Crowd gathers for groundbreaking of new Soledad Education Center

About 100 people, including elementary and high school students from Soledad schools, attended a groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the community’s new Hartnell education center.

Following remarks from college, city and school district officials, members of the Hartnell Community College District Board of Trustees used golden shovels to fling dirt and symbolically commence the project. It is being funded through Measure T, Hartnell’s $167 million bond measure approved by voters in 2016.

Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez, whose District 6 encompasses Soledad, underscored the many ways that the new 16,750-square-foot center has and will break through barriers to educational access for students in south Monterey County. She noted that the city of Soledad had provided the 3.7-acre construction site to Hartnell for a symbolic price of $1.

“We’re here today because so many people have rolled up their sleeves and gotten to work,” Padilla-Chavez said. “The moral of the story is that where there’s a sense of conviction and partnerships in place, anything is possible.”

Scheduled to open in spring 2021, the building will include four classrooms and both wet and dry science laboratories, as well as a Student Success Center, a courtyard and a community room.

In my remarks, I stressed the value of the center in Soledad, the expanding center in King City and the future center in Castroville to provide high-quality education that will allow people of all ages to envision opportunities to pursue their career goals right here in the Salinas Valley.
Dr. Hsieh represents Hartnell College at LULAC Veterans Day Breakfast

On Nov. 10, I was a guest at the annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast presented by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #2055 in Salinas.

I am pictured here with others who took part in the breakfast at the Salinas Police Activities League Building. From left, are: former Monterey County Supervisor Fernando Armenta, Salinas Police Chief Adele Frese, Salinas Veterans Parade chairman Tony Virrueta, Dr. Patricia Hsieh, LULAC Council President Chris Barrera and Gemaine Esquivel. Salinas Mayor Joe Gunter and Salinas City Council Member Gloria de La Rosa also attended.

Veteran students and staff participate in Salinas parade

Members of the Hartnell Student Veterans Club and staff from our Veterans Service Center were enthusiastically greeted by an enthusiastic de Salinas Veterans Day Parade crowd along Main Street from Chestnut Street north to the National Steinbeck Center.

Some of those lining the sidewalks recognized sophomore student and 10-year Army veteran Cisco Narewski, who was featured two days before in a KSBW-TV report on his experience as a 39-year-old starting center for the Panthers men’s basketball.

The Veterans Club continues its busy schedule of events throughout early November, including hosting coffee, doughnuts and pan dulce for meet-and-greets in the Veterans Service Center and a Veterans Job Fair on Nov. 14 in the Student Center.

Hartnell genomics group publishes in journal on mitochondrial DNA

A research manuscript on invasive snails by 61 students and two instructors in the Hartnell College Genomics Group has just been published in the scientific journal Mitochondrial DNA Part B: Resources.

The article, “The complete mitogenome of the invasive Japanese mud snail Batillaria attramentaria (Gastropoda: Batillariidae) from Elkhorn Slough, California, USA”, appeared as a Mitogenome Announcement in the peer-reviewed journal. The
research is the first to describe the mitochondrial genome from a type of snail (pictured) that was introduced to the Elkhorn Slough in 1930 from a shipment of Japanese oysters.

The assembly and annotation of the chromosome, as well as the evolutionary analysis, was performed by students in Dr. Jeffery Hughey’s General Botany class. All the student and faculty authors submitted drafts of the paper and contributed equally to the final document. In addition to the student authors, all but one of whom is a current Hartnell student, adjunct biology instructor Alicia Steinhardt also participated in the work.

The research was funded by NSF Grant (Award No. 1832446) under Improving Undergraduate STEM Education Program, with the title Building Capacity: Engaging STEM Transformative Experiences for Early Momentum (ESTEEM).

**Conference presentation and posters spotlight College Redesign**

Dr. Brian Lofman, dean of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness, presented on the topic “Embedding a College Redesign/Student Progression Model in Strategic Planning.” on Nov. 7 at the 2019 CAIR (California Association for Institutional Research) Conference in Seaside.

His presentation focused on Hartnell’s application of a student progression model, from pre-enrolled to entering to continuing to completing students, and how the college community is engaging in more organic institutional planning efforts through the development of designs targeted to enhance student experiences and improve student success.

Dr. Lofman noted three key challenges: (1) How to best provide key information and services that address the whole student and offered when students need them; (2) How to scale up to ensure that every student may benefit from relevant information and services in each stage of their journey; and (3) How to make the entire student journey as frictionless or seamless as possible. His presentation can be found [here](#).

On Nov. 13, dozens of students and employees attended a College Redesign Poster Open House in the Office of Student Life, where they viewed posters produced by teams focused on the different stages of the progression model (pictured). Participants’ feedback will help the teams refine their work to maximize student success at each stage of progression from pre-enrollment through transfer or employment.
Transfer center helps students apply to UC and CSU by Nov. 30

The Transfer and Career Center is hosting a series of workshops to help students meet a Nov. 30 deadline to apply for transfer admission to California State University and University of California campuses.

