

# President's Weekly Report



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

## 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 is being presented twice-monthly publication while the volume of news is slowed by COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

## Webinar highlights vaccine benefits while surveys assess COVID-19 impact

Information remains key to Hartnell's ability to return to on-campus learning as rapidly and safely as possible following the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 23, Hartnell shared details on the enormous benefits of vaccination during a [one-hour Zoom webinar](#) for employees, students and the wider community. Also this month, new survey results show a large majority of our students believe they are receiving needed support and guidance from faculty and staff despite the challenges of online learning.

Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez joined me in hosting the vaccine presentation, which featured two expert presenters, Dr. Mahendra Poudel of Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital (pictured) and Dr. Marm Kilpatrick of UC-Santa Cruz. They provided a thorough explanation of the safety and effectiveness of the three vaccines and their vital role in protecting ourselves and others. We also were grateful for the participation of Governing Board Trustee Margaret D'Arrigo, who facilitated questions during the Zoom conference, and Student Trustee Michael Castro, who offered encouraging words to begin the event.



While Hartnell will not require employees or students to receive the vaccine, we continue to work with SVMH, Mee Memorial Hospital in King City and other partners to make it widely available to the entire college community.

At the same time, we are heartened by this month's survey of 942 students, who reported having coped with online classes, overcoming obstacles such as internet reliability and computer access, and expressed satisfaction with online delivery of financial support services, instructional support and counseling support. Seventy-seven percent said it has been "easy" or "not bad" to adapt to online learning, a 2.1% increase from a similar survey last spring. We are preparing to seek additional information with a survey of students' attitudes about returning to campus.

As we move forward, Hartnell continues to rigorously follow local and state health guidelines and observe such safety precautions as masking, handwashing, physical distancing, sanitizing, and plexiglass screening. Our college-wide return-to-work committee is working to refine plans for limited face-to-face instruction, and our college continues to consult with employee bargaining units for the good of all.

## 2018 respiratory therapy grad awards two \$500 scholarships

Edy Antonio Jr., a 2018 respiratory therapy graduate, is enjoying the career and life he hoped for, and he has immediately invested his good fortune to help other students just like him. Antonio works full-time at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and part-time at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital (SVMH), and he and his fiancé have a 6-month-old son.

But he isn't simply feeling proud of his accomplishments and looking to the future. This first-generation college student from Salinas has funded an annual scholarship program for other respiratory care students at Hartnell, presenting the first two \$500 checks earlier this month.

"I had a lot of mentors growing up, and they said, 'If you're able to, the best thing you can do is always give back to those who have helped you get to where you are,'" Antonio said. "So that's what I'm trying to do here, is give back to the program that got me to where I am, that got me to where I'm financially stable and happy with my career."

The 2021 scholarship recipients, selected by Antonio, are first-year student Andrea Figueroa Pizano (pictured with Antonio) and second-year student Lizette Mota Ramirez.

Hartnell Respiratory Care instructor Emily Brandt said that while Antonio's decision to fund a scholarship is a remarkable first, it reflects the strong connection many respiratory therapy graduates feel to the program, as well as their understanding of what a difference they



can make as professionals. Even during the pandemic, she said, that bond has extended to graduates wanting to meet with current students via Zoom.

"They want to tell them, 'I've realized the importance of some of the things we were doing in the program even more now that I'm out working,'" Brandt said.

## **Centennial Lookback: César Chávez made history at Hartnell with rally on verge of farmworkers strike**

As Hartnell joins in the statewide observance of César Chávez's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday by closing its campuses on March 31, it's an appropriate time to remember one of the most historic events in the college's 100-year history.

On Aug. 2, 1970, a crowd of 3,000 watched Chávez lead a United Farm Workers rally from a makeshift stage on the edge of the Hartnell football field. Less than a week before, the UFW had won the right to represent Filipino and Mexican farmworkers through a bitter five-year grape strike and boycott in the Central Valley.

