

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 break for Memorial Day

The President's Weekly Report will take a one-week break for the Memorial Day holiday and return for the week ending June 3. Continue to send your news items and photos to sfaust@hartnell.edu.

Returning to in-person after 3 years, Commencement reaches new heights

Hartnell celebrated a joyous in-person Commencement on May 20 at Rabobank Stadium for the first time since 2019, with a surge in participating graduates – more than 700 – and a record number of degrees and certificates awarded.

The college awarded 1,241 associate degrees and 1,006 certificates of achievement, and 627 students graduated with honors, earning a 3.25 GPA or better, including 33 valedictorians with a perfect 4.0.

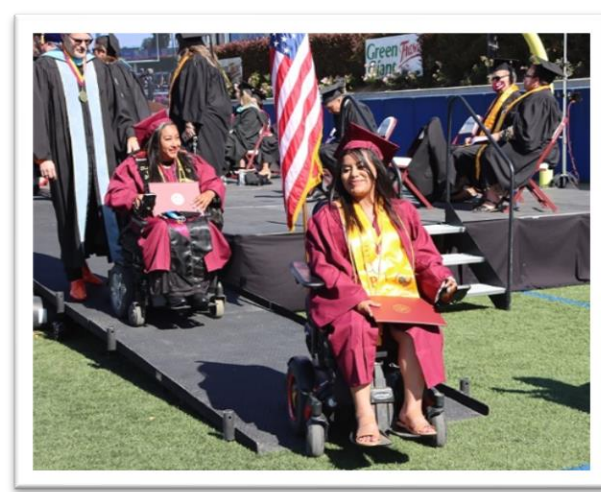
Held on a breezy and warm afternoon, the ceremony was expected to last up to three hours, but brief speeches and quick pacing kept it to just 90 minutes. Thousands of

family and friends watched and cheered from the stands, and about 1,400 viewed a live-stream on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).



Cheryl O'Donnell, a business instructor at Hartnell and 2021-22 president of the Academic Senate, joined Hartnell Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez in commending graduates on their accomplishment. Board members Aurelio Salazar Jr., Alejandra González and Raymond Montemayor joined senior administrators on the platform.

"You sit here tonight as the first class to be back live and in person after facing an unprecedented challenge, one that took you on an educational journey not imagined back in March 2020," O'Donnell said. "You have shown us what you are made of – grit, determination, the ability to adapt, stay positive and, in the end, succeed."



Padilla-Chavez introduced the valedictorian speaker, Jane Hernandez (pictured, with Padilla-Chavez at right), who was chosen from among several students who applied for that opportunity. Hernandez, the 2021-22 president of the Associated Students of Hartnell College and student trustee on the Governing Board, will continue her study of psychology at Stanford University and as one of only 100 nationwide recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship.

"Regardless of what we decide to do with the education we have received, one thing is certain: We prevailed under all circumstances to be here today," Hernandez said. "As we continue on to our next journey, I hope that we all remember who we are and the community we come from."

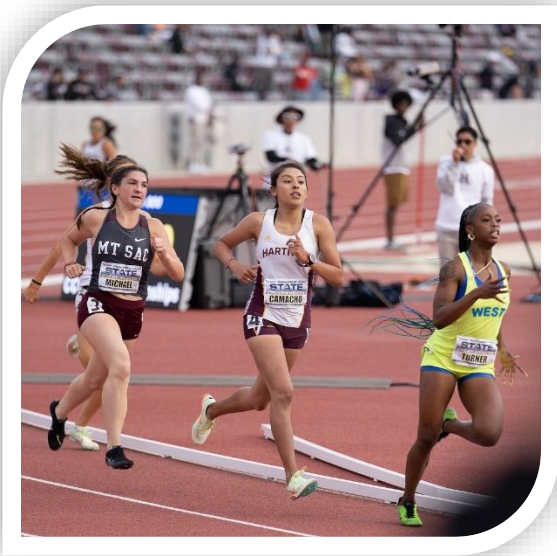
Women's track is 4th in state as Camacho wins 800-meter

The Hartnell men's and track and field teams both finished their seasons with impressive results at the 2022 California Community College Athletic Association State Championships on May 20-21 in Walnut.

The Panther women placed fourth overall, believed to be their best ever, thanks in large part to freshman Sofia Camacho's first place in the 800-meter (2:17.32) – a first for Hartnell in that event – and second place in the 1,500m (4:37.01). She earned a double All-American with those races. Freshman Isabella Reimann also earned All-American by taking second in the hammer throw, a new event for her this year; freshman sprinter Roxana Ruelas placed fifth in the 400m hurdles; and sophomore runner Isabelle Torres concluded her outstanding track and cross country career by placing eighth in the 10,000m, 11th in the 5,000m and 12th in the 1500m. (Pictured: Sofia Camacho, center, comes from behind in the 800m.)

