



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

## President's Weekly Report

March 27, 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 joins efforts to thwart COVID-19 while learning continues

Our faculty and staff began to deliver instruction and student services online on March 25 following the end of Spring Break, with two extra days for employees to prepare for the switch away from face-to-face interaction.

These steps, part of a nationwide effort to limit the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19, have required a major adjustment for our college – and especially for our students, who will continue in this learning mode until further notice.

At this unprecedented and challenging moment, everyone in the Hartnell College Community has come together to help students continue to meet their educational goals despite circumstances that none of his anticipated.

In addition to this dramatic transformation in student learning, support services such as tutoring and crisis counseling have begun assisting students through interactive online tools such as Zoom and Skype. Our Information Technology Resources staff have established free wireless access for students in a parking lot on the Main Campus. Work is underway to extend those services to south Monterey County. Our website includes new tools and resources for students and employees, as well as links to the latest information from public health agencies.



I continue to be grateful for the strong support of the Hartnell Governing Board, which voted unanimously on March 18 to give me special emergency authority and to continue paying district employees at this time, regardless of whether they are reporting to work, working at home or on call for special assignment. The board and the few employees who remain on campus are strictly observing social-distancing guidelines. (Pictured: The March 24 Governing Board development meeting in Steinbeck Hall.)

As I told employees in an email on March 24, "In two years or 20, we may ask ourselves, or be asked by others: 'What did you do to help students during the coronavirus pandemic?' Surely the only answer can be, 'I did everything I possibly could, and then I did a little bit more.'"

## **Hartnell College Foundation opens funds to meet new student needs**

The Hartnell College Foundation has established a COVID-19 Student Emergency Response Fund to benefit those students who are particularly affected by the coronavirus outbreak and the switch to online instruction.

Approved by the foundation's Executive Board on March 18, the fund seeks contributions in any amount to help meet the following needs: laptop computers for students who have relied on Hartnell's on-campus computer labs, establishing wireless hotspots throughout the district for students who lack online access at home, additional crisis counseling support, and aid to low-income and single parents to purchase online textbooks and cover basic needs.



"We are committed to ensuring students' safety and financial stability as they transition to a 100 percent online learning platform," said Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development and foundation executive director. "It is our goal to provide the support they need to pursue their educational and career goals despite the challenges presented by these unprecedented times."

Employees and friends of the college are encouraged to support this fund by making a contribution on the foundation's [online giving page](#).

## **Engeldinger named permanent VP for human resources/equal opportunity**



I am pleased to announce a new member of Executive Cabinet in the crucial role of vice president of human resources and equality opportunity.

Lyle Engeldinger will lead our HR team in a permanent appointment after capably serving in an interim role since Feb. 3. I am grateful to our search committee, co-chaired by Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development and the Hartnell College Foundation, and Lucy Serrano, executive assistant to the superintendent/president and Board of

Trustees. I also appreciate our dedicated HR team for their hard work during this transition.

Engeldinger joined us from Barstow College, where he had been vice president for human resources and equal opportunity officer since 2017. Preceding a sabbatical to study adult learning theory as a doctoral candidate at Walden University in Minneapolis, Minn., he was dean of human resources and diversity and acting vice president of human resources at Pasadena City College from 2008 to 2011, and for 10 years before that he was dean of human resources, diversity and training at Ohlone College.

In addition to faculty roles in business at Pasadena City and Ohlone, he had a lengthy career as corporate vice president and general manager with the American Automobile Association. Engeldinger holds a Master's of Business Administration and a BS in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and a computer studies certificate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## **Joy Cowden steps in as interim dean with portfolio of programs**

Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president of academic affairs, announced March 24 Joy Cowden will serve as interim dean of academic affairs for the following program areas: Social and Behavioral Sciences, Fine and Performing Arts, Early Childhood Education, Distance Education and Curriculum, Scheduling and Instruction.



Cowden has been director of STEM Internships and MESA, and most recently filled in successfully as interim dean for Languages, Library, and Learning Resources.

Dr. Wilkinson said she expects to have a permanent dean in place in late spring or early summer, following completion of the search and appointment process.

## **Measure T projects maintain momentum at all locations**

Because Hartnell's current Measure T construction projects are all public works, progress continues despite the COVID-19 situation. Contractors on the Main Campus in Salinas, on the future Soledad Education Center and at the King City Education Center are following public health guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of their staff and workers.



On the Main Campus, the nursing and health sciences building reached a milestone with approval of test piles for its foundation. Rebar cages for the actual foundation are being made off site. In the meantime, the architect is reviewing samples of product to be installed in the building. On the main quad landscaping, rebar placement and concrete pouring continue as the new plaza takes shape (pictured). Replacement of catwalk guardrails on buildings D and E is complete. Inside Building D, classrooms are receiving paint, carpet tiles, white boards, projectors and projection screens. Windows have

been installed, and doors will be hung during the week of March 30.

