



HARTNELL COLLEGE

President's Weekly Report

December 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.

A holiday break:

The President's Weekly Report will take a break for the holidays, returning for the week ending Jan. 15. Thanks for reading!

Belief in Hartnell students is among the many legacies of Andy Matsui

The Hartnell College Community is mourning of the passing of Toshikiyo "Andy" Matsui, a floral entrepreneur whose philanthropic support for Hartnell and its students was truly remarkable. He died Dec. 12 at age 85. Our hearts go out to his wife, Yasuko, and their four children.

Matsui made a truly enduring impact, not only at Hartnell, but in so many ways across the Salinas Valley and beyond. We will be forever grateful for his incredible support. Erica Padilla-Chavez, incoming president of the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, said that through his hard work, Matsui was blessed with abundance that he chose to share with others.

"Hartnell students of today and tomorrow will have the opportunities to, like him, work diligently to achieve success in life thanks to his generosity to our college," Padilla-Chavez said. "I ask our community to join me in thanking Andy for reminding us of the importance of paying it forward. What a legacy he has left for us all."

Several years after moving to California with his wife and first child in 1964, he founded the Matsui Nursery near Salinas and found particular success in growing and selling orchids. In 2013, he began providing full scholarships to students in Hartnell's groundbreaking CSin3 computer science partnership with Cal State Monterey Bay (pictured). The scholarship support continued until 2017, when his Matsui Foundation gifted 215 acres of developable land to the



college, with a value in excess of \$20 million.

That gift was the largest ever to a California Community College and among the largest to any U.S. college.

As remarkable as that is, the impact of this support goes far beyond the dollar amount. It has transformed hundreds of lives and will continue to do so for many years to come. You can learn more about Andy Matsui and his life's work in this [tribute](#) article on the Hartnell website.

The family's obituary closed with this message: "His life and achievements far exceeded anything he could have imagined as a young farmer in rural Japan. You can honor his memory by supporting another striver."



Governing Board welcomes new members and chooses Trustee Padilla-Chavez to lead

During its year-end organizational meeting on Dec. 15, the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board was joined by two new trustees and chose Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez as board president for 2021, a position she previously held in 2016.

Padilla-Chavez administered the oath of office to newly elected trustee Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin (pictured), who will represent Area 3, and Alejandra Gonzalez was sworn in as Area 1 trustee by Salinas Union High School District board member Patricia Padilla-Salsberg (pictured below).

Outgoing board president and five-year member Aurelio Salazar Jr. was sworn in as Area 2 trustee by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez, a Hartnell alum. The board presented him with a crystal gavel in recognition of his past two years as president. Area 4 Trustee Irma Lopez was sworn in for her second term by Area 7 Trustee Candi DePauw, who will serve as board vice-president in 2021.





D'Arrigo-Martin, a former fresh produce executive who attended Hartnell and has worked with the college and the Hartnell College Foundation as a community member for 20 years, said she is "super excited" to be in a leadership role.

"I hope that I can help lead the college into a brighter future for all of our students, always putting students first," she said. "That's the most important thing."

Gonzalez, who works as a school secretary, said she wants to use her abilities to help and support Hartnell students, staff and faculty.

The board also assigned trustees to the following representative roles: Gonzalez, Monterey County School Board Association Executive Council; Salazar, Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors; both D'Arrigo-Martin and Lopez, Hartnell College Council for the Arts and Hartnell College Foundation President's Task Force; and both DePauw and Trustee Ray Montemayor, District Audit Committee.

Dates, times and locations for 2021 HCCD board meetings are posted [here](#).

Hartnell choirs' virtual winter concert includes tribute to late accompanist

The Hartnell College Choir and Chamber Singers Ensemble presented one-hour a virtual concert on Dec. 9 via [YouTube](#) that included a tribute to longtime piano and guitar accompanist George Peterson, who died Dec. 7 from injuries in a mid-November car accident.

