

# 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.

## Note to readers:

The President's Weekly Report to the Community is being presented twice-monthly publication while the volume of news is slowed by COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

## In-person appointments begin May 10 for key student services

Hartnell is inviting students to begin scheduling in-person appointments for key student services starting May 10, allowing them to receive assistance that cannot be easily provided via phone, email or an array of [Virtual Help Desk](#) services via Zoom.

In-person appointments had been suspended for safety reasons since the start of the pandemic last spring. Plexiglass screening has now been installed in public reception areas to protect employees and visitors.



The 15-minute appointments will be available for the offices of Financial Aid, Admissions & Records, disability services (DSPS), EOPS/CARE and TRiO/SSS. Students can make reservations through [Eventbrite](#), the same system used to reserve a spot in the in-person study area that has continued in the Auxiliary Gymnasium.

Students will be asked to acknowledge health risk, complete a health pre-screening questionnaire and take a temperature check before their appointment. (Pictured: Student Services Building (B)).

# Commencement '21 to again be virtual, but this time with in-person recognition

Following last year's successful switch to a virtual Commencement near the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartnell will again celebrate graduates' achievement through streaming video that will premiere at 5 p.m. on May 21.



However, Commencement 2021 also will include an in-person opportunity for several groups of students to receive congratulations from Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez and Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez in the new Central Plaza on May 28. Graduates will be photographed, and the multiple recognition

groupings will be live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram for friends and family members. Spectators will not be allowed.

Another change this year is a focus on student speakers during the May 21 virtual ceremony, plus brief remarks from Dr. Rodríguez and President Padilla-Chavez. Students such as Bianey Torres (pictured) have recorded messages for the Commencement videos – one for each Meta Major, or grouping of related academic majors. Links will be widely shared closer to the date.

"We're trying to focus it more on the student experience this year because they (Class of 2021) were truly affected by a solid year of online learning," said Augustine Nevarez, director of academic affairs for student life, who has led Commencement planning.

## Nursing students give vaccine to fellow students and staff

A group of 13 nursing students, most from the Vocational Nursing program, administered the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to more than 50 fellow students, staff and community members on April 28 in the Hartnell Athletics field house.



Under the direction of nursing instructor Angela Clark, the students continued to gain experience in giving injections, with several having previously participated in vaccine clinics with the Visiting Nurses Association, Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas and Mee Memorial Hospital.

Pictured receiving the vaccine from Vocational Nursing student Erika Estrada is Hartnell Softball player Ariel Camacho-Green, as Angela Clark observes, at right.

# President Padilla-Chavez hosts officials on tours of Soledad Education Center

Hartnell Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez hosted officials from the cities and school districts of Gonzales and Soledad on recent tours of the completed Soledad Education Center.



On May 6, she welcomed members of the Soledad City Council and Soledad Unified School District board, as well as members of the Soledad Youth Council (Padilla-Chavez is pictured at right in the wet science lab).



Former superintendent/president Dr. Willard Lewallen and facilities director Joseph Reyes joined Padilla-Chavez in highlighting features of the new building and recounting how Measure T bonds were approved by voters to fund the Soledad Center, the expansion of the King City Education Center and other projects.

On April 30, Padilla-Chavez and Reyes gave a similar tour and presentation to members of the Gonzales City Council (pictured at left).

# Dr. Rodríguez shares Hartnell update with King City Rotary Club on May 5

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez presented a wide-ranging update and overview on Hartnell's to the King City Rotary Club via Zoom on May 5.

Dr. Rodríguez shared a profile of Hartnell students and their increasing success in degree and certificate completion; the joint CSin3 (computer science), Teacher Pathway and plant science programs with Cal State Monterey Bay; the Salinas Valley Promise program; near-perfect licensure/certification rates among nursing and health sciences students; and Measure T construction, including completion of the King City Education Center expansion.

2019-2020 HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DATA						HARTNELL COLLEGE		
High School	Attending Hartnell Fall 2019**				Attending Hartnell Fall 2020**			
	# of HS Graduates	# of HS Graduates	Attending Full Time	Attending Part Time	# of HS Graduates	# of HS Graduates	Attending Full Time	Attending Part Time
HSJF	375	206	100.0%	105	150	102	100.0%	47
P. CLAYTON	154	143	47.28%	179	15	24	10.51%	36
San Jose State	109	82	61.09%	81	14	17	38.89%	11
San Jose State	222	189	47.93%	92	128	218	42.44%	11
King City	165	98	44.85%	73	15	108	15.55%	48
San Jose State	117	15	12.82%	2	15	1	2.78%	3
El Toro High School	275	98	20.84%	21	28	46	17.09%	26
San Jose State	427	193	45.20%	127	420	228	54.29%	122
San Jose State	307	235	76.55%	196	47	0	0.00%	0
San Jose State	223	128	22.87%	125	14	158	37.24%	154
San Jose State	131	118	90.08%	1	0	0	0.00%	0
San Jose State	131	18	13.74%	1	11	6	11.11%	3
San Jose State	131	18	13.74%	1	11	6	11.11%	3
Total	3,967	2,423	60.87%	1,417	2,020	1,189	59.37%	1,426

Participants asked Dr. Rodríguez when the King City center and Soledad Education Center will be open to students, and he replied that at least a few classes will be offered there during the Summer 2021 term that starts June 7.