What became known as the Salad Bowl strike, considered the largest farm worker strike in United States history, officially began Aug. 23 with a meeting at Hartnell of representatives of workers from 27 of the largest lettuce-producing ranches. The strike helped make Chávez and his words a touchstone of pride and inspiration for generations of Mexican Americans.



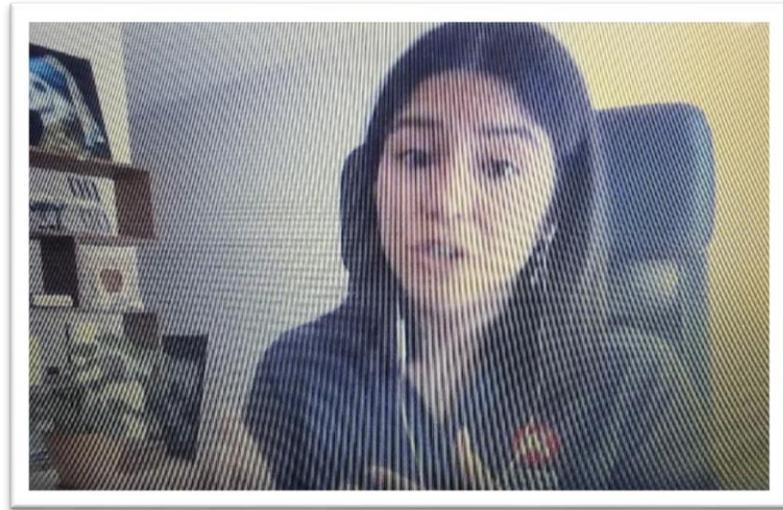
The labor protest lasted seven months, ending with an agreement between the Teamsters and the UFW, reaffirming field workers' right to organize. That December, Chávez was held for 21 days in the Monterey County Jail, less than a half-mile from Hartnell, where he received separate visits from both Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and Ethel Kennedy, widow of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Read the [full story](#).

## **Latina engineer shares work on Mars rover with youngsters**

Students in the NASA Academy at Mission Park School in Salinas capped their eight-Saturday spring program with a March 13 presentation from Ashley Curiel, a mechanical engineer who is part of the Mars Perseverance rover team at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. The opportunity was provided by Hartnell's K-12 STEM program.

Curiel is a Southern California resident and native of Mexico who attended community college in Yuma, Ariz., and went on to complete her master's in mechanical engineering at Arizona State University in 2020.

She described her role in design of the rover's mechanical arm, which it is using to sample Martian soil, and answered questions about her favorite planet (Earth), why Pluto is no longer considered a planet and what Perseverance is made of (titanium, aluminum and carbon fiber).



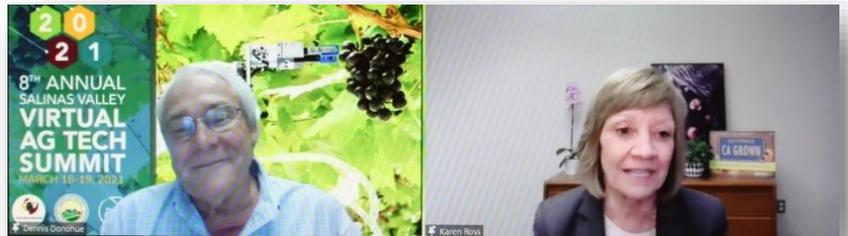
Curiel's main mission on the call was clearly to inspire dozens of students on the Zoom call to dream big about careers in STEM fields.

"I love what I do, she said. "It's pretty amazing because I go to work every day, and we talk about Mars, and we talk about Jupiter as if it's some store at the corner. I have a very unique job that not a lot of people have, so I'm very fortunate and grateful."

## **Innovation can lead the way, Ag Secretary Ross tells summit**

Karen Ross, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, told a March 18 opening night audience for the virtual Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit that innovative problem-solving is itself an essential export of California agriculture – and the fresh produce industry in particular.

