

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.

Share your news!

The President's Weekly Report highlights accomplishment, engagement, progress and success for and within the Hartnell College Community. Please send information and photos by each Wednesday to sfaust@hartnell.edu.

Panther Prep serves 710 students from Hartnell district high schools

Thanks to the efforts of 105 Hartnell staff and faculty, the two-day Panther Prep Day event enabled 710 Salinas Valley high school seniors to complete an educational plan, register for Fall 2022 classes and learn more about student support programs and college resources.

(Pictured: Transfer and Career Center Mercedes Del Real, foreground, assists a student in a STEM Center classroom.)

About 230 students were bused from south Monterey County high schools for Panther Prep at the King City and Soledad centers on April 29, and the same program was presented the next day on Main Campus – in person for the first time since 2019. All student participants had to provide proof of full vaccination or receive a medical or religious exemption. Hundreds more students – many of whom had yet to prove vaccination – will be invited to follow-up workshops to complete their registration in coming weeks.

Joined by scores of parents, who attended a financial aid presentation and Parent Panel Q&A, the students received Hartnell swag, enjoyed a free taco lunch and came away ready to begin classes in August or over the summer. Oscar the Panther was on hand to create lots of fun and enthusiasm





Although the College Pathways Team planned and executed the event, said College Pathways Coordinator Ariana Rodriguez, "We just wouldn't be able to have an event of this magnitude without all the support across the whole Hartnell community, from faculty to staff – from all different aspects: administrators, all our student workers – everybody came together."

(Pictured: Oscar the Panther greets students having lunch in the Harden Foundation Courtyard at the Soledad Education Center.)

Big student and employer turnout makes Career Fair a big success

The Spring Career Fair presented by the Transfer & Career Center made a successful comeback on the morning of April 27 in the Student Center for the first time since 2019, with more than 270 student and community attendees and 29 business and organizational employers represented.

Among the diverse group of participants was the Salinas Fire Department (pictured), which brought a truck for display in front of the Student Center. Other employers included Behavioral Intervention Associates, the Salinas and Monterey police departments, California Truck Centers, Latitude 36 Foods, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the U.S. Forest Service, NGP Media-KION TV and the Law Office of Blanca Zarazua.

"It was great seeing our community interact with employers, and the fact that they got to network in-person after two years of not being able to host this event, was really gratifying to see," Fatima Barron, Transfer & Career Center program assistant, who helped coordinate this event.

(Pictured at left: Student Apolonia Preciado Castillo speaks with Amanda Carter of Behavioral Intervention Associates.)



Alisal Campus hosts awards banquet for Monterey Bay Future Farmers students

Hartnell's Alisal Campus on April 28 hosted an awards banquet for students from high schools within the Monterey Bay Section of Future Farmers of America.

Volunteer judges Mikel Ann Miller, first vice president of 1st Capital Bank in King City, and Hartnell Manufacturing/Mechatronics instructor Richard Chapman joined with the section's student officers to present plaques and certificates to participants in the annual FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) competition.

Parents also attended, as did several Hartnell leaders.

(Pictured: (from left) Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president of academic affairs; Alejandra Gonzalez, Area 1 trustee; Linda Beam, interim vice president of Human Resources; and Melissa Casillas, director of academic affairs for career training programs.)



In his opening remarks, Clint Cowden (pictured with section President Angel Lopez from Watsonville High School), dean of career technical education and workforce development, recalled his own involvement in FFA as a high school student in Patterson, Calif. He commended students for gaining hands-on experience, saying, "We have to understand the theory we can learn in a classroom, but you guys who are doing an SAE project like this know, you can write an essay on it all day, right? It's something completely different to wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning and do it every single day."

Monterey County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Jose Chang gives a keynote address. He told the students, "Being in FFA, you are already ahead of many other students if you are pursuing a career in agriculture."

Student Trustee Jane Hernandez receives \$20,000 Baskin scholarship

Jane Hernandez, president of the Associated Students of Hartnell College and student trustee for the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, learned on April 19 that she is Hartnell's 2021-22 recipient of the Peggy and Jack Baskin Transfer Scholarship. Jane Hernandez, president of the Associated Students of Hartnell College and student trustee for the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, learned on April 19 that she is Hartnell's 2021-22 recipient of the Peggy and Jack Baskin Transfer Scholarship.



Hernandez, who has been accepted at the University of California, Berkeley and UC Los Angeles may use the \$20,000 Baskin Transfer Scholarship at any UC campus, with \$10,000 for each of her first two years. She will follow other talented first-generation women students from low-income families who have received the Baskin honor. Hernandez will graduate from Hartnell this month with degrees in psychology, Spanish and liberal arts, and she has been chosen as valedictorian speaker for Commencement on May 20. Her ambition is to complete a doctorate in applied psychology and become a community college administrator, and one day a superintendent/president.

