



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

## President's Weekly Report

May 15, 2020

### 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 temporarily moving to a twice-monthly publication schedule while the volume of news is slower due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

## Summer and fall 2020 registration is off to a strong start on many fronts

In spite of the definite challenges our students have faced in making the switch to online instruction this spring, I am encouraged by early indications of strong demand for classes in our Summer Session and the Fall 2020 semester, both of which will be taught online.

As of May 13, 2,971 students had registered for summer, compared with 2,362 at this time a year ago – and they're taking more classes than in the past. We've had 1,188 students enroll for fall since registration began May 8, compared with 920 a year ago. These trends are mirrored by the relative numbers of full-time equivalent students, or FTES, for these two sessions as well.

The online Panther Pledge program for entering freshmen, taking the place of Panther Prep Days in past years, has 1,407 participating students, an increase of 500 over those who attended the in-person Panther Prep Day events last May. Likewise, strong demand is evident in applications for the 2020 Salinas Valley Promise scholarship and completion program for first-time, full-time students. About 2,300 prospective students have completed the Promise application form, compared to about 850 who applied last year.

Of course, the proof will be the presence and completion of students throughout these terms, but we are definitely attracting more student interest. Anecdotally, we believe several factors may be driving this apparent growth. First and foremost is the outstanding quality of Hartnell's academic programs and student services, bolstered by students who may be choosing to take





our online offerings rather than those at more expensive four-year universities. In addition, we know students are aware of the need to gain knowledge and skills to stay competitive in an economy disrupted by COVID-19.

I know our Governing Board members will join me in thanking our faculty and staff in admissions, counseling, financial aid and equity programs who are working so hard to welcome and assist these incoming students. (Pictured: example of online advertisement for summer-fall recruitment.)

## **Party in the Library – Re-enVision 2020 raises \$399,623 through Zoom celebration**

The tremendous success of the virtual Party in the Library event on May 9 underscores my confidence that strong community support continues for Hartnell and its current and future students, all with a focus on student success and readiness for high-demand careers in the Salinas Valley.



The online event, called "Party in the Library – re-enVISION 2020," had net combined proceeds of \$399,623 from auction purchases, drawing tickets, donations, President's Circle pledges and sponsorships. That exceeds results for "normal" years, when expenses are far higher for food, beverages and entertainment. Because of COVID-19, instead of being at the Hartnell Library & Learning Resource Center, attendees were at home in front of their computers, prepared to toast with a glass of wine at the

ready.

I am so grateful to the event co-chairs, Susan Gill, Alfred Diaz-Infante and Kurt Gollnick, all members of the Hartnell College Foundation board, as well as board President Judy Sulsona, and all the [donors and sponsors](#). I also congratulate Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development and foundation executive director, for her leadership and the creative work of her staff and volunteers.



I had the privilege of welcoming the 75 people who joined the 80-minute Zoom event, as did Hartnell Governing Board President Aurelio Salazar Jr., who thanked them for contributing their “intellectual and financial power in transforming the lives of so many students.” Salazar was joined during the event by the board’s vice president, Pat Donohue, and trustees Erica Padilla-Chavez, Candi DePauw and Manuel Osorio.



In addition to raising support for Hartnell and its students, the event also features presentation of an annual Leadership Award. This year’s honor was presented during the online event to Anne Secker, an attorney, Salinas-area community leader and two-time past president of the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors (pictured).

Much was riding on the outcome. “Party,” as the longtime event is known at Hartnell, is the foundation’s single largest generator of revenue, with leveraged at a rate of 12 to 1 through grants, other fundraising events and giving from business and individuals.

## **Hartnell stands with fellow colleges in seeking removal of barriers to help**

Hartnell joins in spirit and as a member of the California Community Colleges (CCC) in support of a lawsuit filed May 11 to stop the U.S. Department of Education from placing arbitrary eligibility restrictions on relief funds Congress approved to mitigate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.





The lawsuit asks the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco, to block implementation of eligibility requirements for federal CARES Act funding that excludes students who have not completed a federal financial aid application and non-citizens, including those with status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act, or DACA.