Director and vocal music instructor Sandy Rudo led 75 performers whose individual recordings were integrated into a joint presentation that gives the illusion of a simultaneous Zoom recording. The 12 pieces included spirituals, holiday carols, a Jewish Sabbath song and one, "White Winter Hymnal" that was performed with the North Salinas High Choir. Some of the performers are pictured here singing "Jingle Bells."

Rudo noted that singers participated from as far away as Georgia and Texas and included Hartnell staff, former students and family and friends.





"I thank them for creating a musical performance in spite of the obstacles," she said. "For us, our music and specifically our singing is the tie that binds us together and certainly has helped us get through these difficult times. Our hope is that our love of music will be contagious and will uplift you as well."

In closing the video, viewed more than 800 times, Rudo paid tribute to Peterson, 60, (pictured), who had worked with the choirs for five years as an accompanist and sound engineer. He also was active with the Monterey County Composers' Forum.

"He was a talented musician, a fabulous accompanist and a good friend who was appreciated and loved by us all," she said. "We will miss him terribly."

Iván Pagán named new director of Salinas Valley Adult Ed Consortium

Iván Pagán will begin his new position in January as director of academic affairs for the Salinas Valley Adult Education Consortium (SVAEC).

Originally from Puerto Rico, Pagán has master's degrees in accounting, educational psychology and TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages), but most of his professional life has been devoted to education, with a particular focus on supporting and empowering low-income and first-generation students, adult students and others.

From 2014-19, he worked for the Inter American University of Puerto Rico in a variety of teaching and leadership roles related to English instruction. From 2013-14, he was director of the Learning Center and an ESL instructor at Fresno State University, and from 2011-13 he was director of the Center for Student Success at Cal State Monterey Bay.

"The hiring committee was impressed with his knowledge of the area, data-driven achievements and personable character," said Mostafa Ghous, dean of South County Education Services, who led the search. "We are all excited to work with Iván."

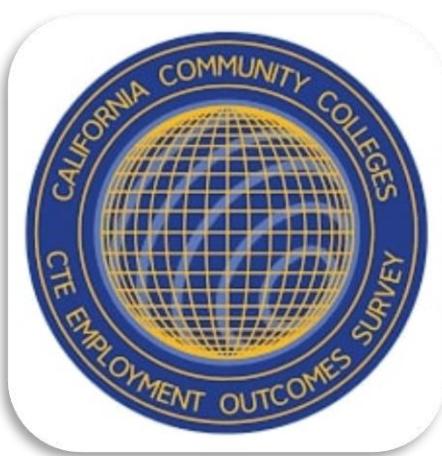
The SVAEC, based at Hartnell, comprises seven adult schools and other educational programs, providing a variety of English-language and career preparation courses throughout the area.



Pagán said one of his priorities will be to build community among the consortium's providers and the adults they serve. "Particularly the Latino community is very high-touch and very much into family and community values," he said. "I think that it's important that we reflect that in our practice, not only with each other but with the people we serve."

Survey on CTE earnings and employment shows satisfaction, hiring and wage gains

Hartnell's 2020 report in the annual Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey for California Community Colleges shows high student satisfaction, success in finding work in a related field and steep wage gains that are highly correlated to training relevancy.



The annual research provides college-by-college data for all CTE degree, certificate and skills-training programs, which at Hartnell include everything from construction management and nursing to computer science and administration of justice.

A survey of 260 Hartnell students who were reached by email, phone and text found that 55% are very satisfied with the education and training they received and another 38% are satisfied. Forty-eight percent said they secured a job that is very closely related to their program of study, and 24% said they found work that is closely related. Students reported average wages of \$15 an hour before their schooling and \$27 after, a gain of 80%. The increase was highest for students who reported a very high similarity between their job and area of study.

The results are a "stunning accomplishments by our great CTE team," said Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president for academic affairs.

Hartnell this spring will receive additional data that will help identify opportunities at the program level to better serve specific categories of students, such as women and older adults.