Among the opportunities are “Transfer Tuesday” events from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. on Nov. 19 and 26 in room C-132. In addition, the UC Transfer Preparation Program is presenting a workshop on UC Application & Personal Statement Advising from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 27, also in room C-132. Fresno State Advising will also be tabling in the Student Center (Building C) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 18.

Mercedes Del Real, counselor in the transfer center, reminds students that Hartnell will be closed from Nov. 28 to Dec. 1. Her advice: “Don’t delay your transfer application submission!” More information about the UC process is available through the UC and CSU transfer application guides and the CSU Transfer Credit Entry Guide.

Dr. Yahdi shares successes of micro-internships in D.C.

Math instructor Dr. Mohammed Yahdi presented at the National Science Foundation – Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program Principal Investigator (PI) Meeting on Nov. 6-8 in Washington.

Dr. Yahdi’s presentation as principal investigator of a $1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (No. 1832446) titled “Engaging Students in Transformation Experiences for Early Momentum” (ESTEEM). The ESTEEM project seeks to build capacity in STEM through micro-internship experiences. These short-term experiences are accessible to more students and at an earlier stage in their academic journey, making them ideal for Hartnell.

As Dr. Yahdi explained at the meeting, the goal is to reap key benefits of full-length internship and undergraduate research experiences in an abbreviated format, including access, success, degree completion, transfer and recruiting and retaining students into the STEM workforce.

Song will fill Student Center on the morning of Nov. 20

Students in Hartnell’s vocal ensembles will share their talents with audiences during a series of morning concerts on Nov. 20 in the Student Center (Building C).

Members of instructor Sandra Rudo’s vocal music class will perform from 9-10 a.m., followed by the Hartnell College Choir from 10:15-10:50 and the Hartnell College Chamber Singers from 11-11:40.
Sociology Club collects toiletries to boost YMCA drive for families

Hartnell’s student Sociology Club is collecting donations of hygiene products in support of a campaign by the YWCA of Monterey County to assist needy families.

The club is accepting donations for shampoos and conditioners, dental health, body wash, deodorant, lotions, hand sanitizers and feminine products. Items should be placed in a bin in the Office of Student Life in the Student Center (Building C) on Main Campus.

Club leaders say any donation is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in our community.

Student art show displays creative and critical thinking

Two collections of student art will be displayed through Dec. 7 in the Seminar Gallery, located in Building J on Hartnell’s Main Campus, in a show titled “Where the Wired Things Are and Me, Myself and Animals…I Guess.”

Works in both collections stem from a challenge posed to students in a 3-D Design class (Art 13) to create a line drawing with pencil of an object and then lift that two-dimensional image off the page using wire forms created from three different viewing angles. Critical thinking skills were called upon to fabricate the rest of the fully formed object from those three frames. (Picture by visual arts instructor Eric Bosler.)

The imaginative and colorful objects were created by the challenge of drawing an animal that the artist felt was representational of themselves, and to build the form from newspaper and masking tape, using no tools other than their fingers. The final part of the assignment was to add color that signified the individual, once again emphasizing a more personal connection with artistic choices. A small bonus collection, “You and Two More”, displayed outside the Seminar Gallery, is by students in the Art-19 class, which has the impressive title of “The Intersection of Creative and Critical Thinking: Aesthetics.” Students were challenged to design a chair that was not a sofa or bench.

The exhibitions are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.
‘Evita’ featured at Gala on Nov. 16 and continues with Sunday show

On Nov. 16, show your support for Hartnell arts programs by attending the annual Black & White Gala for the Arts, which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Willard Lewallen STEM Center. Featuring decadent hors d’oeuvres, fine wine, a silent auction and a performance of "Evita" in the Mainstage Theater of the Center for Performing Arts (Building K). Gala tickets are available for purchase at give.hartnell.edu/galatickets or (831) 755-6810.

Can't afford a Gala ticket? "Evita" performs again at 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Hartnell students are eligible for 2 free tickets and Hartnell faculty/staff can purchase tickets for $15. Other students pay $5 at the door with ID.

Diaz family welcomes second child on Nov. 3

A new baby boy for Early Childhood Education Counselor Sergio Diaz and his wife, Mindy Diaz, arrived at 10:45 a.m. on Nov. 3. Baby Sergio joins big sister Amelia to make a family of four.

The Diazes will soon receive a Panthers bib for from Superintendent-President Dr. Patricia Hsieh, who has begun a new tradition to recognize the birth of employees’ children.