Hartnell strongly agrees with CCC Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley's contention that colleges and universities need flexibility to help students in need without imposing eligibility requirements. We also are reaching out to legislators at the state and federal level to

encourage their support of our students at this difficult time. I have recently had virtual meetings with U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, State Assembly Member Robert Rivas and corresponded with U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. These efforts will continue.

The approximately 900 undocumented students at Hartnell are among an estimated 700,000 such students statewide across the 115-college system. These students, commonly referred to as Dreamers, are a welcome and vital part of our college community and their education is fundamental to our mission. We continue to serve them and their families in a number of ways, including in partnership with Catholic Charities and the UFW Foundation. For example, thanks to contributions to the Dreamer Fund from the Hartnell Employee Giving Campaign, we are able to sponsor or partially sponsor the \$495 DACA renewal fee for more than 100 students.

I want to share the perspective of Bronwyn Moreno, who leads our Mi CASA program in her role as director of student affairs and equity programs: "With temporary work authorization and protection from deportation, our students are supporting their families, serving their communities and contributing to our economy. They are sacrificing and planning futures for their loved ones. Now, more than ever, as we experience the uncertainty of this collective crisis, we must stand in support of these students and not allow the rug to be pulled out from under them while we are at our most vulnerable. We also must continue to advocate for a permanent legislative solution to DACA and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people."

## **Toyota investment further strengthens Advanced Automotive Technology program**

In total enrollment, career placement, faculty commitment and expanding industry partnerships, all signs point to Hartnell's Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) program being one of the very strongest across the entire United States.



In the latest milestone, the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board voted unanimously on May 5 to complete an agreement with Toyota's Technical Education College Support program, known as TECS Elite, that designates the AAT program as a certified training center for Toyota vehicles.

Hartnell was invited to join TECS Elite in January based on its gains in automotive enrollment and degree completion and is now among just seven schools nationwide to have earned that status. The college also has automotive training partnerships with Ford, Snap-on Tools and the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3).

Thanks to the new agreement, Toyota will provide Hartnell with additional training vehicles, specialized equipment and additional curriculum for student learning. The program will receive two hydrogen-fuel vehicles and another two or three cars for students to work on, depending on need. The college will meet its obligations by continuing to maintain train well-prepared students. We are especially grateful to Salinas Toyota and its president, Max Jamiesson, for this alliance.



Automotive technology instructor Pete Escoto (pictured), a leading champion of industry outreach, said TECS Elite will effectively make Hartnell's program "a mini Toyota training center."

"Students will have the opportunity to train here, as if they were working for the dealer," Escoto said. "Once they graduate, they will get priority in employment opportunities."

Also last week, Toyota Motor Sales announced that the AAT program on Hartnell's Alisal Campus is the largest among all 400 institutions participating in the TECS program nationwide. Hartnell now has 89 advanced automotive students and three instructors. The second largest group, at a school in Kentucky, has just 63 students.

## **COVID-19 assistance efforts continue to help students with money and tech**

Efforts to help students meet emergency financial needs as a result of COVID-19's impact, as well as helping them with technology needs for laptops and wireless access, have continued as the Spring 2020 semester draws to a close.

As of May 13, Hartnell has distributed loaned Chromebook computers to 144 students and loaned mobile wireless hotspots to 123 students. (Pictured: A smartphone hotspot.) The program is expected to continue next week and into the summer term, said Dave Phillips, vice president for information technology resources.



A COVID-19 Student Emergency Response Fund, launched by the Hartnell College Foundation, has provided funding for those devices for online learning, as well as providing support for increased crisis counseling services and emergency financial assistance.

As of May 14, individual donations and seed funding approved by the foundation Board of Directors, has so far enabled payment of \$500 grants to 116 students, with additional requests coming in. The students, who have lost their jobs or faced unexpected health care or other expenses, are still applying for help, so the need continues. Contributions can be made through a [GoFundMe page](#) established for this effort.

The college also had made grants of \$500 each to 881 students with the greatest need based on their financial aid applications, using funds from the federal CARES Act. Undocumented students and students who did not complete a federal financial aid application are not eligible for help under the federal law.