Distance ace Isaac Gensel, a sophomore, led the men's team as he has all season, placing second in the 1,500m with a personal best of 3:54.25 and third place in the 5000m (14:55.81), while earning honor as an All-American. Also placing in the top five was freshman Esteban Deniz, who ran the 10,000 in 31:49.68. These and other top-15 finishers helped the men finish at 10th in the state.

Host college Mt. San Antonio, with more than three times the enrollment of Hartnell, won both the men's and women's championships. Hartnell Head Coach Chris Zepeda said that outcome is a measure of the Panthers' achievement. "I think that any Hartnell team that places well in the state championship is significant just given our enrollment size," he said. "You're talking about a depth of recruitment [at perennial winners] that we don't have."



Contributors to 16th 'Party' raise more than \$400,000 for students

For a second time, on May 21, the 16-year event formerly known as Party in the Library became the Party NEAR the Library, and the Hartnell College Foundation raised more than \$400,000 for scholarships and other student support programs.

About 250 guests gathered in the tiered Central Plaza on Hartnell's Main Campus for lunch, live music, a live auction and speakers, including 2022 valedictorian graduate Jane Hernandez. Lead sponsors were Taylor Farms and David & Susan Gill, in addition to Alla and Co., Chevron, Dataflow Business Systems, Dilbeck & Sons, Noland Hamerly Etienne & Hoss, the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System and many others. Donors in the foundation's President's Circle, which includes many Hartnell employees, were all invited to attend. The Hartnell Governing Board was represented by President Erica Padilla-Chavez, Vice President Candi DePauw and Trustee Aurelio Salazar Jr.



Presentation of the Hartnell foundation's 2022 Leadership Award to longtime Salinas Valley grower John Romans culminated the four-hour celebration. Romans was honored as a

dedicated member of the foundation Board of Directors and a generous donor, with his wife, Annette, in support of student internships, the King City Education Center and more.



Romans (pictured with Annette and longtime friend Gary Vincenz) called it a “great honor to get this award from such a great foundation.”

“These foundations don’t work without all of us to gather as a community and as faculty, as staff, as administration and hardworking students,” he said. “The goal of this foundation and the goal of this college is to get students into this school, give them the resources, give them the assistance, give them the scholarships, give them the help they need to improve their lives and move on to a four-year university.”

Nursing & Health Sciences celebrates 85 grads with pinning ceremony

Family and friends filled the Mainstage Theater on May 20 for the annual pinning ceremony held to recognize 85 new graduates of Hartnell’s Nursing & Health Sciences programs in registered nursing, vocational nursing and respiratory Care.

Dean Dr. Debra Kaczmar welcomed students, faculty and well-wishers, thanked the programs’ 37 clinical education partners and introduced speakers brief remarks by Dr. Steven Crow, interim superintendent/president; Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president of academic affairs; and Erica Padilla-Chavez, president of the Hartnell Governing Board. Trustees Margaret D’Arrigo, Irma Lopez, Alejandra González, Ray Montemayor and Aurelio Salazar Jr. were all on stage for the ceremony, as well.

Among graduating student speakers representing each program was Rebecca Carrillo-Gomez in vocational nursing, who emphasized their challenging path to that day (pictured, left, with co-speaker Esmerelda Tellez).





“Although there were several moments where we felt we wanted to give up, we persevered,” she said. “Every single person on this stage can feel immensely proud of how much we have accomplished We have supported one another through this experience, from starting off with trembling at the thought of holding a needle to vaccinating thousands of people in our community.”

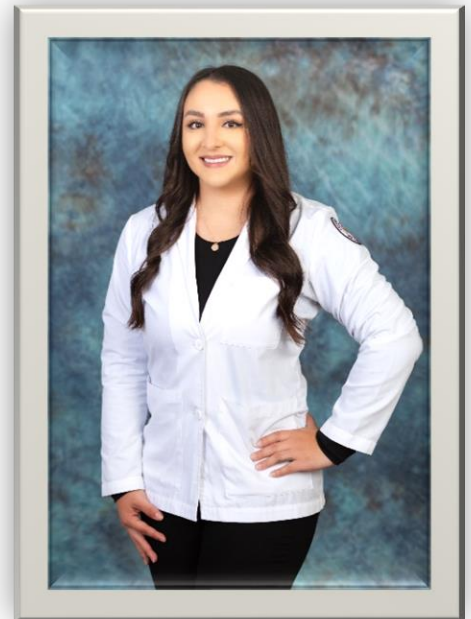
Students received pins and stoles that signified their program, as well as white roses, all presented by faculty, and the students recited the Nightingale Pledge and the Respiratory Therapy Student Oath, which share a commitment to selfless care for the well-being of others.