501 people receive COVID-19 testing during two-day clinic at STEM Center

The Monterey County Health Department, with staffing support from the Visiting Nurses Association, staged a two-day "pop-up" COVID-19 testing site in Hartnell's Lewallen STEM Center on Dec. 15 and 16, serving 250 the first day and 250 the next.

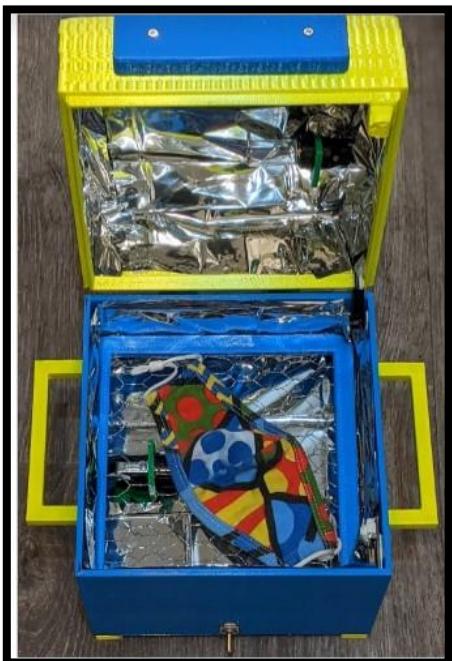


People lined up around the building for the free testing, provided on a first-come, first-served basis in four-hour periods on each day. The testing was conducted with rigorous safety precautions for those providing and receiving the tests, and the county provided janitorial services to ensure sanitation.

Students present COVID-mitigating projects to NASA-backed Space Grant Consortium

Ten Hartnell students on four teams virtually presented projects to the NASA-sponsored California Space Grant Consortium on Dec. 11, sharing results from a paid internship to develop their coding and electronics skills while designing projects to mitigate spread of COVID-19:

The teams and their projects are: Kimberly Manzano, Javier Trujillo and Jose Lomeli, presenting a portable disinfectant dispenser using an Arduino microcontroller; Leslee Still, Carlos Sanchez and Justin Ferrales, presenting an ultraviolet-C light sanitizing chamber (pictured); Jamileth Figueroa and Shane Martinez, presenting a drone combined with a Raspberry Pi computer and Arduino for COVID-19 body temperature checks; and Jesus Delgadillo and Eduardo Felix, presenting an infrared thermometer using an Arduino (pictured).



Science Laboratory Technician Tito Polo has worked with the students since September, the students have worked since September. During the presentation, students were able to hear from a NASA scientists who talked about NASA's CubeSat Technology and learn about internship opportunities at NASA.

Mi CASA holds two December events to inform students and educate allies

On Dec. 9, the Center for Achievement and Student Advancement (Mi CASA) in partnership with the United Farm Workers Foundation hosted an informational session on the latest changes in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The Spanish-language session was aimed at prospective DACA recipients and their parents.

The event was in response to a Dec. 4 order by a federal judge for the Trump administration to begin accepting new DACA applications and restore the DACA program in its entirety. UFW Foundation representatives reviewed eligibility requirements and how potential candidates can begin the application process.

Many were also referred to receive free immigration legal services through the Community College Project between the UFW Foundation, the California Department of Social Services and Hartnell. These services are available to all students, staff and faculty. Appointment scheduling is available [here](#). For other questions, contact the Mi CASA team at micasa@hartnell.edu.

On Dec. 4, Mi CASA hosted Dreamer Ally Training for 75 faculty, staff and community members, increasing their awareness of policies and practices that impact undocumented students and their understanding of challenges that these students face, as well as their strength and resilience.

Salinas immigration attorney Magnolia Zarraga reviewed the history and status of the DACA program and other immigration law. Also among the presenters were Hartnell Enrollment Services Technician Roberta Camacho-Ruiz, who reviewed steps to obtain free in-state tuition; Financial Aid Specialist Lenni Chavez, who provided information on other financial aid opportunities for undocumented students; and mental health therapist Israel Sanchez, who outlined the role of Hartnell's Crisis Counseling and Emotional Wellness Services.

