Ms. Latina World 2010, Valencia de la Vega
Visits the Steinbeck House in Salinas
A group of Hartnell students prepare a special dinner for Ms Latina

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Among other attributes, Valencia de la Vega, Miss Latina World 2010 has beauty and intelligence.

On Saturday 19 May, de la Vega visited the Steinbeck House, located on Central Street in Salinas, to participate in an event organized by the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and Hartnell Community College in Salinas.

A mixed group of alumni and current students at Hartnell prepared a nutritious dinner for de la Vega, and other notables of the community.

Cassandra Martin, who works as a coordinator at Hartnell and NPS, said De la Vega, who lives in Phoenix, Arizona, attended the event to motivate students and tell them that they can achieve their desired goals.

"I am honored to be here. I love what the community of Salinas is doing for its young," said de la Vega, who added that she loved reading the book "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck.

She also stated that the best part of her job is "having the ability to connect with communities like this to see the positive things that are being done."

De la Vega earned a degree in nuclear engineering at West Point, is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan and currently works as an engineer for Intel.

During the past six summers, Hartnell students involved with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines are matched with researchers at the Naval Postgraduate School through the Community College Catalyst (3C) program.
Having dinner with de la Vega was a way to thank 3C students that volunteer their time to share their experiences with the community, as well as equipping these college students with a menu they can prepare for dinner at another time.

The event was attended by Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue, Phoebe Helm, president of Hartnell and Hartnell grad Genaro Sanchez.

Augie Rodriguez, the chef at the Steinbeck House Restaurant, oversaw the preparations for this special dinner.

The event was enlivened by El Diamante Rojo.