



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

## President's Weekly Report

September 18, 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.

### Note to readers:

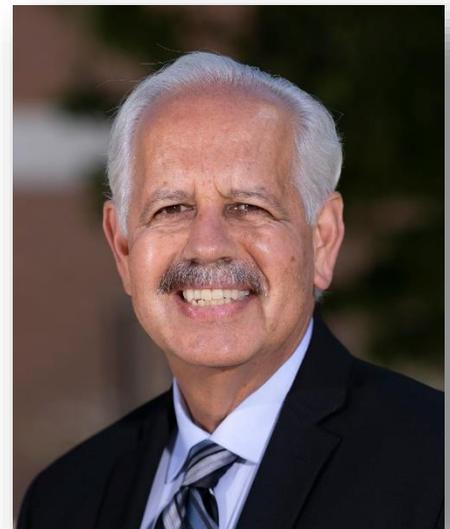
The President's Weekly Report to the Community has moved to twice-monthly publication while the volume of news is slower due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

### Governing Board extends Dr. Rodríguez's term as interim superintendent/president

I was honored and gratified by the Sept. 15 decision of the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board to extend my term as interim superintendent/president, allowing me to serve through June 2023, rather than for a single year.

Board President Aurelio Salazar Jr. and his fellow trustees concluded that greater continuity in executive leadership would benefit the college and its students during this period of unprecedented challenges from COVID-19.

I look forward to my ongoing work with the board and our outstanding employees, as we not only manage our way through the pandemic but also prepare to open new facilities funded with Measure T bonds, implement College Redesign and seek greater equity and inclusion for students, especially our Black students.



With regard to the coronavirus, we will soon make an official announcement on instruction and student services during the Spring 2021 Semester, but all signs indicate we will remain online for the health and safety of our college community. In consultation with employees, students and public health experts, we are preparing a detailed plan for an eventual return to our campuses, as soon as that becomes feasible.

Whether we are communicating via Zoom or face-to-face, I pledge to join with the board and all of you in upholding high expectations for student success, workforce development and the enormous difference Hartnell makes for the people of our district.

## Hartnell one of two colleges vying for Dr. John W. Rice equity honors

Hartnell will learn Sept. 30 whether it has been selected to receive the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. John W. Rice Award for advancing diversity, equity and student success.

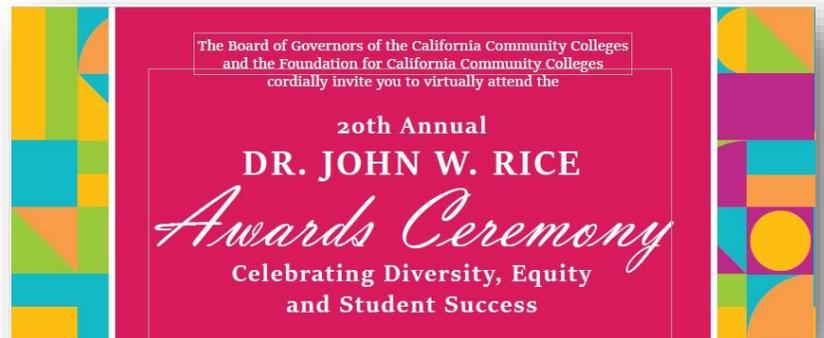
Hartnell and College of Marin are finalists for this prestigious recognition from among 115 schools in the California Community Colleges (CCC) System. Both the winning school and honorable mention will be highlighted during a [live-streamed](#) program starting at 1:45 p.m. Special guests will be Dr. Condoleezza Rice, daughter of the late Dr. Rice, and her mother, Clara Rice.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Rice's leadership for educational equity while serving on the CCC Board of Governors from 1992-2000.

Hartnell was chosen as a finalist based on three-year gains in the success of students of color and gains in the diversity of its employees, as well as its college-wide work to progress in those areas, including such initiatives as cohort-based transfer pathways, highly intentional student support programs and focused student-development initiatives such as the Women's Education and Leadership Institute (WELI).

