



Resolution

HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolution 24:2

Commending Area 6 Trustee

Erica Padilla-Chavez

for Outstanding Service to the Hartnell Community College District

WHEREAS, Area 6 Trustee and longtime Soledad resident Erica Padilla-Chavez has provided tireless service and exemplary leadership as a Governing Board member for the Hartnell Community College District [the District], to its students and all of its residents over the past 14 years, December 2009 - November 2023; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Padilla-Chavez has embraced and upheld a philosophy of “students first” – weighing every decision on that basis – and set an inspiring example for fellow trustees, employees and supporters of the District; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Padilla-Chavez’s deeply held and often-expressed belief in the outstanding quality of a Hartnell College education and the unlimited potential of its graduates, in both university- transfer programs, Career Technical Education (CTE), and Health Sciences with the offering of a first of-its-kind bachelor’s degree in Respiratory Care Therapy in the region, has made her a tireless advocate for students and employees; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Padilla-Chavez has served with distinction as Governing Board President in 2011, 2012, 2016, 2021, and 2022; Board Vice President in 2015; member of the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors in 2014, 2019, and 2020, member of the Hartnell College Foundation Council for the Arts in 2018 and 2022, member of the District Audit Committee in 2014, member of the Monterey County School Board Executive Council in 2010, 2011, and 2017, and member of the Hartnell College Foundation President’s Task Force in 2023; and

WHEREAS Trustee Padilla-Chavez’s dedication to public service and contribution to various community boards and committees, including the Community Foundation for Monterey County, Steering Committee for Bright Futures Monterey County, and the instrumental role in the ten-year Building Healthy Communities Initiative demonstrates the commitment to servitude that extends far beyond Hartnell College; and

WHEREAS, during Trustee Padilla-Chavez’s three and one-half terms in office, the District has seen dramatic and continuing gains in its students’ completion of certificates and degrees and transfer to the California State University and University of California systems, as well as an unconditional reaccreditation by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges, in 2019;

WHEREAS, Trustee Padilla-Chavez joined with fellow trustees to place the Facilities Bond Measure T before District voters in 2016, providing \$167 million for construction of new educational centers in Soledad and Castroville and expansion of the Hartnell center in King City, as well as construction of a new Center for Nursing and Health Sciences on the Salinas Main Campus, among several other current and future improvement projects such as the expansion of the Soledad Education Center with construction of a new CTE building, ensuring student access to high-quality facilities and advanced technology; and

WHEREAS, the board membership of Trustee Padilla-Chavez has continually set a high bar for decorum, integrity, respect, fiscal responsibility, and fair-mindedness, elevating the deliberation and overall tone of Governing Board meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hartnell Community College District hereby recognizes and expresses its profound appreciation to Trustee Padilla-Chavez for her selfless commitment to its students and the communities it serves.

Passed and adopted on this 16th day of January of 2024.

Irma C. Lopez, Board President

Michael Gutierrez, Superintendent/President