"Agriculture, especially California agriculture, is global in nature," Ross said, "and if we can meet the challenges that our own state presents to us, that climate change presents to us, that our water challenges present to us, that our food safety compliance issues present to us – if we can solve those here, we are the living laboratory, and we will also continue being the innovative ideas that are exported around the world."



"Part of what is driving entrepreneurship and innovation are the very challenges that we're presented. We've got the university system and we've got the venture capital, and we've got the people who are part of legacy families."

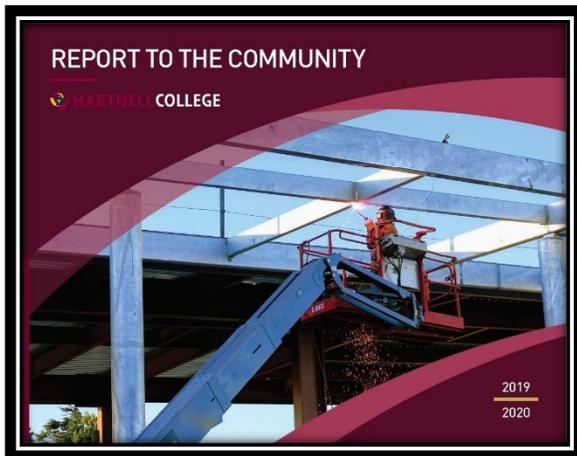
Ross shared her admiration and optimism via Zoom during a dialogue with Dennis Donohue, director of the Western Growers for Innovation and Technology. The kick-off to the two-day virtual summit also featured remarks by Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez and Miguel Gomez (pictured), a 2020 graduate of Hartnell in agricultural production. The college co-presented the summit with Western Growers.



Gomez, a Salinas native, is enrolled in a new soil and plant sciences bachelor's degree program at Cal State Monterey Bay while also working full-time in sales and operations for Taylor Farms, where he completed an internship while at Hartnell. He shared the following advice with the many high school and college students who were watching the program online:

"Don't fear change. Always raise your hand and say, 'Here, yeah, I'll do that. And anything else?' And above all, be willing to learn. You don't have to get it right, you just have to get it going."

## 2019-20 Report to the Community includes pre- and post-pandemic



The 2019-20 Hartnell College Report to the Community was shared with the college community on March 17 and is also being published in a print edition that will be mailed to donors and other friends of the college.

The report includes profiles of many of students and employees, as well as sections focusing on student success, academics, facilities, athletics and the foundation.

Spanning July 2019 through June 2020, it features activities and accomplishments before the pandemic hit last March, as well highlighting Hartnell's immediate

response to the pandemic. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Scott Faust, director of communications, marketing and public relations, offered his sincere thanks to the many individuals who contributed to the report through interviews, research, program information, photography and proofreading. A 2020-21 report is planned for publication this fall.

## Centers in Soledad, King City receive finishing touches

The completion of such final touches as polishing the floors signals that the new Soledad Education Center and expanded King City Education Center are essentially complete, awaiting the easing of the pandemic for their public debut and active use by Hartnell students and Salinas Valley communities. (Pictured: new courtyard at King City center)



At the Castroville center, framing work has advanced to sheathing of walls and placement of large beams for roof framing, as well as rough-in for plumbing and electrical.

Wall framing is complete for the Center for Nursing and Health Sciences on the Main Campus, and building openings are being prepped for installation of windows, the entry façade and other exterior finishes.

The construction is funded through the Measure T bond, approved by district voters in 2016.

## Ana Gonzalez has begun new role as director of the Soledad center

Since December, Ana Gonzalez has been in a new role as director of academic affairs for South County Education Services and will serve as director of the new Soledad Education Center. She also is continuing to oversee noncredit English as a Second Language courses and the Rising Scholars Program for incarcerated students.

“Being a first-generation student growing up in the small town of Castroville, I know how far and unattainable college can feel,” Gonzalez said. “My goal is to serve the whole family and make higher education accessible.”

