Holiday Feast draws a crowd with delicious meal and awards

It was my great pleasure to help serve the Holiday Feast in Steinbeck Hall on Dec. 6 and join with Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development, to congratulate recipients of 2019 “I Am Hartnell” employee recognition awards.

We had a wonderful turnout and a delicious meal prepared by the team in Dining Services and were glad to be joined by Hartnell Community College District Board President Aurelio Salazar Jr., Vice President Pat Donohue, Trustee Manuel Osorio and Student Trustee Samantha Saldana.

Employees and students submitted nominations during the fall semester to recognize those who are making an impact in the institution. The nominations were reviewed by student, faculty and staff, and those selected received a Hartnell Heart memento, a $100 gift card, a certificate of recognition and an engraved brick to be placed in a walkway outside the Library/Learning Resource Center. This award is generously sponsored by Dean of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness Dr. Brian Lofman.

Those awarded (pictured), their position, recognition category and work unit are: Jesse Yanez, custodian, Unsung Hero (L-39); Joni Black, science lab technician, Unsung Hero (CSEA, not pictured); Abel Del Real, payroll specialist, Unsung Hero (Classified/Confidential); Dr. Mo Yahdi, math instructor, Unsung Hero and Community Ambassador (faculty); Lionel Handell, construction instructor, Unsung Hero and Community Ambassador (adjunct faculty); Manuel Bersamin, TRiO director, Unsung Hero (administrator, not pictured); and Athena Ramirez, Community Ambassador and Unsung Hero (student).

Also recognized were retiring employees Kathy Mendelsohn, dean of Academic Affairs for Languages and Learning Support, with 35 years of service, and Grounds Supervisor Art Alvarado, with 32 years of service.
In a packed room at the King City Education Center on Dec. 3, King City community leaders and Hartnell students, employees, trustees and friends gathered to kick off construction of an expansion that will double the size of the center by January 2021.

This historic milestone for the 17-year-old facility was capped by a groundbreaking ceremony (pictured) in the parking lot where the 12,500-square-foot expansion will be built. The project will add two new flexible classrooms, wet and dry science laboratories, a Student Success Center and a community room.

All of the program speakers highlighted the generosity of donors who contributed to the center’s original construction and the successful 2016 campaign to approve Measure T bonds, which are funding this and many other projects either already underway or coming soon.

The people of south Monterey County, and of King City in particular, remain strongly committed to providing access to education that also supports development of the local workforce, such as Hartnell’s joint Teacher Pathway bachelor’s degree program with Cal State Monterey Bay.

Susan Gill (pictured), who is a longtime supporter of Hartnell with her husband, David, and a current member of the Hartnell College Foundation board of directors, made that point when she said, “In this modern world, our local community will be able to hire our students and residents from this college, and it will transform our community.”

Hartnell Community College Area 7 Trustee Candi DePauw was also a featured speaker (pictured), and she was joined at the event by Vice President Pat Donohue and trustees Irma Lopez and Manuel Osorio.
“I know our students are really going to benefit from this, and they probably don’t even realize that one of the biggest lessons they’re learning is from the examples you all set,” DePauw said. “One day, they’re going to wake up and go, ‘Look what these people did for us. We need to give back, and I think that’s tremendous.”

**Campus welcomes Dr. Wilkinson as new VP of Academic Affairs**

More than 50 Hartnell employees greeted Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, the college’s new vice president of academic affairs, at an all-campus reception on Dec. 5.

As I shared with the group, I am confident we have selected the best possible candidate, and we are really looking forward to working with her. I also am grateful to Dr. Jalomo Romero, vice president of student affairs, and members of the search committee he chaired for recommending such an outstanding candidate.

Dr. Wilkinson comes to Hartnell from Monterey Peninsula College, where she has been dean of instruction for liberal arts since 2017. She previously was dean of arts and humanities for three years at Napa Valley College, preceded by work as associate dean of fine and applied arts at College of DuPage in the Chicago suburb of Glen Ellyn, Ill., from 2010-14, and as an associate professor and chair of the music department at Aurora University in Aurora, Ill., from 2008-10.

A native of Virginia, she has a Doctorate of Philosophy in Music Theory and a Master of Fine Arts in Organ Performance and Music Theory Pedagogy from the University of Iowa School of Music and a Bachelor of Arts from the College of William and Mary with a double major in economics and music.

Dr. Wilkinson said she is thrilled to be at Hartnell, which she calls “an amazing place.”

“I feel like Hartnell is poised on a rocket launching pad to go to the next level with all of the new buildings and this tremendous energy,” she said.

(Pictured: Dr. Wilkinson is greeted by Laura Zavala, director of the High School Equivalency Program.)