Hartnell's liaison to undocumented students, Miriam Vazquez-Gonzalez, said a special feature of the event was a presentation by three students who shared their stories of arriving to the United States and growing up here.

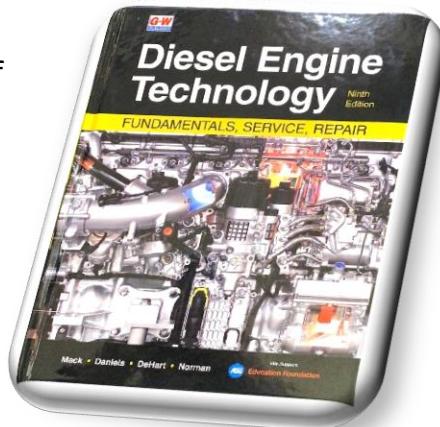
"The purpose of this training was not only to raise awareness of the struggles undocumented students and highlight their resilience, but also to grow the network of allies supporting undocumented student within the college and the community," Vazquez-Gonzalez said.



DeHart co-authors new text on diesel engine technology

Hartnell advanced diesel technology instructor Mark DeHart is co-author of a soon-to-be released ninth edition of a textbook titled "Diesel Engine Technology."

Publisher Goodheart-Willcox says the book "covers the design, construction, operation, diagnosis, service and repair of both mobile and stationary diesel engines with a simple-to-understand presentation to prepare students for entry-level employment as diesel engine technicians."



Chavez-Padilla and family keep Soledad Holiday Parade tradition

Hartnell Governing Board Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez, her husband, Soledad Mayor Pro Tempore Alejandro Chavez, and their family joined the Soledad Chamber of Commerce's 35th Annual Christmas Celebration on Dec. 5 by touring the city in a parade of holiday lights.

Including the costumed Hartnell mascot Oscar the Panther, the family traveled through town so residents could safely observe from their homes rather than having to congregate downtown.

Padilla-Chavez said Oscar and the Hartnell banners drew a lot of recognition from parade-watchers.



Foster and Kinship Care Education delivers drive-thru Santa's Workshop

The Foster and Kinship Care Education Program staged its annual holiday celebration on Dec. 12 in the Hartnell Parking Structure, using decorated cars as a backdrop and distributing such goodies as candy from Lulu's donated by Carmel Rotary, board games, gingerbread houses, pastries and children's books.



Food was distributed from the Monterey County Food Bank, and families received a bag filled with toys to suit each child. All toys were donated by Monterey County Association of Families Caring for Children and Gifts, Inc. The community group ALL IN from Monterey served hot cocoa to families as they departed.

The effort served 202 children and 68 families, said Margie Wiebusch, director of academic affairs for Foster and Kinship Care Education and Independent Living.

In the News

Salinas father's memory lives on through his family and community:

<https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2020/12/18/salinas-philanthropist-leaves-legacy-generations-father-andy-matsui-monterey-county-orchid-nursery/6549305002/>

Salinas flower visionary Andy Matsui dies at 85:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/12/14/salinas-flower-visionary-andy-matsui-dies-at-85/>

Statewide alumni award recognizes Hartnell graduate from Gonzales:

<https://salinasvalleytribune.com/statewide-alumni-award-recognizes-hartnell-college-graduate-from-gonzales/>

The Buzz: 12.03.20: https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/the_buzz/the-buzz-12-03-20/article_9b33c9d0-34fc-11eb-8b3c-f3cb7624133a.html

A Hero's Memorial in Peril: <https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2020/12/04/a-heros-memorial-in-peril/>

Safety Davon Ferguson Leaving KU Football: <https://www2.ljworld.com/sports/ku-football/2020/dec/12/safety-davon-ferguson-leaving-ku-football/>

Powerful debut for King City's Flores in Venezuela:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/12/04/powerful-debut-for-king-citys-flores-in-venezuela/>

Upcoming Events

Hartnell College Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Hartnell College Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)