SVMHS awards memorial scholarship designated for Hartnell nursing students

2022 Hartnell Registered Nursing graduate Vanessa Ramirez is the first recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship from an endowment fund that honors Kimberly Anne Kelley, a Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System nurse who died in March 2021 at age 61. She previously had worked as an EMT and paramedic.

A statement from the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System Foundation said the fund was established by Kelley’s wife and family to “ensure that Kim’s legacy and love of nursing would continue on long into the future.” It is designated for Hartnell students at least 30 years old who are pursuing a career in emergency room nursing.

Ramirez is a first-generation college student and a single mother of two who hopes to work in the emergency department at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. She began her health care career as a pharmacy technician and became a vocational nurse before joining Hartnell’s RN program in 2020. She is now working toward her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



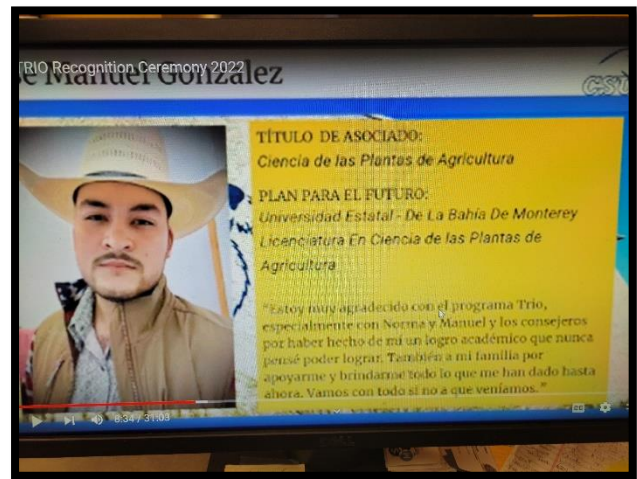
“The most rewarding thing about nursing for me is being able to make a difference in people’s lives, being there when they need assistance, and being able to help my community,” Ramirez said. “I am thankful for being selected as the first recipient of the Kim Kelley Memorial Scholarship, and I hope to make the Kelley family proud as I begin my career as an RN.”

'Once TRiO, always TRiO,' staff tell graduates in online recognition event

Hartnell's SSS/TRiO program staff held an online recognition event on May 22 for the 56 students they served in the Class of 2022.

The program via Zoom included a slideshow with photos and quotes from the graduates and where they are headed next in their educational and career journeys (pictured). The theme was "Once TRiO, Always TRiO." The students responded in the "chat" with their own words of appreciation, such as from Yuridia Zarate, who wrote, "Thank you, familia TRiO!! I wouldn't make it without your support!"

TRiO Director Manuel Bersamin encouraged graduates to consider graduate school after they complete a four-year degree. "We look at your participation in TRiO as never ending, so come and visit us," he said.



Teacher Pathway and MAESTROs hold graduation ceremony at King City center

The Teacher Pathway Program/MAESTROs program gathered at the King City Education Center, and via Zoom, to celebrate students' transition from the Hartnell phase of their education to the Cal State Monterey Bay phase, which will continue to be taught in King City. The program has alternated on a two-year cycle between south Monterey County and Salinas, with TPP's Cohort 7 preparing to start on the Main Campus this past fall. There are 11 TPP graduates, who plan to become elementary school teachers, and 11 MAESTROs graduates, who are interested in possibly teaching in multiple levels of K-12 education.



(Pictured, from left: graduates Mariana Aceves, Alondra Blanco, Carmen Sandoval, Alyssa Cabello, Elizabeth Quezada, Krystina Acosta.)

In addition to the graduates and their families, the program was attended by Hartnell Governing Board member Alejandra González. Speakers included Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president of

academic affairs; Dr. Ondine Gage, TPP director and associate professor at CSUMB; Dr. Antonio Gallardo, TPP outreach coordinator lecturer and clinical coach in education and leadership at CSUMB; Dr. Limary Gutierrez, associate superintendent in the Soledad Unified School District; and Jennifer Taylor, assistant superintendent in the King City Union School District. Mayra Gonzalez, a TPP cohort 1 graduate now teaching kindergarten in Greenfield, and graduates Elizabeth Quezada and Carmen Sandoval, 2022 graduates of TPP and MAESTROs respectively, also spoke.