A statement submitted to the CCC Chancellor's Office by Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, said:

"The Hartnell Community College District (HCCD) has rigorously followed a philosophy of 'Students First' – weighing every decision on that basis. That commitment, inspired by strong leadership from the Governing Board and superintendent/president, has yielded dramatic gains in student equity and success and employee diversity, community partnerships that strengthen Hartnell and the entire Salinas Valley, and the continual growth and development of the college itself, through investment in talent and expertise and ongoing improvement in campus programs and facilities."



## National HEP scholarship aids student's drive toward nursing

Hartnell freshman Iris Lira Perez has received a \$1,000 National HEP/CAMP Association Scholarship for high school equivalency students, supporting her academic goal of completing a nursing degree.

Lira Perez began in Hartnell's High School Equivalency Program (HEP) in Fall 2019 and became a student of the college last spring. She attended Alisal High School but was unable to graduate with her class in 2017 because of a struggle with anxiety and depression.

"It was like a door opening to a new world," she said, recalling her discovery of the HEP program on a visit to the Hartnell Admissions Office.

She applied for the HEP/CAMP scholarship in August at the urging of Hartnell HEP Director Laura Zavala. The application required a 500-word essay describing her family's "farmwork experience, financial need and academic goals."

"Having to deal with mental health issues has had an impact on my life several times," she wrote in the essay, "but it has not stopped me from reaching my dreams and goals in life."

Read the full story [here](#).

## *Centennial Lookback:* Tennis team was the draw for Hartnell's oldest alum

Hartnell's oldest known alum, 102-year-old Marian Lowe, didn't become a Panther until she was 63.

Lowe began taking classes in 1981 so she could join Hartnell's new tennis team, which her husband, Lyman Lowe, was helping as a volunteer assistant coach.

(Pictured: Marian Lowe, back row, second from right, next to Lyman Lowe, with the Hartnell Tennis Team in 1982.)

Competition on the court helped the former dentist and stay-at-home mom climb overcome depression after one of her four sons died in a crash during a professional motorcycle race.



"Hartnell College brought me back to life," Lowe said during an interview at her Salinas home. "That's how wonderful Hartnell is, that you can do anything there at any age."

To qualify for the team, she had to become a full-time student, so she signed up for classes in ballet, jazz, modern dance, music appreciation, French, business and more.

"If I could, I would go back to Hartnell College and take more classes!" Lowe said.



On Nov. 2, 2019, she represented her late husband at the Hartnell Athletics Hall of Fame luncheon, where he was posthumously inducted as a volunteer for 13 years as a men's and women's tennis coach (pictured, with Dean of Athletics Daniel Teresa).

"Hartnell College offers so much," Lowe told the audience of several hundred. "You can take anything, learn anything and become anything."

They responded with a standing ovation.

Read the full story [here](#).

## Progress on all fronts for Measure T construction

The following is a status update on Hartnell's current construction projects, funded by Measure T bonds:

**Main Campus:** Work is underway to install hardware for the exterior elevator on Building D and will take about a month to complete. Tile will soon be applied to the outside of the elevator shaft. Final pouring of steps and other cement surfaces on the central plaza (pictured, looking west from Building D) is now complete. Structural steel continues to be added to the Center for Nursing and Health Sciences.



**South County:** At the expansion of the King City Education Center, windows are installed, and the exterior is almost ready for stucco and paint, to be followed by work on sidewalks and landscaping. Interior drywall is nearly complete. At the new Soledad Education Center, window installation and roofing continue, with a start on interior drywall.

**Castroville:** Architects continue meeting with staff from the Division of State Architects on the final review process before construction can start sometime this fall.

## Nursing and Allied Health schedules weekly info sessions and live Q&As



The Nursing and Allied Health program has announced it will present weekly online student information sessions at 1 p.m. each Wednesday and open Q&A chat opportunities from 3-5 p.m. each Tuesday and 3-4 p.m. on Fridays.