At Soledad and King City, initial pours of concrete foundation slabs are underway, with framing to building framing to begin in April. On the North Monterey County project in Castroville, the design/build team has submitted project plans for review by the Department of State Architect (DSA). DSA review ensures project's compliance with code requirements related to structural safety, fire and life safety, accessibility and sustainability. That process can take three to 10 months, depending on DSA workload and project complexity.

### *Centennial Lookback – an occasional series*

## **Statewide junior college movement was impetus for Hartnell's founding**

We continue our series of "Centennial Lookback" features with an [article](#) that puts the 1920 founding of Salinas Junior College (SJC), later renamed Hartnell, in the context of a two-year college movement in California during the 1910s.

High school trustees in Fresno opened California's first junior college in 1910, and Salinas Junior College became the 13th such institution in the state. Today California has 115 community colleges in 73 districts.

The Salinas college occupied space in the "new" high school building on South Main Street, Salinas High, which last month celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year. (Pictured: Students and faculty in 1927-28, in front of Salinas High School, where the college was located until 1937.)



By 1935, Salinas Junior College had 13 departments and a school newspaper. The same year, voters approved a bond allowing the purchase of 15.3 acres along Homestead Avenue between West Alisal Street and Central Avenue — what today remains the main Hartnell campus.

[Read the entire article here](#), and watch for additional "lookback" features as we reflect on our college's past and look to its bright future.

## 'Evita' is best production and Hartnell is best 'ag educator' in 2020 awards

Readers of the Monterey County Weekly newspaper have voted The Western Stage fall presentation of the musical "Evita" as the "Best Theater Production of 2019" and named Hartnell the "Best Local Ag Educator" for the sixth straight year.



Both were among the publication's "Best of Monterey County" awards featured in its March 26 edition.

In a short write-up about the theater award, Western Stage director Jon Selover credits the show's lead performances, especially that of Malinda DeRouen as the title character. "It was totally the cast that moved the audience," Selover said. "Every performance."

For its “ag educator” award, the publication noted that Hartnell develops “practical skills that make graduates employable in Monterey County’s number-one industry,” with areas of study that include agricultural business, food safety, welding technology, agricultural technology and diesel technology.

## **Congratulations to this year’s group of newly tenured faculty**



Hartnell on March 23 joined with the Academic Senate to recognize and congratulate seven newly tenured members of the teaching and counseling faculty.

They are: Mayra Almodóvar, faculty, early childhood education; Ashley Gabriel, faculty, adaptive physical education; Dr. Peter Gray, faculty, English; Melvin Jimenez, academic follow-up services specialist; Dr. Nancy Reyes, counselor, CalWORKS; Seaneen Sullinger, nursing faculty; and Gemma Cruz-Urbe, counselor, Veterans Service Center.

Because of COVID-19, a planned reception to recognize these individuals has been postponed and will be announced later.

## **Pop-Up Pantry food distribution held in Hartnell parking garage**

With Hartnell College closed to the public and all but a handful of employees because of the nature of their on-campus duties, the Office of Student Life shifted its monthly Pop-Up Pantry food distribution on March 27 to the college parking structure at 411 Central Ave.



Students stepped out of their cars to retrieve bags of produce and other pantry essentials rather than picking them up in the Student Center. A limited number of deliveries will also be made to students with transportation challenges.

Because food needs have not eased, and may be worsened by COVID-19, this partnership with the Food Bank of Monterey County will continue as scheduled. The next bimonthly distribution dates at Hartnell are April 10 and 24.

## In the News

**Monterey County schools extend closure until May 4 due to ongoing coronavirus pandemic:** <https://kingcityrustler.com/monterey-county-schools-extend-closure-until-may-4-due-to-ongoing-coronavirus-pandemic/>

**Coronavirus live updates: What we know in Monterey County:** <https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2020/03/27/coronavirus-live-updates-what-we-know-monterey-county/2920921001/>

## Upcoming Events

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

### **Pop-Up Pantry food distribution**

12 p.m.

Friday, March 27

Hartnell Parking Structure

411 W. Central Ave.

### **Cesar Chavez Day (state holiday)**

Tuesday, March 31

### **HCCD Governing Board**

Regular meeting (social distancing observed)

5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Pop-Up Pantry food distribution**

12 p.m.

Friday, April 10

Hartnell Parking Structure

411 W. Central Ave.

**Pop-Up Pantry food distribution**

12 p.m.

Friday, April 24

Hartnell Parking Structure

411 W. Central Ave.