“To my graduating class, this journey was not easy for us,” Sandoval said. “The pandemic forced us to learn differently. It challenged the teachers across the world, and we had to learn to manager our lives and our education. Although we had hardships, struggles and uncertainties, we are here today. We thrived. We did it. Congratulations, Class of 2022.”

(Pictured: Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson speaks at the ceremony in the courtyard of the King City Education Center.)

Mi CASA holds virtual celebration for graduates

The Mi CASA program that serves Hartnell’s undocumented students and their families held a Virtual Graduation Celebration via Zoom on May 19.

Dr. Maria Ceja, dean of student affairs for enrollment services, spoke on behalf of the Hartnell administration, encouraging graduates to seek out support services and join clubs as they move on to a four-year university.

Governing Board member Aurelio Salazar Jr. shared his congratulations on behalf of the board, highlighting the challenges students endured as they switched from online to in-person or hybrid classes as a result of the pandemic. “Felicidades a todos,” he said. “You made it, you did it. You can do anything.”

Mi CASA Program Assistant Miriam Vazquez-Gonzalez, who coordinated the event, also thanked counselors for their guidance of undocumented students, and several of the graduates joining the Zoom event expressed their gratitude for the program and its services, as well as thanking their spouses and family members for their support as they pursued their educational goals.



Umoja program recognizes pair of Hartnell's 2022 graduates

Tony Anderson, counselor for the Umoja program at Hartnell, led a recognition ceremony for two 2022 graduates on May 19 in the program's new center in Merrill Hall. Family members attended, as did Carla Johnson, dean of student affairs for student success.

Anderson presented the students with graduation stoles in the traditional African-inspired kente cloth pattern, telling them, "I want to give you this to show not only that we want you to be successful, and when I say 'we,' I mean Hartnell College, not just me. We want you to be successful, we expect you to be successful and you are successful now."

The students recognized were Tayjah Johnson-Hill (pictured with Anderson), a graduate of Everett Alvarez High School who plans to attend Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, and Mariama Indula, a graduate of Salinas High School who will study kinesiology at CSU San Bernardino.

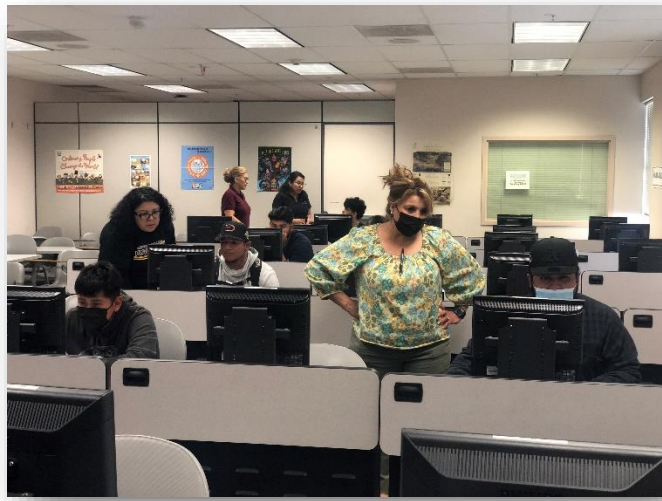
'Panther Night' registration events successful in Soledad and King City

Panther Night registration fairs at the Soledad Education Center on May 17 and at the King City center on May 19 attracted dozens of prospective students from across south Monterey County. About 40 attended in Soledad and 20 in King City, including current high school students, recent graduates and nontraditional students.

They came to learn about financial aid, summer and fall classes, English as a second language, early childhood education, general education and more, said Ana González, director of the Soledad center.

"Some needed to start from the beginning with the application process, others needed help registering for classes, some had financial aid questions, and others needed to meet with a counselor," said González, who is pictured greeting attendees at the Soledad center. "Everyone here was needed and very busy providing the necessary support. My impression was that students' needs were met and they received great customer service."





Both she and Mostafa Ghous, dean of South County Education Services, thanked Fanny Salgado, College Pathways coordinator, for organizing the event, as well as other participating staff: Ariana Hernandez, Olga Galvan, Monica Navarro, Ana Martinez, Imelda Suarez, Sergio Diaz, Jazmin Rios, Maria Godoy, Becky Jimenez, Jorge Isaias, Kristen Arps and Mercedes Del Real, Monica Navarro and Araceli Alvarez Gomez.

(Pictured: Fanny Salgado, left, and Olga Galvan (foreground) and Monica Navarro, left, and Araceli Alvarez Gomez (rear) assist students at the King City center.)