He was joined at the presentation by Mostafa Ghous, dean of South County Education Services, who is a member of the King City Rotary. Ghous acknowledged the King City club's \$4,000 yearly support for a Rotary Lending Library at the King City center.

## Food Safety Conference draws crowd with virtual presentation in 16<sup>th</sup> year

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Western Food Safety Conference, presented May 5-6 via Zoom, was a great success, with nearly 175 participants and an

outstanding schedule of panels and presentations from scientists, manager and executives throughout the fresh produce industry.



"Many attendees felt that this year's speaker lineup was the best ever," said Clint Cowden, event co-chair and Hartnell's dean of career technical education and workforce development. The college was a co-sponsor with the Western Growers Center for Innovation & Technology in Salinas.

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez opened the conference with a videotaped welcome message, underscoring Hartnell's commitment to agricultural education and thanking sponsors and partners. He noted that throughout its history, the food safety conference has raised more than \$100,000 in scholarship support for Hartnell students.

Cowden said highlights of the two days included an opening keynote speech by Tim York, who in October became CEO of the influential Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, and a focus on management of irrigation water, especially a presentation by Dr. Channah Rock, a professor and water quality specialist at the University of Arizona.

## STEM club alumni panel features grads at CSUMB and UC Berkeley

The Engineering, Physics and Allied STEM Club presented a Zoom panel with two Hartnell graduates on April 22, organized by club President Kimberly Manzano.

The presenters were Yessica Torrez Hernandez, a software engineering major at Cal State Monterey Bay, and Juan Esparza, who is studying civil engineering at UC Berkeley.

Joined by club advisors Dr. Melissa Hornstein, engineering instructor, and Laura Fatuzzo, physics instructor, participants asked the alums about everything from financial aid to transportation and grades.

"Study groups were very helpful," Torrez Hernandez said. "At the beginning it was tough meeting other students, but it was extremely helpful when I did."

Esparza (pictured) said, "Classes are definitely more difficult at UC Berkeley. The classes are very big, 300-400 people. "It can be very competitive to get an internship."



## Four alums share experiences during online Transfer Mixer

Thirty-four students attended a May 4 online Transfer Mixer presented by the Transfer & Career Center and hosted by Mercedes Del Real, a counselor at the center.



The four alums were Maria Suarez (pictured), a 2012 graduate who completed a biology degree and doctorate in physical therapy at University of Saint Mary (Kan.); Stephen Carrillo, a 2019 graduate and current student at UC Berkeley in business administration; Fernando Rizo, a 2012 graduate who completed a degree in civil engineering at Sacramento State and works as a civil engineer for the City of Salinas; and German Perea, a 2017 graduate who completed a degree in civil engineering at UC Berkeley in civil engineering and works as a research and development engineer at the university.

Each of the alums talked about how Hartnell prepared them for a four-year university, what information would have been useful beforehand, challenges they encountered and how they overcome those challenges.

Suarez, an Alisal High School graduate who was a track athlete for Saint Mary and is now back working as a physical therapist at Balance Physical Therapy in Salinas, spoke of her adjustments to independence.

"When I left home I was so excited to be on my own finally for the first time, but I wasn't ready to cook my own dinners, to clean my own apartment to look for my own apartment and just figure out everything on my own," she said. "I was miles, states, away from my home, and I could finally do everything I wanted to do when I wanted to do it. However, I had to be smart about that, too. Maybe I couldn't go out because I had to study, and that's something I had to learn the hard way."

## Governing Board pays tribute to beloved employee Selso Ruiz

The Hartnell College Governing Board concluded its May 4 meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Hartnell employee Selso Ruiz, who lost a brief and unforeseen battle with cancer on April 21 at age 42.

For the past five years, Ruiz had worked as a program assistant in the Office of Student Life, supporting the Associated Students of Hartnell College, student clubs and more. He frequently could be found helping students present special events and activities in the Student Center.



Said Augustine Nevarez, director of student affairs for student life, "He is terribly missed by colleagues, students and the countless graduates who benefited from his caring commitment. His radiant smile and enthusiasm for student success shone brightly."

