

President's Weekly Report



HARTNELL COLLEGE

MISSION:

Focusing on the education and workforce development needs of communities in the Salinas Valley. Hartnell College strengthens communities by providing opportunities for students to reach career and/or academic goals (associate degrees, certificates of achievement, transfer to four-year institutions) in an environment committed to student learning, achievement and success.

A holiday hiatus for this report

The President's Weekly Report will take a break and return with news from the week ending Jan. 7. Thank you to all who have shared information and photographs over the past year with sfaust@hartnell.edu!

Padilla-Chavez selected to continue as board president, thanks colleagues

The Hartnell Community College District Governing Board voted Dec. 14 to reappoint Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez (Area 6) as board president and Trustee Candi DePauw (Area 7) as vice president for calendar year 2022.



In other appointments: Alejandra González (Area 1) will represent the board on the Monterey County School Board Association Executive Council and serve on the District Audit Committee (2022-23); Aurelio Salazar Jr. (Area 2) will serve on the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors; Margaret D'Arrigo (Area 3) and DePauw will serve on the foundation President's Task Force; Ray Montemayor (Area 5) will serve on the District Audit Committee (2022); and Padilla-Chavez (Area 6) will also serve on the Council for the Arts.

At the close of the meeting, Padilla-Chavez thanked all board members for their work over the previous year and for what they personally bring to the board. "In my mind and observation, each of you has an attribute that balances our perspectives," she said, "and not that we agree on everything, but I think your focus – I hear it so loud and clear."

Padilla-Chavez thanked Lopez for highlighting the importance of the greater community and family engagement, Salazar Jr. for his “relentless focus on equity and social justice,” Gonzalez for being a “student success cheerleader,” DePauw for staying focused on “how we are running the college and how we are doing business,” Montemayor for “making sure we don’t lose sight of employee relations,” and Student Trustee Jane Hernandez for “bringing student spirit” to board meetings.

Board recognizes best-ever success of soccer and cross country teams



The Hartnell Governing Board took time at its Dec. 14 meeting to acknowledge and thank the Panther women’s and men’s soccer and cross country teams for achieving a level of fall sports success that is unprecedented among Northern California colleges. Cupcakes were served in their honor.

“I thought it was important for our board to recognize the amazing contributions that our student-athletes have made for our college at the statewide level,” said Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez.

The Women’s Soccer team (pictured with board and Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez) won the state championship on Dec. 5, the first women’s title in Hartnell history, and they are ranked second in the nation in the United Soccer Coaches final poll for Junior College Division III. Head Coach Ivan Guerrero and his two assistants, Hugo Gonzalez and Miguel Gutierrez, were selected National Coaching Staff of the Year for women’s soccer by their fellow division coaches.



The Men's Soccer team placed second in the state championship on Dec. 5 and is ranked third in the final division III poll. Head Coach Daniel Ortega and his three assistants, Frank Alvarado, Carlos Volpini and Ramon Hernandez, also were named National Coaching Staff of the Year for men's soccer in their NJCC III United Soccer Coaches division.

The Women's Cross Country team placed second in the state championship meet on Nov. 20, and the men's team finished third, including a second-place finish by sophomore Isaac Gensel (pictured with Head Coach Chris Zepeda).

Hartnell Volleyball also made the playoffs for the ninth straight year, falling to Feather River in the opening round.

Dan Teresa, dean of athletics, said the commission for Northern California in the California Community College Athletic Association, said no school had ever done so well in multiple fall sports, a level of success made even more impressive by Hartnell's relatively small size compared with many colleges in the state.

"We're so proud of these coaches and these student-athletes in our department because they work together and help each other out," he said. "Whether it's social media or in the classroom, curriculum – they work together, and it makes it so nice to have this tight-knit group of coaches."