Music ensembles conclude busy year live at Mainstage

Hartnell's vocal and instrumental music programs presented three days of spring concerts on May 16, 17 and 19, wrapping up a busy academic year in which students and their ensembles made a full return to in-person performance and live audiences.

The choral department under the direction of instructor Sandy Rudo kicked the series off on May 16 with two performances of its Spring Choral Concert at 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., both in the Mainstage Theater at the Center for Performing Arts on Main Campus. The Hartnell College Choir and Hartnell College Chamber Singers Ensemble both performed. Rudo told the audience, "I'm just thrilled that we're here, and I'm thrilled that you're here." (Pictured: soloist Jacqueline Aguilar-Madrigal.)



On the instrumental side, the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band held their Spring Concert on May 17, with Daniel Zeff director the former and instructor Steve Ettinger directing the latter. Ettinger presented leadership awards to Jazz Ensemble students Allen Candelario (trumpet), Ryan Eads (drums) and Rachel Franklin (tenor saxophone – new to her this year).

The next day, the Hartnell Community College Orchestra performed under Ettinger's direction with a theme of "A Journey to the East," including a masterful Rachmaninoff piano solo by Noah Umamoto. Ettinger gave leadership awards to orchestra students Lizzie Mendoza (violin, and

composed "Nier Medley" based on video game music) and Isabel Teresa (viola, joined in the 1970s) and Umamoto (piano).

"It was a great week from beginning to end," Ettinger said. "All of the concerts went so well. Graduation was the icing on the cake, seeing all those kids get their certificates, get their degrees, not just from music but from all over. You put an immense amount of work into something, and it's just very fulfilling to see things come to their fruition."

(Pictured: Director Steve Ettinger acknowledges the audience's applause at the end of the orchestra concert.)



Rancho San Juan H.S. to send 40% of its first grad class to Hartnell

Hartnell's Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Steve Crow and Cesar Velazquez, Upward Bound director, joined staff and students at Rancho San Juan High School in northeast Salinas on May 19 to celebrate "College Signing Day," highlighting graduates' post-high school plans.

Forty percent of the new high school's first graduating class are coming to Hartnell, by far the most of any college. They all received Panthers T-shirts in honor of their decision. Rancho San Juan counselor Dolores Christensen said she and others encouraged students to attend Hartnell because of all its advantages, while seeking to "change the narrative" that community college is more a default than a decision.



Rancho San Juan, opened in 2019, participates in Upward Bound, and the school is also part of Hartnell's new TRIO/Educational Talent Search, which seeks to identify and guide additional students with college potential.

2022 graduate profile **Mother of four pursues 'dream' of becoming a medical doctor**

Asmahan Muhrram is a mother of four who says her goal of becoming an obstetrician-gynecologist is a “child’s dream,” not because it’s out of reach but because it was instilled by her late father in their native Yemen.

“I used to dream to become a doctor back in my country,” said Muhrram, who graduated with an Associate Degree for Transfer in Biology – Summa Cum Laude – and will continue on to Cal State Monterey Bay. “Before my dad passed away, he was my main supporter. He said, ‘Follow your dream.’”

Not only is she a first-generation student, like many of her younger peers at Hartnell, but she has traveled an especially long road, starting with earning her high school equivalency online in about 2007. She began attending Hartnell – a class or two per semester – in Fall 2016. [Read the full story](#)

(Pictured: Muhrram, second from left, with her three daughters, at the MESA recognition luncheon on May 7. Her oldest daughter, Maha, at right, is a Hartnell STEM Student Ambassador studying respiratory therapy.)

In the News

College postseason roundup: Camacho captures state 800-meter track title for Hartnell:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/05/22/college-postseason-roundup-camacho-captures-state-800-meter-track-title-for-hartnell/>

Graduation season kicks off with the return of in-person ceremonies:

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/graduation-season-kicks-off/40053031>

College Athlete of the Week: <https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/05/24/college-athlete-of-the-week-64/>

Upcoming Events

Memorial Day – College closed

Monday, May 30

Monterey County Pops! Memorial Day Concert with Hartnell College Chamber Singers Ensemble

Monday, May 30

1-3 p.m.

Monterey City Hall Lawn

Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7

Castroville Education Center

Summer Session begins (8-week)

Monday, June 13

2nd Annual Salinas Juneteenth Celebration

12-6 p.m.

Saturday, June 18

Central Plaza, Main Campus

Hartnell Governing Board – Development Meeting

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

SAVE THE DATE

Convocation 2022

8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26