Another group of 903 students with high need are scheduled to receive the \$500 payment by May 20. Work continues to identify additional students who may receive the help, said Jessica Tovar, director of student affairs and financial aid.

Trustee Candi DePauw voiced her gratitude for the broad outreach to students coping with the impact of COVID-19 at the May 5 meeting of the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board.

"The amount of effort that's going into this whole virus thing is amazing," DePauw said, "and I appreciate everybody's efforts."

## **Transfer Mixer features three recent grads sharing their successful transfer journey**

The Career & Transfer Center presented its annual spring Transfer Mixer as an online panel and Q&A featuring three recent Hartnell alums who shared their transfer experiences. Fifty-five students either attended online or signed up to receive a copy of the online event recording.







Transfer Counselors Rosa Vidales and Mercedes Del Real co-hosted and facilitated the Q&A session for guest panelists Lizbeth Roldan, Stephen Carrillo and Adylene Ponce. Pictured from the event is Roldan, a 2015 Hartnell graduate and Spanish major who is now employment and training coordinator for the San Francisco Clean City Coalition.

The session began with questions presented by the counselors and then moved on to answering questions raised by participating students. The panelists shared their personal experience with

transferring into UC and CSU after Hartnell, and this included how they coped with culture shock, housing resources and adjusting to the rigor of upper-division courses.

"The panelists shared their stories of grit and reminded our current students that they were once in their shoes, and that they are all equally capable of achieving transfer success they were able to achieve," said Del Real, coordinator of the Career & Transfer Center. "They reminded our graduating and continuing transfer students that though the transition may be challenging at first, they will find a safety network embedded wherever they go as long as they speak up and ask for help when they need it."

## Students elect officers, senators for ASHC during the 2020-21 year

The Office of Student Life on May 14 announced the 2020-21 slate of officers and senators for the Associated Students of Hartnell College (ASHC) and the new student trustee for the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board.

The incoming president is Steven Garcia, and the new student trustee is Michael Castro, a 2009 graduate of Everett Alvarez High School who is majoring in business administration. The remaining officers and senators are: Viana Medina, vice president; Christopher Verdin, treasurer; secretary, vacant; Marie Alonzo, Inter-Club Council director; Athena Michelle Ereno, public relations director; Isis Martinez, programs and services director; Ruby Romero, Alisal Campus senator; Priscilla Salas, South County senator; Daniel Orta,





evenings/weekends/evening senator; and five senators at-large: Dulce Mendez, Victoria Valdez, Isis Martinez, Jane Sanchez and David Orta.

Even with students learning off campus and away from promotional information in the Student Center and elsewhere, 8 percent of them cast ballots in the online election. Last year, the first for online balloting, saw 11 percent turnout, but in previous years it had often been as low as 3-5 percent, said Augustine Nevarez, director of student life.

## **Governing Board trustees thank outgoing Student Trustee Saldaña**

Samantha Saldaña, who is concluding her year as president of the Associated Students of Hartnell College and student trustee on the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, received heartfelt thanks from fellow trustees at their regular meeting on May 5.

Several trustees offered personal remarks of appreciation and admiration for Saldaña, who brought to her year of service a commitment to represent older students but also frequently spoke for all students at the board's twice-monthly meetings.

"Congrats on everything you've done, and you're going to be a hard act to follow," said Trustee Irma Lopez. "It's been a pleasure to get to know you, and thank you for all you've done for the community."

Saldaña, who will graduate this month with majors in studio arts, liberal arts/humanities and liberal arts/psychology, made a big impression on the board when she and fellow student leaders organized a Nov. 18 all-campus forum in the Student Center featuring the elected trustees and Superintendent/President Dr. Patricia Hsieh. It was a hit with both students and the trustees.



The 2009 graduate of Everett Alvarez High School, acknowledged that the impact of COVID-19 has changed the college experience for her and other students, including the move to an online commencement on May 29. But that's not all.

