL RECORD, 10-14

The Panthers were stuck on March 22, 2016 as Skyline’s starting pitcher went the distance throwing a complete game shutout. The Panthers offense was able to string together 7 hits on the day as Jacob Regester (Palma HS) and Michael Secrist (Pioneer HS) led the offense each going 2-4 on the day. The Panthers had a few opportunities to score but were unable to come up with the big hit. Jake Hilliker (Ponderosa HS) was the starting pitcher for the Panthers and threw the ball well going 6 2/3 innings allowing just 3 earned runs.

The Panthers baseball team lost another tough extra inning game March 24th to visiting Cañada College. Brandon Granger (San Benito) was the starting pitcher for Hartnell and threw well going 6 1/3 innings allowing 3 runs while striking out 9 batters. Wesley Carswell (Pacific Grove HS) hit his second homerun of the season in the bottom of the 4th innings, Carswell was 1-5 on the day at the plate. The Panthers were down a run heading into the bottom of the 8th innings when they rallied for a run off the bat of Nick Enrico (Moanoloa HS) scoring Jacob Regester (Palma HS) to tie the game up at 3-3. Both teams scored runs in the 10th inning to tie it up again at 4-4. Cañada managed to plate 6 runners in the top half of the 12th inning and that proved too much for the Panthers to come back from. Isaiah Azua (Valley Christian HS) was 4-6 on the day at the plate for the Panthers.

Saturday, March 26th was a tough loss for the Panthers as we dropped the game 10-2 to host Cañada College. Austin Lee (Northgate HS) was charged with the loss. Isiaha Azua (Valley Christian HS) hit his first college home run for the Panthers and Rodney Perez (Salinas HS) recorded his first college hit smacking a double to the opposite field.

8. PENA SIGNS FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO ECU

Last week, student-athlete Branden Pena signed a full scholarship to Division 1, East Carolina University. During his time at Hartnell, Branden has been an excellent athlete and student in the classroom. His positive attitude, strong work ethic, and dedication to his teammates were some of his most remembered qualities. He is a great leader and I am sure he will have an immediate impact on the success of the ECU football program.

Pena attended North Salinas High School prior to attending Hartnell College; he was a two-time All-
Conference and two-time All-Region offensive lineman for the CCCAA and CCCFCA. Congratulations and we wish him all the best!

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

**Autism Awareness**  
Monday, April 4, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Student Center – Information table and cupcakes

**Spring President’s Forum**  
Hartnell employees, join me for the *Spring 2016 President’s Forum and Lunch* on Friday, April 8, 2016 at Steinbeck Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Lunch will be available promptly at 11:30 a.m. and the forum will begin at 11:45 a.m.  
The forum will include:  
- Recognition for our most recently tenured faculty members.  
- A brief general College update. For those who are unable to attend the session, the presentation will be available on the college web site and a link to the presentation will be provided.

**In Athletics!**  
- NorCal Heptathlon/Decathlon Championship April 12-13, 2016 - 11:00 AM  
- Toro Park Trail Challenge Runs April 16, 2016 – Registration at 8:00 AM  
- Ed Adams Track & Field Invitational Saturday, April 23, 2016 Tri-tip BBQ to support the team  
Call 831-755-6845 for more information on these events

**Career Fair**  
Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
Student Center – More than 30 employers have signed up to attend!

**Ag Business and Technology Institute Open House**  
April 23, 2016 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Alisal Campus  
Free and open to the public

**Law Day**  
May 2, 2016 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Main Campus

**Nursing and Allied Health Fourth Annual Alumni Reception**  
April 22, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Steinbeck Hall  
To RSVP call 831-770-6146
10. IN THE NEWS

Grover Sets New Hartnell Record
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2016/03/30/grover-sets-new-hartnell-record/82414684/

Salinas Ag Tech Summit Draws over 500
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/local/2016/03/31/salinas-ag-tech-summit-draws/82490736/

Third Ag Tech Summit Today in Salinas

Ag Summit held in Salinas

Farmers embrace new technology in Salinas

Cumbre de agricultura y tecnología en el Hartnell exhibe maquinaria
http://noticias.entravision.com/monterey-salinas/2016/03/30/cumbre-de-agricultura-y-tecnologia-en-el-hartnell-exhibe-maquinaria-para-combatir-la-escasez-de-trab/

Advancing agriculture Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit focuses on innovation

Meet up brings ag tech together

Salinas Ag Tech Summit draws more than 500
https://news.bridgeward.com/salinas-ag-tech-summit-draws-more-than-500/

Blog about Ag Summit
http://www.wginnovation.com/blog

WG members among experts in Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit
http://www.wginnovation.com/blog/wg-members-leaders-among-experts-salinas-valley-agtech-summit

Bicycle Safety Training at Hartnell College