Courses offered at Soledad will allow students to attain a degree for transfer, certificate and/or build on their English skills. Support services will be available in English and Spanish for enrollment support, admissions, financial aid, academic counseling, tutoring and more. Special programs such as TRiO, EOPS and the Teacher Pathway will also be present.



The center will also serve as the hub for Rising Scholars, which serves currently incarcerated housed at the two prisons located in Soledad as well as the Monterey County Jail and Youth

Center. Plus, the community room will be available for local groups and agencies to meet and network. Courses and services will be available remotely starting this summer.

## Panther Pledge opens door to Hartnell for 2021 grads

Hartnell is inviting Salinas Valley high school seniors to sign up for the “Panther Prep Pledge” program by April 16 in order to complete priority registration for Fall 2021 classes.



By pledging online to attend Hartnell this fall, students will receive an individual online appointment with an academic counselor so they are ready to register for classes on April 30. Without priority registration, they may find that courses they want are already full.

The pledge culminates outreach that began last October at 19 school sites across the Hartnell Community College District. During a series of online workshops, the College Pathways Team led students through the Steps to Success, which include applying for admission, placement for English and math, online orientation and setting up a Hartnell email account.

Since 2013, Hartnell has held Panther Prep Day, a freshman welcome event to enroll and engage seniors, on its Main Campus in Salinas and its King City Education Center. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the in-person day was adapted to an online pledge, and more than 1,400 students participated last year.

The purpose of the Panther Pledge is to help students continue their education after high school and either go on to complete a four-year degree or prepare to begin an immediate career in a technical field.

## ASHC’s Panther Press newsletter seeks to inform and engage students

The Associated Students of Hartnell College on March 16 published Volume 1 of a new monthly online student newsletter, the Panther Press, with a goal of informing students and the wider college community about event, club activities and student engagement, as well as showcasing artwork and creative writing.

The publication is edited and organized by students and for students, said ASHC President Jane Hernandez Sanchez in an introductory letter. “Social distancing has created a barrier between academic progress and student activities,” she wrote. “However, with this newsletter we are hoping to minimize those barriers.”



The premier issue included a reminder about the in-person study area, open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Gymnasium, and the establishment of a new student group in support the President's Task Force on Race & Equity. Also included was a poem on racism by student Isis Martinez and a pandemic-year reflection by King City High School senior Joshua Riley.

## **TPP and MCOE event highlight bilingual teaching, learning**

Hartnell's MAESTROs and Teacher Pathway Program (TPP) joined with the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) on March 11 to present a virtual community spotlight on bilingual education.

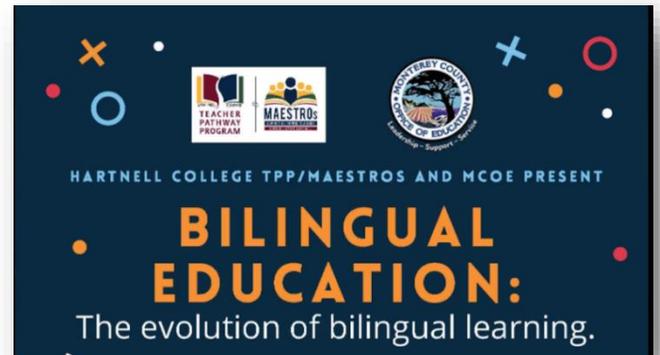
Leading the discussion was MCOE Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Ernesto Vela. He has more than 20 years of educational and administrative experience at the school-site, district and county office levels and most recently held the position of senior director of Migrant Region 16.

Dr. Vela spoke on the importance of multilingual education, the history of bilingual education and teacher recruitment, and he concluded with a summary of what's at stake for academic development, student identity and access in a global economy.

"The session was engaging and very informative," said TPP/MAESTROs Coordinator Jesus Clemente. "We look forward to additional sessions shining a light on educational topics and we hope you are able to join us."

## **Western Stage launches new Alumni Symposium Series**

Last summer, The Western Stage theatre company at Hartnell held its first ever online "Forum Series," open to students and community members, featuring presenters from various entertainment and arts industries, including casting, voice acting, photography and Broadway-style dance. All shared a common experience: They are former Western Stage company members who have gone on to find success in the arts.



