



HARTNELL COLLEGE

President's Weekly Report

March 13, 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.

Hartnell takes action to minimize health threat from coronavirus

I want to begin with a note of thanks to our wonderful employees, who have rapidly responded to several immediate adjustments in Hartnell's evolving response to the global threat of coronavirus COVID-19. I also commend our students as they overcome disruption in their learning and campus life – a reality we are doing all we can to address in ways that allow them to continue achieving their educational goals. They remain our highest priority, along with the health and safety of our entire college community.

Board of Trustees President Aurelio Salazar Jr. expressed heartfelt thanks to staff, faculty and administrators for their work in response to the coronavirus at the board's March 10 meeting, and other trustees echoed his remarks. Acknowledging the consequences of this challenge is one of the ways we can help one another manage these unexpected circumstances. Little things also matter, such as a March 12 announcement by Starbucks manager Lea Miller that the store in our Student Center would provide a free cup of coffee to employees as they rushed to take needed steps in their areas of responsibility.

Although we have shared the details of our adjustments with students, employees by email and through social media and media outlets, I will provide key points here for our wider audiences and anyone who missed the earlier announcements. We are taking several significant steps that will affect all of us and our students over the next several weeks, at minimum:

- **Online instruction:** Beginning March 23 through at least April 4, we will move nearly all of our current face-to-face classes to online delivery, with exceptions made for a handful of courses for which that is simply not practical. We are equipping students and faculty with the support and digital tools to continue teaching and support student success, including providing counseling and other student services online.
- **Review of campus events:** Effective immediately, we will review all scheduled events on our Main Campus, Alisal Campus and King City events to assess whether they can be held safely in terms of maintaining social distancing to discourage spread of the coronavirus.
- **Athletic events suspended:** Also effective immediately, all college athletic events have been suspended by the California Community College Athletic Association, and we will close our swimming pool, gymnasium and fitness center for campus and public use until further notice.

- **Campus childcare services:** The Hartnell Child Development will close from March 23 until at least April 3, though it will remain open during Spring Week. The privately run Early Education Center on our Alisal Campus will also be open during Spring Week, with further notice to be provided regarding services there after March 22.

Despite all of this, we are not closing Hartnell College. College operations will continue, and our campuses will remain open to the public during regular business hours. Campus-wide communication will continue to be robust, including frequent updates to [coronavirus webpages](#) at hartnell.edu. Given the sweeping impact of these decisions, and the real health threat of COVID-19, this communication is more important than ever.

As I said in my March 13 email to all employees, I deeply appreciate their ongoing courage and professionalism in the face of something none of us has ever experienced before.

Centennial Lookback – an occasional series

An Englishman comes to California: The story of Hartnell’s namesake

As part of our Hartnell’s Centennial Celebration throughout this year, we are sharing and exploring key aspects of college history from our founding in 1920 as Salinas Junior College through the development of the dynamic institution we have begun. We also will look to our future as an essential educational and community asset for the Salinas Valley and beyond.

One of the ways we will do that is an occasional series of historical articles. We share the first of those here, appropriately beginning with the story of how and why Hartnell College acquired its current name in 1948 — a change rooted in a multicultural, multilingual California heritage that remains a source of pride in the Salinas Valley.

The school’s current namesake, William Edward Petty Hartnell, was born in England in 1798. He found his way as a young man to South America, where he learned Spanish, and then to Monterey in Alta California. His business success and conversion to Catholicism led to his marriage to Maria Teresa de la Guerra, daughter of “the richest man in the area at that time.”

After business setbacks, he opened a school in 1834 on family property within the Rancho Alisal, four miles southeast of Salinas. That school, informally known as “El Colegio de Arnel” (Hartnell’s School”) is credited by many as being the first non-mission school in California.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Oscar the Panther reaches forever home within quad work site

The Avila Construction workers now transforming Hartnell's Main Campus quad into a tiered plaza used a crane on March 6 to lift our beloved and beautiful stone panther from a flatbed truck that delivered it from a temporary spot next to the Lewallen STEM Center to its permanent location in a center stretch of lawn.



The sculpture known as Oscar remains protected by a plastic sheet, awaiting expected completion of the plaza in late May. The quad landscaping is funded with Measure T bonds and is a joint project with modernization of classroom buildings D and E. The photo below looks south toward the site of the new Nursing and Health Sciences Building, scheduled to open in Fall 2021. The panther is in the middle of the frame.