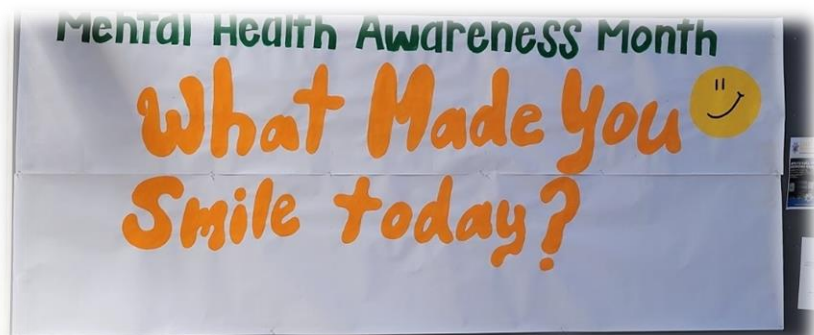


"My whole goal is to come back into the educational system, specifically the community college system," Hernandez said. "I've benefited from everybody here at Hartnell, and I want to be that help for more first-generation low-income students."

She is a participant in Hartnell's SSS/TRiO program and received guidance and letters of recommendation from its director, Manuel Bersamin. Her work as a student leader has included establishing the Panther Press student newsletter and initiating the Pink Bag program of free feminine hygiene products. In addition, she is a semifinalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Transfer Scholarship, with final selection to be announced this month.

Student Life, ASHC engage students in Mental Health Awareness Month

Starting with a reflection wall in the Student Center that invites students to share "What Made You Smile Today" (pictured), the Office of Student Life and the Associated Students of Hartnell College are holding several activities from May 2-4 tied to Mental Health Awareness Month.



Following a May 2 "Let's Talk" Zoom discussion on mental health resources, highlighting mental health counseling services available through the 24/7

[TimelyCare](#) app and Hartnell's own Crisis Counseling and Emotional Wellness center, activities on May 4 are "Meditation in the Planetarium" at 11 a.m. and a session on "Understanding PTSD" at 12 p.m. via [Zoom](#).

The planetarium event will continue until 2 p.m., described as a chance to "distress in a visual and auditory space," with a self-guided meditation experience during each of the three hours and a wellness gift for participants.

Year's second Mini Arts Festival from 1-3 p.m. May 4 in the Student Center

Students and faculty in the visual and performing arts will team up from 1-3 p.m. on May 4 for this academic year's second Mini Arts Festival, this time in the Student Center. The first was held in the Central Plaza on Oct. 21.

The upcoming program will begin with theatre students performing scenes they have been working on in their Acting II class. "They are really excited to have the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience," said instructor Dr. Marnie Glazer. "Most are theatre majors who have had to do much of their degree online and are ecstatic to be back in the classroom again. Their teacher is experienced performance artist, River Navaille, who has been working closely with them to curate these exciting performances."

Visual art will feature graphic design work by students of instructor Benjamin Anderson, and at 2 p.m., the Hartnell Jazz Band will perform. Throughout the two hours, ceramics by current and past students and faculty will be on sale, said visual art instructional associate Maria Marin.

Spring Mini Arts Festival Celebrating the Arts at Hartnell

May 5th 1-3pm 2022

Hartnell Main campus, Student center commons.

Free! Open to all

Refreshments will be served

1 pm - theatre performances
1 pm - art show/ceramics sale
2 pm - jazz band performance
2:30 - student films/audio projects shown in C-101



Party NEAR the Library is one more reason to join President's Circle for student support

Hartnell employees and community members are encouraged to join the Hartnell College Foundation President's Circle with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to support student success and meet the May 6 deadline to [RSVP](#) for the foundation's biggest party of the year, the Party NEAR the Library, on May 21. [President's Circle](#) members receive two tickets, among other year-round benefits.

Formerly known as the Party in the Library, the event earned its new name last year when it was held on May 22 in the Central Plaza on Main Campus, rather than inside the Hartnell Library/Learning Resource Center, as was tradition. The

2020 party drew a crowd of 200 and raised more than \$560,000 for scholarships and other foundation support, the most ever.

This year's event, starting at 11:30 a.m. registration and strolling hors d'oeuvres, will continue with a seated outdoor lunch, a live auction and presentation of a leadership award to Salinas Valley grower and ag leader John Romans, wrapping up around 3:30 p.m. The program includes four live bands.



New planetarium coordinator welcomes first student group

Andy Kreyche, the new coordinator for the Hartnell Planetarium in the Lewallen STEM Building presented an in-person program on April 21 to middle school students from Trinity Prep Christian School in Monterey, his first school group since rejoining the college this spring.

Kreyche (pictured, holding papers) engaged the students in a kinesthetic learning activity before they went into the planetarium, having them lay out ropes modeling planetary orbits and then move around to demonstrate seasonal change.



“This helps make sense of what they are shown in the planetarium sky later,” he said. “And hopefully it inspires them to look at the real sky with knowledge, understanding and curiosity.”

Teacher Michelle Ayers shared photos and a message of thanks via email, saying, “The activities you did with our students were creative and helpful to their understanding.”