**in the Meantime**  
in Between Time

The Western Stage  
2021

**Next Up ONLINE:  
ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM SERIES**

Talk with past Western Stage Company Members, now industry professionals, about their journey from TWS to employment and what it takes to be successful while navigating in the time of Coronavirus.

**FREE** for Hartnell students & TWS Subscribers  
**General \$5:** \$5 (Hartnell), \$25 (Full series)

<b>James RODDY</b> Video Editor & Filmmaker West & Cap, Los Angeles	<b>Patrick MUSNI</b> Properties Manager Curtis Theater, San Francisco	<b>Michael ALVAREZ</b> International, and interdisciplinary, Latin theatre director and visual artist	<b>John CALDON</b> Managing Director SF War Memorial & Performing Arts Center	<b>Deb HIETT</b> L.A. based Actor Playwright, Screenwriter	<b>Samantha PETROVICH</b> Design Engineer Pixar, San Francisco	<b>M. William SHINER</b> General Stage Manager Drapers Le Paris Club, UAE
SAT. 3/27, 11 AM	WED. 3/31, 6 PM	WED. 4/7, 6 PM	WED. 4/14, 6 PM	WED. 4/21, 6 PM	WED. 4/28, 6 PM	SUN. 5/2, 10 AM

Tickets: [WesternStage.com/Tickets/](https://WesternStage.com/Tickets/) Series info & join our mailing list: [WesternStage@hartnell.edu](mailto:WesternStage@hartnell.edu)

A second iteration of this opportunity, the “Alumni Symposium Series,” has begun this spring, with seven presentations through May 2. This round of interactive Q&A’s features professionals in stage management, properties, design engineering, film acting and screenwriting, filmmaking and editing, theater management and international/Latinx theatre. All the alums will share their stories of how they went from TWS to industry employment and will share tips and tricks of their trade, including how to keep working as an artist during the pandemic.

Sessions are free for Hartnell students and TWS subscribers. General tickets are just \$5 per session or \$25 for the entire series. The programs are listed below in “Upcoming Events,” and details are available [online](#).

## In the News

**Mass vaccination clinics launch throughout the Salinas Valley:**

<https://salinasvalleytribune.com/mass-vaccination-clinics-launch-throughout-salinas-valley/>

**Coyote baseball blanks Hastings 3-0:** <https://salinapost.com/posts/b92b82a8-5085-46db-9bb0-b8f4002e011b>

## Upcoming Events

**Hartnell College Governing Board – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Virtual Death Café**

**Hospice of Santa Cruz County with Hartnell nursing students**

10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 31

[Register](#) (via Zoom)

**César Chávez Birthday**

**College closed; no classes**

Wednesday, March 31



**The Western Stage: Alumni Symposium Series  
Patrick Musni – Propmaster**

6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

<https://westernstage.com/alumni-symposium-series/>

**Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)**

6 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>

**Pop-Up Food Pantry**

12 p.m.

Friday, April 2

Main Campus Parking Structure

**Musical Extravaganza: Instrumental and vocal groups**

6 p.m.

Friday, April 2

YouTube: Link to come

**Governing Board Meeting – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 6

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>

**CBEST Prep Workshops – Math (TPP/MAESTROs)**

3 p.m.

Tuesday, April 6

[RSVP](#) (via Zoom)

**Ag & Industrial Supply Chain**

**Virtual Career and Job Fair**

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7

[Registration](#)

**CBEST Prep Workshops -- Reading/Writing (hosted by TPP/MAESTROs)**

3 p.m.