Interim Dean Dr. Francisco Arce joins college as search continues

Dr. Francisco Arce joined Hartnell March 11 as interim dean of academic affairs for curriculum & scheduling, social & behavioral sciences, fine arts and education.

This role has been filled admirably by Interim Dean Clint Cowden, who will return to his permanent role as dean of Academic Affairs for Career Technical Education and Workforce Development.



Many thanks to Cowden for excellent work in the interim role over the past months. Interim Dean Sharon Albert, who will return to her permanent role as associate dean for CTE and Workforce Development, also has provided outstanding service during this transition.

Dr. Arce holds an Ed.D. in Organization and Leadership and an M.A. in Political Science. He has a long career serving as faculty and administrator at the dean, vice president and assistant superintendent levels in the California Community College system. His last permanent position was 10 years as vice president of academic affairs, at El Camino College. We are fortunate to be able to draw on his expertise.

A search is underway for a permanent dean to fill the position, previously held by Dr. Celine Pinet.

Transfer tours visit UC Davis, San Jose and San Francisco State



Hartnell College alumni Marisol Sanchez gave 30 Hartnell students a VIP tour of the University of California, Davis campus (pictured above) on March 6 that included student panels, a Q&A with the director of admissions, visits to student support programs and lunch. The students were joined by Mercedes Del Real, Transfer and Career Center coordinator, and Jessie Betancourt, the center's program assistant.

That same day, students in Umoja visited San Francisco and San Jose State universities. They received guided tours and learned about the majors and resources each campus has to offer. (Pictured, below, from left: Counselor Tony Anderson, Leilani Martinez, Kayla Mendoza, Anijia Gaines, Karen Ortiz, Tayjah Johnson, Vianey Cerna Bravo, Tyshell Johnson-Hill and Counselor Rosa Vidales.)



Soon-to-graduate TRiO students are 'stars' of support success

The study room in the TRiO/Student Support Services center on the first floor of Building D on the Main Campus is decorated with hanging photos of students on stars that indicate where they have been admitted for transfer, and on the other side is advice for cohort groups coming up.

"We hope to have 50 stars hanging by June 2020," said TRiO Support Services Director Manuel Bersamin. "We are graduating our students in two to three years, breaking the average length of time in the community colleges for first-generation and low-income students to graduate and transfer."

The student success program, which prides itself on being a "transfer pipeline", provides qualifying students counseling and academic resources to help them continue on as college juniors.



College Pathways Team visits 18-plus schools, sites this spring

The College Pathways Team has had a busy but satisfactory semester while facilitating the Hartnell College Enrollment Process (Steps to Success) at more than 18 high schools and alternative sites throughout the Salinas Valley.

The team collaborated with Soledad High School and conducted tours to more than 240 ninth-graders. More than 300 students had their first experience at a college setting. Eighty-four visited Hartnell on Dec. 9 and 160 on Feb. 12. Twenty-five seniors from Mount Toro High visited our Main Campus on Feb. 12, and fall graduates obtained their Hartnell ID during the visit. On Feb. 25, 20 seniors from Rancho Cielo explored Main Campus — and they loved it. Program Director Crystal Murphy said students had a great deal of interest in Hartnell and requested the visit. On Feb. 27, 35 students from Portola-Butler Continuation High School in King City and Pinnacles Continuation High School visited Alisal Campus and Main Campus.

The Soledad High tours were coordinated by Ariana Rodriguez and alternative education sites tours were coordinated by Isaura Arreguin. Tours were led by Ariana Rodriguez, Isaura Arreguin, Maria Jerezano, Alejandra Carrillo and Ernesto Rodriguez, showcasing the many programs and services Hartnell offers. Thank you to counseling student ambassadors Athena Ramirez, Ruby Diaz and Sophia Pimentel for being awesome tour leaders. A stop at Starbucks was a must for all the campus visits.

Rudo says smiles of student performers 'one of the perks of being a teacher'

Music instructors and students in choir, piano, guitar and instrumental ensembles performed March 6 in the Music Extravaganza in the Center for Performing Arts. Vocal music instructor Sandra Rudo said the evening of performance left her students very pleased and excited with the entire experience.

