

# President's Weekly Report



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

**January 15, 2021**

## **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!

## **Website names Hartnell nursing top ADN program in the West**

The registered nursing program at Hartnell College has been ranked No. 1 in the entire western United States by nursingprocess.org, a website that helps prospective nursing students decide where to apply. The 2021 ranking was issued on Jan. 11.

Hartnell was rated highest among Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs at 423 colleges and universities from Hawaii to Colorado. The largest determining factor was student passing rates on licensure tests from 2016-19, accounting for 60% of the evaluation. Other factors were academic quality (20%), reputation (10%) and affordability (10%).

The nursingresource.org website says Hartnell's program teaches "fundamentals of management, law and ethics, and leadership when providing safe nursing care to patients in diverse health care settings."

Dr. Debra Kaczmar, Hartnell dean of academic affairs for nursing and health, said students' near-perfect test rates tell only part of the story. In addition to such factors as community



partnerships and funding support through the Hartnell College Foundation, she credited Hartnell faculty for helping to prepare prospective nursing students for success.

"I want to say thank you to the instructors who teach the prerequisite courses," Dr. Kaczmar said. "We want to make sure they are part of the team because they prepare the students and then we get them, so they're doing the hard work."

## **Nursing students give vaccine to Salinas Valley first responders**

Eighteen Hartnell registered and vocational nursing students volunteered Jan. 9 to staff four COVID-19 vaccinations for first responders at clinics in north Salinas, Castroville, Greenfield and King City, administering hundreds of doses. The four locations were clinics operated by community partner Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas. About 30 students also administered the vaccine to Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System (SVMHS) employees right before Christmas.

Even though these opportunities are strictly voluntary and have come during Winter Break, students have lined up to be of service and gain valuable experience. There has even been a

waiting list of those wanting to help. (Pictured: RN student Jerrica Dexter, one of those giving the injections, is interviewed Jan. 9 by a reporter from KSBW-TV.)



"It's been so rewarding to have students from our community doing this work," said instructor Debbie Thorpe, who supervised students at the north Salinas location. "They're people with kids, taking care of family. They're an awesome group of students."

## **College leaders express affirmation in aftermath of Jan. 6 riot at Capitol**

Hartnell Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez and Interim Superintendent/President Raúl Rodríguez shared a message with the college community via email on Jan. 7, one day after the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The following are excerpts:

"While we support peaceful protest, protest that devolves into violence and assault must be condemned. Like our nation, our college community represents a diversity of viewpoints on contemporary socio-political issues. Different viewpoints are welcome and valuable as long as these viewpoints are rooted in values of respect, civility, protection, non-violence, empathy and care for each other.



"While we face many challenges, remember that every day offers us the opportunity to live out our mission as caring professionals committed to advancing the development of a more equitable, just, and stronger democracy via our commitment to student success. An educated citizenry is a foundational element of our republic and it is times like these that should cause us to reaffirm our commitment to advancing that purpose.

"We thank you for your continued commitment to advancing student success and thereby strengthening our precious democracy."

## **Student Success Conference will be a virtual event on Jan. 21-22**

With a theme of "Equity at the Heart of Hartnell," the 2021 Student Success Conference will be presented Jan. 21-22 by the division of Academic Affairs. All employees are welcome to attend. Watch college email and Hartnell.edu for details on how to view the live-streamed program via YouTube.

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez will open the first day's session with a President's Message at 8:30 a.m., followed by a presentation on employee giving by Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development.



Other first-day sessions will cover data presentation, Guided Pathways, and outcomes and assessment, followed by faculty breakout sessions with deans at 2:30 p.m. The second day will open with a lecture by guest author [Benjamin Percy](#) titled "Recognizing the Hard Truth: the Opportunities Hidden in Failure – in Academia and Life." Also, there will be a presentation by the college Inclusion/Equity Task Force and a keynote speech by [Dr. Sara Goldrick Rab](#) titled "#RealCollege: Addressing Students' Basic Needs with a Culture of Caring."

## **Thompson starts work as interim director of Science & Math Institute and MESA**

Dr. Joel Thompson on Jan. 4 began an interim appointment as director of the Hartnell Science & Math Institute (SMI) and the MESA program that promotes student diversity in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Dr. Thompson is a professor emeritus of marine science and geosciences at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. He is originally from Orangevale, Calif., where he attended American River College and California State University, Sacramento. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Science from CSUS, with the latter completed at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. His Ph.D. is from Syracuse University in the geosciences, and his specialty is in geomicrobiology.

Dr. Thompson has experience working with undergraduate students in teaching, research, internships and international study abroad. He enjoys scuba diving, skiing and traveling.





## 2020 Hartnell graduate is now a Salinas City Council member

Anthony Rocha, who graduated from Hartnell in May 2020, advanced his political career in November with election as the District 6 member of the Salinas City Council previously held by the retiring Tony Villegas. In 2018, the year he began his studies at Hartnell, Rocha was elected to the Salinas Union High School District Board of Trustees. He said one of his proudest accomplishments was leadership on a vote to make ethnic studies a graduation requirement for district students.

Now pursuing a degree in legal studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Rocha works full time as special projects coordinator for Catalyst Family Inc., a statewide education and child care nonprofit. He said he had “an amazing experience” at Hartnell, earning an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis on social sciences and sociology. He is a 2018 graduate of Everett Alvarez High School.

“The staff there, the educators there, the support staff there – everyone is committed to the success of students at Hartnell. And what is so touching about Hartnell is its focus on our farmworker families and our first-generation students.”



## Western Food Safety Summit will go virtual on May 5-6

The Western Food Safety Summit at Hartnell will go virtual on May 5-6, inviting attendees from across California and the entire country to view live presentations from industry-leading scientists, managers and executives.