Men’s Track & Field team wins conference; women take second

The Hartnell Men’s Track & Field team won the Coast Conference Championships on April 27 and 30, defeating five teams with long-distance dominance, and the women’s team was the best of seven conference teams.



Leading the men’s performance was Esteban Diaz, who won the 1,500-meter and was joined by five other Panther runners in the remaining top six places. Diaz also won the 10000m, with six teammates in places three through eight. Panther Frankie Maciel won the 5000m, followed by Isaac Gensel in third and Deniz in fourth. Gensel also placed second in the 1,500 and third in the 800, 5,000 and 10,000. The men’s team has now won six of the past 10 conference titles after coming in second in 2019.

Distance runner Sofia Camacho set the pace for the women’s team, topping the field in the 1500 and placing second in the 800, 5000 and 10000. Also winning for Hartnell was Roxana Ruelas, who topped the field in the 400m hurdles, was second in the 400m dash and third in the 100m hurdles. Two other first-place finishers were Isabella Reimann in the hammer throw and Ashley Ochoa in the 3000m steeplechase.

Both teams will participate in the Northern California Trials on May 6, followed by the Northern California Championship on May 14 and the CCCAA State Championship on May 20.

Diazleal becomes third Panther named state XC Assistant Coach of the Year

Hartnell Assistant Cross Country Coach Arlene Diazleal, a Panther alum, has been named the California Community College Athletic Association Cross Country Assistant Coach of the Year. She will receive the award in Las Vegas during a CCCAA cross country and track coaches meeting on Aug. 1-2.



Diazleal, who won the conference title for Hartnell in 2017 and helped the team to a second-place finish at the State Championship in 2018, becomes the third Hartnell assistant coach to win the award, joining Rachel Shimabukuro, who was honored for 2019, and previously Monica Jo Gilmore. Diazleal was a 29-year-old single mom when she returned to competitive running and her education, also winning the Big Sur Marathon 5K in 2017. She went on to compete and coach at Cal State Monterey Bay before rejoining Hartnell this fall.

“Our program has been blessed since last spring when Arlene joined us as a volunteer,” said Hartnell’s Head Track and Cross Country Coach Chris Zepeda. “Arlene encourages all our women to strive to become the best version of themselves and fully supports our program’s philosophy and objectives.”

Colleagues send off Herbert Cortez at going-away event

At a going-away event on April 26, well-wishers congratulated Curriculum and Scheduling Specialist Herbert Cortez, who departed Hartnell after six years to accept a position as associate dean of instruction for STEM at Monterey Peninsula College.



“Hartnell has offered me a time to grow professionally and personally,” said Cortez, served several years as president of the college’s chapter of the California School Employees Association. “I’m going to miss my colleagues because they’re so passionate about student success and this community.”

(Pictured: (from left) Ruby Garcia, Jessica Green, Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, Herbert Cortez, Joy Cowden, Yvonne Carreon, Nora Torres-Zuniga and Belen Gonzales.)

Esparza-Luna family now has three boys

Economics instructor Christina Esparza-Luna, her husband, Josh, and sons Raymond, 12, and Andrew, 7, welcomed the birth of a third boy in the family, Oliver Xavier Luna, at 7:19 a.m. on April 22. Oliver was 19 inches long and 7 pounds, 11 ounces at birth.



Harden Middle School students tour Main Campus on April 29



Harden Middle School seventh-grade teacher Jackie Ambrose, second row right, led this group of students, among 300 who toured Hartnell's Main Campus on April 29.

In the News

Diaz Leal named assistant coach of the year in cross country:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/04/29/diaz-leal-named-assistant-coach-of-the-year-in-cross-country/>

CITRIS drone program lands \$1 million grant from James Irvine Foundation:

<https://news.ucsc.edu/2022/04/cider-irvine-grant.html>

College Athlete of the Week: <https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/05/03/college-athlete-of-the-week-61/>

Upcoming Events

Hartnell Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Transfer Mixer

1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

[RSVP](#)

Cinco de Mayo Carnival – free food, mariachi, games

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thursday, May 5

Central Plaza

Spring Mini Arts Festival

1-3 p.m.

Thursday, May 5

Student Center

Transfer Field Trip to Stanislaus State

6:45 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday, May 6

[RSVP](#)

Pop-up Pantry

12 p.m.

Friday, May 6

Hartnell Parking Structure

Hartnell Chamber Singers – Free Family Concert with Monterey Pops!

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 12

Greenfield High School, 225 S. El Camino Real

Hawaiian Concert

7 p.m.

Sunday, May 15

Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Spring Choral Concert

Monday, May 16

10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Mainstage Theater

Center for Performing Arts (Building K)



Panther Night in Soledad – Registration Fair

5-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17

Soledad Education Center

1505 Metz Road

Jazz and Concert Band Concert

7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17

Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Panther Night in King City – Registration Fair

5-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

King City Education Center

110 N. Second St.

Orchestra Concert

7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Class of 2022 Commencement Ceremony

4 p.m.

Friday, May 20

Rabobank Stadium

Hartnell Governing Board Meeting

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7

Castroville Education Center