**87-year-old trumpeter to cap career at concert**

Hartnell’s music program will recognize one of its most loyal and dedicated students at the Winter Band and Jazz Band Concert on Dec. 10 as 87-year-old Carl Triplett, who began attending the college in 1951, gives his final Hartnell performance.
Triplett will be recognized during the free concert by the Hartnell Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, which starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater, located in the Center for Performing Arts on the Main Campus.

He rejoined the college’s music groups as a retiree in 2002, taking advantage of courses designed for older students who aren’t pursuing a degree. He has been practicing and performing steadily ever since, most recently with the jazz ensemble.

“It’s kept me alive, you might say,” Triplett said. “It kept my brain working. It made me feel I was worth something of value.”

After leaving Hartnell to serve in the Marines during the Korean War, he returned to his studies in 1956. He met his wife, Carol, a fellow student, and then went to work driving a taxi before following a path that led him to a career as a surveyor for Los Angeles County. The couple are preparing to move from Salinas to the Bakersfield area to be closer to family.

Despite using a walker to get around, Triplett has almost never missed rehearsal, said Steve Ettinger, lead music instructor.

“When they see this guy, what he has to do to get to class, I think it shows them how serious this is,” Ettinger said, “and he’s just a great model for them to realize that music is something you can do your entire life.”

Hartnell’s series of winter concerts will conclude Dec. 12 with a “A Musical Journey Around the World,” featuring the Hartnell Community Orchestra performing holiday and classical favorites by Verdi, Bizet, Rachmaninoff and the Beatles. The 7:30 p.m. performance in the Mainstage Theater at the Center for Performing Arts (Building K) is free.

**Groundbreaking on Dec. 12 for nursing & health sciences building**

The Hartnell community and the public are invited to a groundbreaking ceremony at 11 a.m. on Dec. 12 for construction of the new Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare (SVMH) System Center for Nursing and Health Sciences on the Main Campus in Salinas.

This event will celebrate the start of work on this important new facility, made possible with Measure T bond funding, and also a $3 million naming gift from the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, whose support will help ensure out students are ready to join and contribute to our region’s healthcare workforce.
Speakers will include college and SVMH officials and a student from Hartnell’s respiratory therapy program. The ceremony will be held on the building site, formerly Parking Lot 3 at Alisal Street and Homestead Avenue on the south side of the campus.

**College invites community to honor former campus members**

I am pleased to announce this year's opportunity to honor former Hartnell College students, employees and board members with an engraved paving stone in our Walk of Honor, located on the south side of the Library/Learning Resource Center (Building A).

As a place for remembrance and reflection, the Walk of Honor recognizes individuals who have passed through Hartnell, making a significant contributions in the evolution of the college and in the lives of others, and also those who have left us too soon.

For $70, which covers costs and is not a fundraiser, individuals can purchase eight-by-eight-inch paving stones to honor former employees, students and Governing Board members. Email Senior Executive Assistant Lucy Serrano at lserrano@hartnell.edu to request an order form. They can include six lines of text with 23 characters per line. The deadline to order a stone in time for placement before a Walk of Honor ceremony this spring is Jan. 31.

**Employees for Student Success funds meals for Hartnell families**

After learning that Thanksgiving holiday meals for homeless students were being provided in a different way, the Employees for Student Success Committee used $2,353 raised at a Feb. 28 campus barbecue to provide turkeys and other meal ingredients to 60 families in the High School Equivalency (HEP) Program and from the Child Development Center.

Augustine Nevarez, director of student affairs for student life, assisted the committee in identifying needy families and worked with the Food Bank for Monterey County to leverage available items and partner with Walmart and other stores.

Each meal basket contained a turkey of at least 10 pounds, a two-pound bag of potatoes, stuffing mix, canned beans, corn, a dozen rolls and a pumpkin pie.

“The HEP students were so happy and grateful,” said Payroll Supervisor Dora Sanchez-Mosqueda, who co-chairs the committee with Lucy Serrano, senior executive assistant in the President’s Office, and Joy Cowden, acting assistant dean of academic affairs for STEM. “It was a great time delivering the food to the departments.”
Colleagues attend and present at LGBTQ+ summit on Nov. 23

Shawn Pullum, programmer analyst; Tina Summers, accounting assistant; and Dr. Brian Lofman, dean of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness, participated in the CCC + LGBTQ+ Summit held Nov. 23 at University of California, Riverside.

Supported with funding from the Hartnell Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEP), the Hartnell representatives were among about 350 attendees, including students, faculty, staff and administrators.