The Ruiz family is inviting donations to a fund for memorial expenses. The Hartnell College Foundation has established a [Selso Ruiz Family Assistance Fund](#) where those who wish can directly contribute to this family fund. The family held a celebration of life service on May 8 at Primeria Iglesia de Prunedale.

## **Panther Volleyball will live-stream scrimmage with Ohlone on May 14**

One of the many impacts of the pandemic on California Community College athletics is a surge of interest in live-streaming of games and matches, likely to be widely available during the coming year and beyond.

With that in mind, Hartnell Volleyball Head Coach Jamie Pedroza has announced that her team will live-stream a five-set home scrimmage match against Ohlone College starting at 12 p.m. on May 14. Spectators will not be allowed to view the competition in the Main Gym. Two weeks ago, the Panthers won their first and only other scrimmage match 4-1 on Ohlone's home court. That was Pedroza's first chance to see her freshman players in action.



The team's ability to compete indoors is the result of careful coordination and elaborate safety measures, shared by Hartnell's other teams. Before finally being able to move into the gym in April, the volleyball and men's and women's basketball teams even practiced on a portion of Hartnell's tennis courts to more closely replicate a game situation. Pedroza said the whole experience has been "like speed dial."

## **Killian Scholars program invites applications for 2021-22 awards**



The Hartnell College Music Department is seeking applications for students interested in becoming part of the Killian Scholars music program for 2021-22.

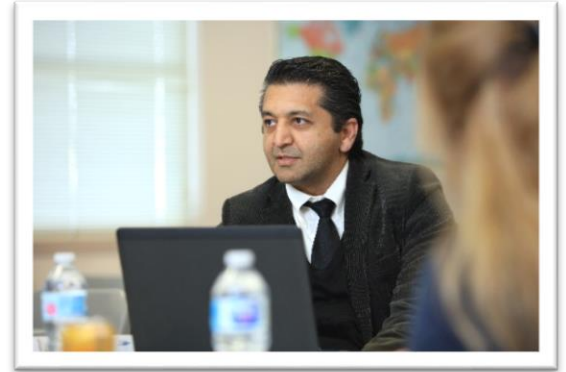
Funded by a bequest from Jack Killian, the program provides a \$2,000 scholarship for each semester, private music lessons from a professional teacher and program-funded field trips to universities and concerts.

Students must be willing to enroll as a full-time music major at Hartnell and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. The application is available [here](#). Contact instructor Steve Ettinger at [settinger@hartnell.edu](mailto:settinger@hartnell.edu) to schedule a Zoom audition between 4 and 6 p.m. on May 17, and for further information.

## Dean Ghous named to board of national branch campus group

Mostafa Ghous, dean of South County Education Services, has been named 2021-22 finance chair for the Executive Committee of the National Association of Branch Campus Administrators. The organization supports the mission and goals of higher education professionals who work at a location separate from the main campus.

Ghous, who joined Hartnell in 2018, previously worked as the East County Campus Director at Everett Community College in Everett, Wash. Among other duties, he oversees operations and services at the newly expanded King City Education Center and the brand new Soledad Education Center.



## Coach Zepeda announces alums named to All-Decade XC team

Cross Country Head Coach Christopher Zepeda has announced that former Hartnell runners team in Edgar Bonilla (2015-16), Jorge Sanchez (2015-16) and Ricky Esqueda (2017) have been named to the 2010-19 Northern California All-Decade Men's Cross Country Second Team by the California Community College Athletic Association. They combined for four All-American honors, three Norcal team titles, two Norcal individual titles and three individual Coast Conference titles.



Zepeda, who participated in the selection process, also shared that four Panther men's runners received Honorable Mention recognition. They are: Michael Ramirez (2012-13), Miguel Gallegos (2010-11), Rene Siqueiros (2014-15), Cristian Soratos (2010-11), Kevin Roa (2010-11), Patrick Olson (2017-18) and Justin Carrancho (2013-14).



## In the News

**Schools prepare for 2021 graduation ceremonies:** <https://kion546.com/news/monterey-county/2021/05/07/schools-prepare-for-2021-graduation-ceremonies/>

**Rowland tearing up opponents in Iranian Super League:**  
<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/05/08/rowland-tearing-up-opponents-in-iranian-super-league/>

## Upcoming Events

**The Western Stage: Alumni Symposium Series  
Matthew Shiner – General Stage Manager**

6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

<https://westernstage.com/alumni-symposium-series/>

**Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)**

6 p.m.

Thursday, May 6

Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>

**Pop-Up Food Pantry**

12 p.m.

Friday, May 14

Main Campus Parking Structure

**Governing Board Meeting – Development**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 18

Steinbeck Hall

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>

**Governing Board Meeting – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1

Steinbeck Hall

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>