Added Teresa: "It's not about winning championships. That comes and goes. The biggest thing we do in our department, with our coaches, is make sure students get a degree and have a good experience. And then they move on. If they want to play sports afterward, great. If not, the coaches just make sure they're finishing their academics."

Telehealth will help swamped staff meet students' crisis counseling needs

To meet a pandemic-driven demand for 24/7 mental health care that Hartnell's crisis counseling staff is not equipped to handle, the Hartnell Governing Board on Dec. 14 approved a \$258,000 agreement with an outside telehealth provider, TimelyMD.

Among planned services are "TalkNow" phone consultations, including crisis response, 12 scheduled counseling visits per student per year, psychiatric referrals and unlimited health coaching sessions.

The services will be rolled out to students once plans are finalized for integration of the telehealth services with care now provided by the Crisis Counseling & Emotional Wellness Services, said Clinical Supervisor Carol Kimbrough.



"I think it's going to be a really important service, and I'm so glad that Hartnell has both the foresight and the resources to support student mental health," she said.

Kimbrough said Hartnell's team of 5-6 therapists has had a two- to three-week waiting list and aren't able to respond around the clock.

"We find that oftentimes students need help immediately, and we're just absolutely not set up to be a crisis line," she said, "and so we're not meeting what the students need in terms of just-in-time care."

Kimbrough said TimelyMD "will give students an immediate emotional support program, where essentially if they're in a crisis at 2 a.m., they will be able to connect with a mental health professional who can triage them and see if they need to be referred to another resource," including possibly community resources.

Vocal and instrumental students conclude winter recitals and concerts

A two-week series of winter concerts presented by the Hartnell music department concluded Dec. 16 with "From Russia with Love," a performance by the Hartnell College Community Orchestra in the Mainstage Theater at the Center for Performing Arts (pictured). It featured such composers as Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Prokofiev, with direction by instructor Steve Ettinger, assisted by Daniel Zeff.



On Dec. 15, the Hartnell Choir & Chamber Singers presented its Winter Choral Concert, both in the Student Center during the day and that evening in the Mainstage Theater (choir pictured). The winter series included a student vocal recital on Dec. 6, performances by the Jazz and Concert bands and Wind

Ensemble on Dec. 14, and a Hawaiian Music Concert directed by William Faulkner, also on Dec. 15.

Ettinger said the instrumental concerts were well attended and featured performances "of the highest caliber." Rudo said the choral audience was "enthusiastic" and "socially distanced," and her students "were thrilled to have our first live performance in two years on the Mainstage," with all performers having tested negative for COVID.



Students, staff and kids team up to spread holiday cheer on campus



Children attending the Hartnell Child Development Center (CDC) and the Associated Students of Hartnell College (ASHC), as well as dozens of employees, joined to share the holiday spirit of giving in recent weeks.

About 80 faculty and staff stepped forward to purchase and wrap age-appropriate presents for children of Hartnell students through the college's annual Lights of Love program. Some individuals bought items for as many as six youngsters, and the ASHC used its allocated funds to purchase more gifts, serving a total of 320 kids. The ASHC-organized Socksgiving Drive

was also a success. On Dec. 17, students delivered 150 new pairs of donated socks to Dorothy's Kitchen, an agency serving homeless adults in Salinas's Chinatown. (Pictured with Lights of Love gifts: Student Life Program Assistant Forrest Alvarez and ASHC Director of Programs and Services Laura Rivera.)



Children from the CDC's morning and afternoon sessions maintained a decades-long tradition by caroling and delivering cookies around campus on a rainy Dec. 14. Teacher Maria Gonzalez said the 50 children learned the song "May There Always Be Sunshine" in sign language, using 20 words, and also sang, "We Wish You a Happy Holidays." (Pictured: The carolers visit Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez.)



The preschoolers also played a vital role in the ASHC's Festival of Trees (pictured) by selecting the Veterans Club tree (complete with operating train set) as best decorated, earning the club a pizza party. All five of the artificial trees were donated to student families, complete with decorations.