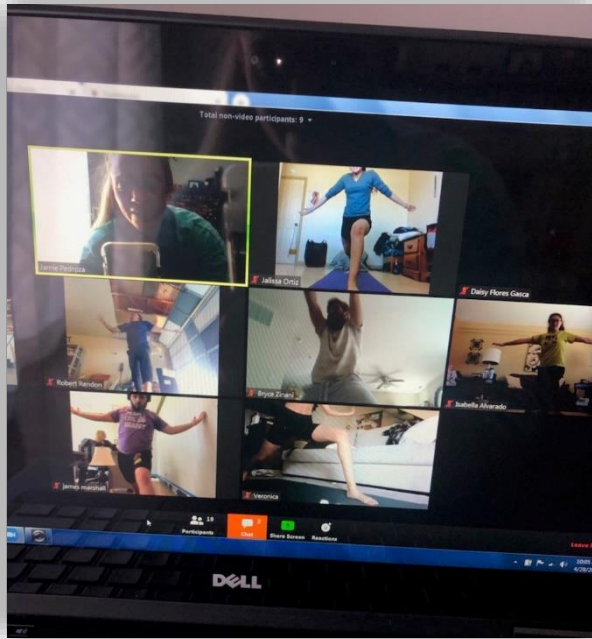
"Thank you so much for your mentorship," said Saldaña, who will continue her studies at Cal State Monterey Bay in visual and public art. "I've had a wonderful time, and I'm really very grateful and very happy."

## **Kinesiology activity classes thrive with online instruction**



When COVID-19 forced Hartnell College and other schools to suddenly jump from face-to-face learning into internet instruction in late March, students in physical activity courses in kinesiology came to a surprising realization.

They really can study yoga, self-defense/martial arts, walking for wellness and core strengthening – for college credit – from the comfort and privacy of home. These and other popular activity classes will continue to be taught online through the six-week summer term. (Pictured: Online yoga class taught by kinesiology instructor Jamie Pedroza)



This summer's introductory classes provide one unit of course credit toward a degree. They also are open to community members who simply want affordable access to fitness and wellness training that they can complete at home. Those individuals can also repeat the cost as often as they want by paying a low audit fee.

"We make it fun," said Steve Terry, who will teach self-defense/martial arts, using both videos and live teaching via online applications such as Zoom. "My idea is to teach some techniques live, share some videos of similar style of content with the student and then have them practice the technique – and last share with me some technique mastery."

For this summer, the cost for new students is \$46 per class, plus a \$10 student activity fee.

Students who wish to repeat a course without receiving credit – known as "auditing" the class – only have to pay \$25.

To learn more about physical activity courses or other kinesiology classes available this summer and fall, email Joanne Venegas ([jvenegas@hartnell.edu](mailto:jvenegas@hartnell.edu)) or Cristina Westfall ([cwestfall@hartnell.edu](mailto:cwestfall@hartnell.edu)) on the physical education staff.

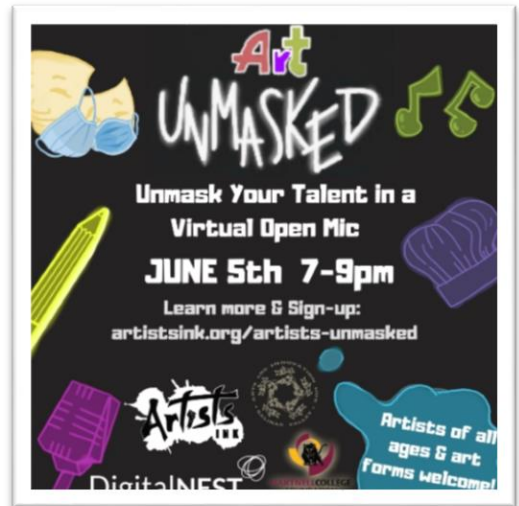
## **Art Unmasked event on June 5 offers 'virtual open mic' for artists**



Hartnell Theatre & Cinema students are joining with partners with the Salinas Valley Art and Innovation Hub, Artists Ink and Digital Nest, a Watsonville-based non-profit skill-building organization, to present Art Unmasked, a “virtual open mic” event, from 7-9 p.m. on June 5.