The two-day event will use the online Zoom platform to explore strategic field-to-fork innovations in equipment, technology and soil and water management, while assuring the safety of all involved amid the ongoing pandemic.

As in years past, the summit’s information sessions are aimed at a cross-section of players in the fresh fruits and vegetables industry, from executives such as growers, processors, coolers, shippers and suppliers to food safety directors and supervisors and quality-assurance foremen and crew leaders. Students and

faculty in Hartnell’s agricultural career programs will also participate.

Co-Chair Clint Cowden, Hartnell’s dean of career technical education and workforce development, said the summit is one way the college continues to give back to the industry that helped it build some of the nation’s best ag education programs over the past 15 years.



"The Western Food Safety Summit conference is made by and for working food safety professionals," he said, "and we have some of the best experts on the planet presenting at this summit."

To take advantage of the \$250 early registration fee, available through Feb. 28, visit the summit website at the [westernfoodsafetysummit.com](http://westernfoodsafetysummit.com). Attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the summit.

## **Furniture has arrived and final prep continues at Soledad, King City centers**

Work on projects funded by Measure T bonds across Hartnell's Main Campus and at new education centers in Soledad and Castroville and the expanded King City Education Center.

On the Main Campus, all construction fencing has been removed around the redesigned central plaza. In Building E, preparations are underway for reinforcement of a replacement elevator shaft in Building E. On the Center for Nursing and Health Sciences, interior framing continues, as does rough-in work for mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Bright yellow sheathing is being placed on the exterior walls (pictured, looking east). Work has begun to replace the roof on the Student Center (Building C).



Furniture has been delivered to both the Soledad and King Centers. Other work in Soledad includes grinding of the concrete floors. In King City, ceiling tiles and lighting have been completed for the majority of the new building area, and courtyard landscaping is almost complete.

In Castroville, installation of underground utilities is wrapping up, slabs have been poured in some sections of the building and framing will start soon.

## **Coach Zepeda has much to work with when naming 'all-decade' XC teams**

While Hartnell student-athletes await word on when they can resume competition, Head Cross Country and Track and Field Coach took the opportunity to assemble "all-decade" teams of the Panthers' best men's and women's cross country runners over the past 10 years.

As Zepeda explained to the [Monterey Herald](http://montereyherald.com), the common denominator among those chosen was that none was highly recruited out high schools. But that became a motivation for them to reach their full potential.

"We want to put kids in an environment that allows them to grow," Zepeda told Herald sportswriter John Devine. "A lot of kids have told me they wish the Hartnell experience could be four years."

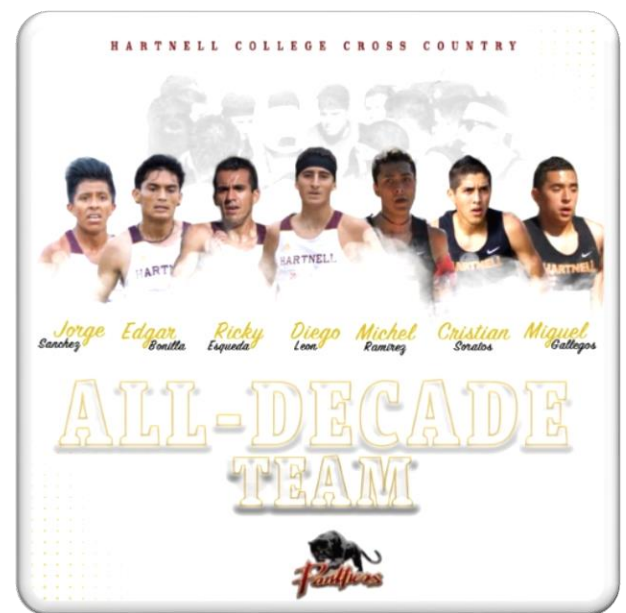
Zepeda chose the seven men and seven women runners by working down from a list of about 100 all-conference competitors.

"I started looking up individual races," he said. "I looked at strength of schedule, compared times of courses. I spent three days researching. It was really hard to just pick seven."

Diego Leon, a little-known runner from Anzar, became a sub-four-minute miler, earning a ride to Montana State, but not before winning three state track and field titles, setting a Hartnell record in the 5,000-meter run in 2014, Devine wrote.

An example from the women's teams Malena Grover of Salinas, who became a state champion, a school record holder and an All-American in her two seasons for the Panthers in 2015, eventually becoming a U.S. Olympic trials qualifier in the marathon in 2020.

Read profiles of the [men's](#) and [women's](#) all-decade teams on the Hartnell Athletics website.



## In the News

**Hartnell nursing students administer COVID-19 vaccine to first responders:**

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/hartnell-nursing-students-administer-covid-19-vaccine-to-first-responders/35170400>

**Hartnell nursing students administer first round of COVID-19 vaccines to first responders:**

<https://kion546.com/news/2021/01/09/hartnell-nursing-students-administer-first-round-of-covid-19-vaccines-to-firefighters/>

**Hartnell names all-decade cross country teams:**

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/01/13/hartnell-college-names-all-decade-cross-country-teams/>

**John Devine, Just a Thought: Remembering five iconic coaches:**

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/12/24/john-devine-just-a-thought-remembering-five-iconic-coaches/>

**King City's Flores pounding the ball in Venezuela:**

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/12/26/king-citys-flores-pounding-the-ball-in-venezuela/>

## Upcoming Events

**2021 Student Success Conference**

**8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21-22**

**Info:** <https://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/ssc2021.html>

**Hartnell College Governing Board**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Hartnell College Governing Board – Board Development**

4 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Hartnell College Governing Board**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)