Antonia Jaime retires after 42 years serving students

Antonia Jaime, lead program coordinator for EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS, was honored with a farewell event on Dec. 17, as colleagues congratulated and thanked her for 42 years of service to Hartnell students. Paul Casey, director of student categorical program, organized the afternoon event, complete with snacks and cake.

Jaime, who worked for 12 years in Financial Aid before joining the categorical programs staff, described her decades as being “like a rollercoaster.”

“We had good and bad times, but you just have to be there, be positive and be there for the students,” she said, “because if it wasn’t for the students, we wouldn’t be here.”

“I’ve enjoyed helping students. You help them as much as you can, because there are some students who go through a lot, and if they have someone to make the road a little bit smoother, it will be easier.”



VP Dave Phillips concludes 6 ½ years at helm of information technology

Hartnell Governing Board member Alejandra González spoke for her colleagues at the Dec. 14 meeting when she thanked Dave Phillips, vice president of information technology and resources (ITR), for his service to the college and its students since July 2015.

González pointed to all Phillips and the entire ITR staff have done to “help our students curb that technological divide that we have had and that we were confronted with when this pandemic started.”

“The IT department just rose to the task to get so many devices out to our students – hotspots, Chromebooks and other technology that our students needed but were not able to directly access.”

In his monthly report to the board, Phillips expressed his thanks to everyone at Hartnell. “I have enjoyed my tenure at Hartnell College, have loved the work I’ve been doing and still find it hard to believe I got paid for having such a good time,” he said. “I believe Hartnell’s IT systems have dramatically improved these past years. This is much due to the work of our amazing IT staff as it is to me.”

Phillips has also been a generous and enthusiastic supporter of students through his contributions to the Hartnell College Foundation.



Classified Leadership Academy wraps up first-year cohort

On Dec. 3, Hartnell's Classified Leadership Academy concluded its first cohort, with Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez opening the final session.

"I've seen over the years that folks who go out and take these kinds of professional development opportunities tend to move forward in their careers. Congratulations for participating in this program," Dr. Rodríguez said. "Kudos to you for having the initiative and motivation to attend these sessions."

The [Classified Leadership Academy](#) is a project led by the Classified Professional Development Subcommittee, which partnered with multiple speakers across the country to lead 20 classified employees through a year-long leadership preparation and training program. Leadership topics included budget management, ethics in management, cultural and implicit bias training, supervision and team leadership, stress management and project management.



In addition to the graduating cohort, an additional 43 classified professionals attended leadership workshops throughout the year, with an average of 24 participants per workshop. The subcommittee is looking forward to starting a second-year cohort, with more advanced leadership topics and speakers, made possible through continued grant funds for classified professional development from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

To apply for the second cohort, visit www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/cla, or reach out to Laura Otero, Committee Chair, at lotero@hartnell.edu.

Chemistry student receives \$500 through two random drawings

One of instructor Lawrence Yee's students, Mabel Mendez, received a \$500 grant from the online chemistry tutorial app Chem101 last month after his name was chosen from a drawing following a product demonstration.

Yee subsequently invited his students to participate in a random drawing, and Mendez's was the winner. She is free to use the money toward her college costs, he said.



Upcoming Events

Winter Break -- Campus locations closed

Dec. 20-Jan. 2

Women's Basketball vs. San Jose

5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 5

Hartnell Gymnasium

Men's Basketball vs. San Jose

7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 5

Hartnell Gymnasium

Women's Basketball vs. Cabrillo

5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Hartnell Gymnasium

Men's Basketball vs. Cabrillo

7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Hartnell Gymnasium

Student Success Conference

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, Jan. 20-21

Mainstage Theater (Building K) and via Zoom

Women's Basketball vs. Mission

5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 21

Hartnell Gymnasium

Men's Basketball vs. West Valley

7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 21

Hartnell Gymnasium

Hartnell Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Hartnell Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)