Thursday, April 8

[RSVP](#) (via Zoom)

**The Western Stage: Alumni Symposium Series**

**Michael Alvarez – Latinx Theatre Director and Visual Artist**

6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7

<https://westernstage.com/alumni-symposium-series/>

**Public Policy & Social Justice  
Virtual Career & Job Fair**

1 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 14  
[Registration](#)

**The Western Stage: Alumni Symposium Series  
John Caldon – Managing Director**

6 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 14  
<https://westernstage.com/alumni-symposium-series/>

**Educator in Residence: Ben Percy  
“Super-Powered Storytelling”**

10 a.m.  
Friday, April 16  
Info: [www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html](http://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html)

**Pop-Up Food Pantry**

12 p.m.  
Friday, April 16  
Main Campus Parking Structure

**CBEST Prep Workshops (TPP/MAESTROS)**

10 a.m.  
Saturday, April 17  
[RSVP](#) via Zoom

**Governing Board Meeting – Development**

5 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 20  
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>

**Health & Wellness  
Virtual Career & Job Fair**

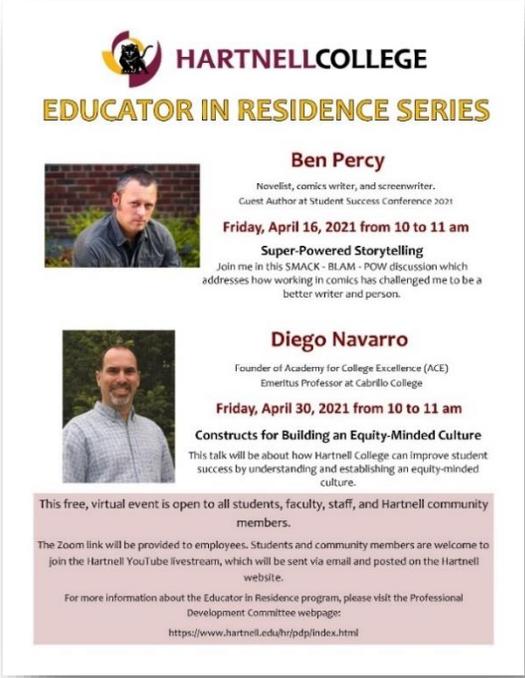
1 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 21  
[Registration](#)

**The Western Stage: Alumni Symposium Series  
Deb Hiatt – Actress, Playwright & Screenwriter**

6 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 21  
<https://westernstage.com/alumni-symposium-series/>

**CBEST Prep Workshops (TPP/MAESTROS)**

10 a.m.  
Saturday, April 24  
[RSVP](#) (via Zoom)



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**  
**EDUCATOR IN RESIDENCE SERIES**

**Ben Percy**  
Novelist, comics writer, and screenwriter.  
Guest Author at Student Success Conference 2021  
**Friday, April 16, 2021 from 10 to 11 am**  
**Super-Powered Storytelling**  
Join me in this SMACK - BLAM - POW discussion which addresses how working in comics has challenged me to be a better writer and person.

**Diego Navarro**  
Founder of Academy for College Excellence (ACE)  
Emeritus Professor at Cabrillo College  
**Friday, April 30, 2021 from 10 to 11 am**  
**Constructs for Building an Equity-Minded Culture**  
This talk will be about how Hartnell College can improve student success by understanding and establishing an equity-minded culture.

This free, virtual event is open to all students, faculty, staff, and Hartnell community members.  
The Zoom link will be provided to employees. Students and community members are welcome to join the Hartnell YouTube livestream, which will be sent via email and posted on the Hartnell website.  
For more information about the Educator in Residence program, please visit the Professional Development Committee webpage:  
<https://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html>

**Educator in Residence: Diego Navarro**  
**"Constructs for Building an Equity-Minded Culture"**

10 a.m.

Friday, April 30

Info: [www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html](http://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html)

**The Western Stage: Alumni Symposium Series**  
**Matthew Shiner – General Stage Manager**

6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

<https://westernstage.com/alumni-symposium-series/>

**Governing Board Meeting – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5

Steinbeck Hall

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>

**Western Food Safety Summit**

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5-6

<https://thewesternfoodsafetysummit.com/>

**Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)**

6 p.m.

Thursday, May 6

Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>