"Several of them said that they loved having their families come, that their families enjoyed seeing them perform and that many family members were very complimentary about the songs that were performed," she said, "and

several of my students

shared with all of us how

much they enjoyed themselves that evening. Big smiles from even the shyest people in my group. It's one of the perks of being a teacher to share in those moments."

Rudo is pictured above with the Hartnell Choir, which performed "The Rocky Road to Dublin" and "Oye Como Va," among other selections. Also pictured, serving refreshments, are Hartnell Council for the Arts members (from left) Wayne Tucker, Hartnell Board of Trustees Vice President Pat Donohue, Julie Tucker, Pat Horsley, Vice President of Advancement and Development Jackie Cruz and Al Munoz.



Panther Men's Track & Field team sprints to victory in Wildcat Cup



With a dominant performance on the track, the Hartnell Men's Track & Field team placed first among seven colleges to claim its first Chico Wildcat Cup hosted by Cuesta College on March 6 in San Luis Obispo. The Panther women's team also had a solid day, placing fifth.

For the men, the performance of the day was by freshman Hiroki Terada, who won the second 200-meter race of his fledgling Hartnell career. His mark of 21.91 was nearly a personal best by a half-second. Terada also was part of the victorious 4x100m Panther relay team along with De'Antae Williams, Jeffrey Weimer and Tim Hunter. Williams also won the 100m, and Hunter won the open 400m. Sophomore Juan Gutierrez III was a double winner. He finished four seconds ahead of teammates Isaac Gensel and Joseph Loredo in the 1,500m in 4:07.25.

The women's team had an event winner in Daniela Salazar, who has also been a standout for Hartnell cross country. Running for just the third time at Hartnell in the 1,500 meters Salazar produced the eighth fastest time in program history. Also improving at 1,500 meters was freshman Valeria Gomez-Lozano who dipped under the five-minute mark and now holds the third best performance in the region. Gomez-Lozano placed second in the 3000m, followed by Salazar and Isabelle Torres. Gerilynn Omictin placed second in the 100m.

Trustee DePauw thanks employees for service through Farm Day season

During her individual report at the March 10 Hartnell Board of Trustees meeting, Trustee Candi DePauw expressed special thanks to the dozens of Hartnell employees who have continued to volunteer at this year's three 2019-20 Farm Day events organized by Monterey County Agricultural Education.

DePauw coordinates the Farm Day program, which every year allows thousands of Monterey County third-graders to learn how their food is produced, experience animals first-hand and gain an understanding about food safety.

Automotive Technology Instructor Valentin Rodriguez was among those helping at the year's final Farm Day event, held March 5 at the Monterey Fairgrounds (pictured).



In the News

Funcionarios de salud informan que no hay casos positivos del coronavirus en el Colegio Hartnell: <https://kion546.com/t23/2020/03/09/un-estudiante-de-colegio-hartnell-esta-siendo-evaluado-por-coronavirus/>

Schools consider approach if coronavirus arrives in Monterey County: <https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/03/09/schools-consider-approach-if-coronavirus-arrives-in-monterey-county/>

Hartnell College student being tested for coronavirus: <https://kion546.com/news/salinas/2020/03/08/hartnell-college-student-being-tested-for-coronavirus/>

Hartnell College student is being tested for coronavirus: <https://www.ksbw.com/article/hartnell-college-student-is-being-tested-for-coronavirus/31274934>

Hartnell College student tested for coronavirus: <https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2020/03/08/hartnell-college-student-tested-for-coronavirus/4998010002/>

College Athlete of the Week: <https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/03/10/college-athlete-of-the-week-24/>

Salinas Ag Tech focuses on training labor:
<https://www.thepacker.com/article/salinas-ag-tech-focuses-training-labor>

Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit to focus on leveraging innovation through skilled workforce: <http://agnetwest.com/salinas-valley-ag-tech-summit-to-focus-on-leveraging-innovation-through-skilled-workforce/>

Monterey Herald calendar of events:
<https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/03/04/calendar-of-events-march-5-11/>

Upcoming Events

Note: All campus events will be evaluated in terms of their size, necessity and risk to public health. We seek to have an updated list of events to share in the weekly report for March 27.