Separate Wednesday sessions are available for each of the program's degree opportunities: Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care (begins Fall 2021), Vocational Nursing certificate and AS degree (begins Spring 2021), Associate of Science Degree in Registered Nursing (begins Fall 2021) and Associate of Science Degree in Public Health Sciences for Transfer.

To register for the Wednesday sessions and find Zoom links for the twice-weekly chats, students are asked to visit [www.hartnell.edu/nah](http://www.hartnell.edu/nah). Program staff can also be reached from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at 831-770-6146.

## Central Coast career/job fair to be presented on Sept. 24

Hartnell and several partners are presenting a Central Coast Virtual Career/Job Fair via Zoom from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sept. 24, focusing on opportunities in agriculture, construction and transportation. Future job fairs are planned for other key industry sectors.

The first hour will feature presentations from local employers with an emphasis on current internship and job opportunities, key soft and technical skills, employers' own career paths and sharing of contact information. In the second hour, job fair participants will be able to meet with employers in small groups.

For Hartnell, the event is a joint effort by Career Preparation and Placement Services, the Office of Advancement/Salinas Valley Five Cities and the Transfer and Career Center. These offices are partnering with the Monterey County Workforce Development Board, Salinas Valley Adult Education Consortium and Mission Trails ROP.



"COVID-19 does not stop our efforts towards economic resiliency," said Rosie Armstrong (pictured), the college's director of workforce development. "It has fueled our teams to work closer together – to provide an outlet for career exploration across educational providers and discuss current opportunities for jobs and internships available in our region."

Registration is available through [Eventbrite](#).

## **Mi CASA and partners offering free immigration services**

Mi CASA, the Center for Achievement and Student Advancement at Hartnell, is taking the opportunity at the start of the fall semester to reiterate its support to all Dreamer students within the Hartnell College community and the greater community.

Hartnell is committed to assisting all students, regardless of immigration status, and provides specialized services for undocumented, DACAmented and other students without permanent residency or citizenship.

Students and their immediate family members, as well as employees, may receive free immigration legal assistance through a partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the UFW Foundation.



Such services as U-Visas, family petitions, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status visas and naturalization are available by online appointment from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every first and third Tuesday and every second and fourth Friday of the month. Appointments can be made [here](#). For questions or assistance, please call 831-755-6723.

## **Application deadline for MILE program extended to Oct. 18**

Hartnell's Office of Equity Programs has extended the 2020-21 application deadline for the Men's Institute for Leadership and Education (MILE) to Oct. 18.

The MILE program, a counterpart of the Women's Education and Leadership Institute (WELI), offers qualifying students a \$2,000 scholarship while strengthening their leadership skills through training and mentorship by community leaders.

Applicants must be Hartnell students currently enrolled in at least nine units who plan on being enrolled throughout the 2020-21 academic year. They must maintain a 2.5 GPA. Cisgender and

transgender applicants are welcome. Leadership workshops and quarterly mentor meetings are tentatively scheduled for January and February, with exact dates subject to change.

Apply [here](#) or visit [hartnell.edu/students/scholarships](http://hartnell.edu/students/scholarships). For more information, call 831-755-6273 or visit a virtual front desk via [Zoom](#) from 1-5 p.m. weekdays.

(Pictured: MILE participants in leadership training during summer 2019.)



## In the News

### **Construction continues at Hartnell College's King City Education Center:**

<https://kingcityrustler.com/construction-continues-at-hartnell-colleges-king-city-education-center/>

### **Central Coast colleges and universities begin fall semester online:**

<https://kion546.com/news/central-coast-comeback/2020/09/17/central-coast-colleges-and-universities-begin-fall-semester-online/>

### **Interim head of Hartnell College to stay on for three years:**

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/09/16/interim-head-of-hartnell-college-to-stay-on-for-three-years/>

## Upcoming Events

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

### **Central Coast Virtual Career/Job Fair for Agriculture, Construction and Transportation**

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Registration via [Eventbrite](#).

### **Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)