Dr. Lofman, who served on the planning team for the summit and is a member of the Campus Pride Board of Directors, presented on “How to Strategically Use the Campus Pride Index: National Benchmarking Tool for Assessing LGBTQ+ Friendly Policies, Programs and Practices.”

His presentation emphasized that colleges must become more welcoming for the full spectrum of students that they serve. The Campus Pride Index covers eight areas on which a given college can make measured, concrete progress, including: policy, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life, housing and residential life, campus safety, counseling and health, and recruitment and retention efforts. The presentation can be found here. Relevant information about colleges that participate in the index can be searched by region, state, index rating, institution type and locale.

Drs. Hsieh and Lofman co-present on ‘high-performing organizations’

Dr. Patricia Hsieh, superintendent-president, and Dr. Brian Lofman, dean of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness, co-presented with Dr. Darla Cooper, executive director of the RP Group, on “Well-Known Secrets for Cultivating a High-Performance Organization,” on Nov. 22 at the 2019 CCLC (Community College League of California) Convention in Riverside.

The presentation addressed Hartnell’s purposeful direction and advocated that institutions apply a conceptual model encompassing three key sets of layered drivers toward elevating organizational performance. Those drivers are: (1) Becoming a more caring and learning organization; (2) Becoming a more student success-focused organization; and (3) Ensuring employee engagement in and reinforcement for the achievement of institutional goals. The presentation can be found here.
Cruz highlights partnerships with CSUMB at symposium

Jackie Cruz, vice president for advancement and development and the Hartnell College Foundation, was joined by Dr. Sathya Narayanan, professor of computer science at Cal State Monterey Bay (pictured), at the Intersegmental Pathways Symposium on Nov. 15 at Bakersfield College. The focus was how to pave the way for community college students to complete their bachelor's degrees, achieving a goal of 1.1 million new degree-holders in California by 2030.

Cruz represented Hartnell on a panel called “Pathways from the Community College to the University,” which touched on Hartnell’s CSin3 partnership with CSUMB, which allows students to complete a bachelor’s degree in computer science in just three years, and the Teacher Pathway Program, also with CSUMB.

Said Cruz: “Tweets during the event were on point, calling Hartnell partnerships with CSUMB visionary!”

Santa visits youngsters at CalWORKS/ CARE celebration

The CalWORKs and CARE programs hosted their annual winter celebration for 23 children and 14 of their student parents on Dec. 3 at Steinbeck Hall in the Student Center. The children were greeted by Santa Claus, received a gift and stocking-stuffer toy and did arts and crafts.

Said Dr. Nancy Reyes, a counselor and instructor for CalWORKS, “The event was filled with laughter, admiration and an overall feeling of gratitude. The CalWORKs and CARE programs would like to express their gratitude to the Foster and Kinship Care program for generously donating all of the toys, providing the arts and crafts activities for the children and providing pastries.”

This event is special for student parents because they bring their children to the school they attend and the children get to meet the EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs staff. Parents shared that their children enjoyed the event and look forward to upcoming events in the spring semester.
Students can apply now for EOPS in spring 2020

The Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOPS) is now accepting applications for the Spring 2020 semester. The EOPS program is designed to assist first-generation college students with academic counseling, textbook credits, lending library, student success workshops, priority registration and other support services.

Students must be a California resident, enrolled as a full-time student 12 units or more (DSPS student can be enrolled in 6 units) and have completed a FAFSA application for 2019-20 or CA College Promise Grant. AB540 students are also eligible to apply for EOPS services.

Application is available online at https://hartnell-ssp.mylacai.com/apply.php

Hartnell hosts committee advocating for disabled

On Dec. 5, the Department of Supportive Programs and Services (DSPS) hosted a holiday meeting and luncheon for the Monterey County Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities (MCCEPD), of which DSPS Director Michelle Peters is a member.

The MCCEDPD is a collaborative group of higher education and Monterey County Office of Education professionals, as well as community agency representatives, who come together to promote the employment of people with disabilities, an underrepresented and underemployed group in the Salinas Valley and Monterey County.

During the event (pictured), held at the Harden Ranch Foundation in Salinas, participants discussed ways to increase awareness of its work and objectives.

In the News

Former Salinas Valley prep stars power Hartnell to top 10 finishes in state championships: https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2019/11/26/former-salinas-valley-prep-runners-pace-hartnell-top-10-finishes-cross-country-california-state/4309137002/


Hartnell’s $167 million expansion is underway but over budget: https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/hartnell-s-million-

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/

Jazz and Concert Band Winter Concert
7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

A Winter Instrumental Recital
11:45 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
Building K, room 125

Kwanza Celebration
12-2 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Building C, room 101

A Musical Journey Around the World
7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

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

Walk of Honor Order Deadline
Jan. 31