Cross Country heads to state after women repeat at NorCal

The Women’s and Men’s Cross Country teams will compete in the CCCAA State Championship on Nov. 23 at Woodward Park in Fresno, starting at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., respectively. After repeating as Northern California champions (pictured) on Nov. 8 over their home course at Toro County Park, the No. 2-ranked Panther women will seek to match or exceed their second-place state finish in 2018.

Again led by sophomore Daniela Salazar, the women swept second through fifth place in the regional championship. Salazar lowered her time by 25 seconds from the Coast Conference meet held over the same course just 10 days prior. Right behind her were
sophomore Shantal Martinez, freshman Valeria Gomez-Lozano and sophomore Nerina Campos. The Panthers have placed first in every meet since the Fresno Invitational, where they were second behind top-ranked Glendale.

The Hartnell men took fifth overall in their regional championship, paced by sophomore Jesus Avalos, in sixth place, and freshman Isaac Gensel, in 10th. The men will enter the state championship meet ranked among the top 14 teams.

**Running back Freeman and rushing defense rank high**

Hartnell Football running back David Freeman was ranked second among all California community college players for individual rushing yardage as of Nov. 15.

With just one game left in the regular season, Freeman (pictured) has averaged 122.9 yard per game and 7.3 yards per carry. The sophomore from suburban Baltimore, Md., will be a strong four-year transfer prospect this spring, said Head Coach Matt Collins.

“David is a determined athlete with great speed, agility and athleticism,” Collins said. “He has become a reliable running back that can do all of the things that a running back is expected to do. He makes checks to set the pass protection for the offensive line, he catches the ball out of the backfield, he is an aggressive blocker, takes care of the ball, hits the holes aggressively, and at times, he lines up as a receiver because he has the ability to run crisp routes catching the ball well with his hands.”

Also number two in the state is Hartnell’s defense against the rush. The Panthers have allowed just 40 yards on the ground per game this season, outranked only by conference rival Cabrillo.

“Our defense has held four different teams without a touchdown in nine games,” Collins said. “Linebacker Drew Schuler, defensive lineman Robert Brown, safety Jakob Streeter, defensive back Trey Smith and defensive end DeMarcus Hawkins have all been staples on the defensive side of the ball. These guys are the glue.”

**In the News**

**Funding roundup: California - Hartnell College:**
https://www.ccdaily.com/2019/11/funding-roundup-144/

**College Athlete of the Week:**

**Hartnell basketball game honors local veteran:** https://www.ksbw.com/article/hartnell-basketball-game-honors-local-veteran/29744930
Upcoming Events

Note: All event locations are on the Main Campus in Salinas unless otherwise noted.

STEM Internship Programs - Enroll Now!
https://www.hartnell.edu/academics-affairs/academics/stem/intern/

Women’s Basketball vs. Taft
2 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 16
Hartnell Gymnasium

Fresno State Advising/Tabling
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 18
Student Center

Money Mondays
3-5:45 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 18
Building B, room 110

ASHC Town Hall Meeting
4-7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 18
Student Center Commons (Building C)

Applications for Associate of Science Degree in Registered Nursing open online
Monday, Nov. 18-Feb. 7 for Fall 2020 semester
Information: (831) 770-6146

Applications for Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care Practitioner open online
Nov. 18-Feb. 13 for Fall 2020 semester
Information: (831) 770-6146

Transfer Tuesday
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1-4 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019
Building C, room 132
**Hartnell Vocal and Choral Performances**
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 20
Student Center

**Film “Almost Sunrise”**
10 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 21
Veterans Center (C-138)

**“Haunted: A play about human connection at the dawn of the new millennium”**
7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 21-23, 2019
Building N, room 7

**Umoja Community Presents: Porch Talk on Scholarships**
12-1 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 22, 2019
Building C, room 101

**90’s in the Fall - Student Dance**
7 – 11 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 22
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)
Ticket link: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/90s-in-the-fall-tickets-80389448003?aff=ebdssbeac](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/90s-in-the-fall-tickets-80389448003?aff=ebdssbeac)

**Informational Session, Associate Degree, Respiratory Care Practitioner**
4 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 25
Building N, room 4
Information: (831) 770-6152

**Transfer Tuesday**
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1-4 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 26
Building C, room 132
Dr. Lori Kildal Farewell  
2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 26  
Building E, Room 112

UC Application & Personal Statement Advising  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 27  
Building C, room 132

King City Expansion Groundbreaking Ceremony  
11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 3  
King City Education Center

Informational Session, Certificate, Vocational Nursing  
2:30 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 6  
Building B, room 204B  
Information: (831) 770-6152

Informational Session, Associate Degree, Registered Nursing  
3:30 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 6  
Building B, room 204B  
Information: (831) 770-6152

Center for Nursing and Health Sciences – Groundbreaking Ceremony  
11 a.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019  
Main Campus – Parking Lot 3