Planned in lieu of the First Friday Art Walks that would normally be starting at this time in Salinas, the partnering groups are inviting students, faculty and staff to participate. Artists of all ages and art forms are invited to [sign up](#) and participate.

Details on how to view the event will be shared soon.



## Dr. Yahdi presents on micro-internships at League of Innovation Conference

Math instructor Dr. Mohammed Yahdi presented on “Capacity Building and Transformational Experiences in STEM through Micro-internships” during The League for Innovation in the Community College's 2020 Innovations Conference on March 1-4 in Seattle.



The presentation was based upon work supported by \$1.5 million Hartnell received from the National Science Foundation under Grant No 1832446. Yahdi, who is Principal Investigator on the grant, is pictured here with a Co-PI, Dr. Zoe Buck Bracey from BSCS Science Learning, a non-profit research organization committed to transforming science education through research-driven innovation.

Hartnell's research under the grant aims to building student learning capacity in STEM through micro-internship experiences that are accessible to more students, and at an earlier point in their studies, than full-length internships. These shorter experiences still offer such key benefits as access, success, degree completion, transfer and recruiting and retaining students into the STEM workforce.

## Hartnell among institutions working to increase persistence in STEM



Hartnell and five other Central California colleges are partnering with lead institution San Jose State University and San Francisco State University in a project to increase learning outcomes and close equity and achievement gaps across public higher education in California.

The effort, with a specific focus on STEM fields, is among only six this year to receive a California Education Learning Lab (CELL) Seed Grant Award, said Dr. Mohammed Yahdi, math instructor, who is Hartnell's representative.

He said project seeks to bolster success at a critical point in the careers of community college students in mathematics, computer science and software engineering. The objective is development of a full-scale, three-year project grant proposal to improve instruction and student outcomes through innovations and rigorous research.

## **XC and track athlete Lorena Gonzalez will continue to compete at USW**

Hartnell sophomore cross country and track & field athlete Lorena Gonzalez has chosen the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M., to continue her academic and athletic pursuits.



The graduate of Everett Alvarez High School, who also played soccer for Hartnell as a freshman, was a member of the Panthers' Coast Conference-winning team in 2019. She contributed to that championship with scoring places in the 3k steeplechase, 5000-meter and 10,000m runs.

This fall she placed 47th at the Norcal Preview Meet at Toro County Park in a lifetime-best 21:53.

Gonzalez will become the eighth Hartnell athlete to join USW joining current Mustang team members Ray Gonzalez, Idalys Romero and Veronica Aguilar. She plans to major in exercise science. USW competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

## **In the News**

### **From Syria to Salinas: Hartnell student earns one of the top scholarships in the U.S.:**

<https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2020/05/08/syria-salinas-hartnell-student-earns-prestigious-cooke-scholarship/3070708001/>

### **Hartnell College is churning out celebrated scholars:**

[http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/the\\_buzz/the-buzz-05-07-20/article\\_e4e3fd06-8ff3-11ea-ae7e-3fdf698811ba.html](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/the_buzz/the-buzz-05-07-20/article_e4e3fd06-8ff3-11ea-ae7e-3fdf698811ba.html)



## Upcoming Events

**Note:** All in-person campus events are cancelled until further notice in compliance with a statewide shelter-in-place order.

### **Summer 2020 Priority Registration**

Through May 1

### **HCCD Governing Board**

Board development meeting (social distancing observed)

5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

### **Pop-Up Pantry Food Distribution**

12-2 p.m.

Friday, May 22

Hartnell Parking Structure

### **2020 Commencement, virtual ceremony**

(Details to come)

5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 29

### **Spring 2020 Semester Ends**

Saturday, May 30

### **Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting**

5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

### **Artists Unmasked**

7-9 p.m.

Friday, June 5

Sign-up: <http://artistsink.org/programs/artists-unmasked/>

### **Summer 2020 Classes Start**

Monday, June 15

### **Summer 2020 Classes End**

Saturday, July 25