

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:

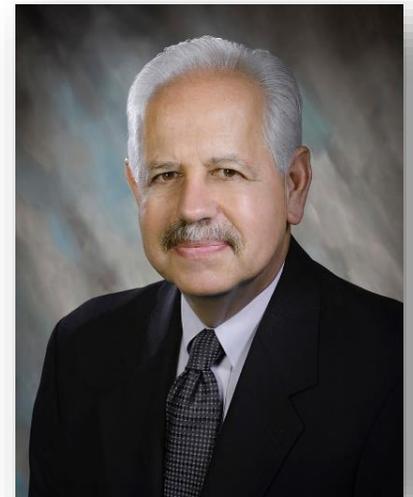
The President's Weekly Report to the Community is being presented twice-monthly publication while the volume of news is slowed by COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

Hartnell continues a phased return to in-person learning and student life

We continue to make significant progress on our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the leadership of Hartnell College Governing Board, the commitment of our employees and the courage and determination of our students. As we all know by now, the public health situation can shift rapidly, and we are responding as quickly as possible to maintain safety and restore normalcy amid a changing environment.

On April 23, Hartnell hosted a vaccination clinic on our Main Campus that served 838 people. Also, since April 19, our testing vendor Virus Geeks has offered free public coronavirus testing on the Main Campus, with dedicated time for students and employees. Finally, we have added additional information and regular updates to our coronavirus information [webpages](#).

At the Governing Board's April 20 meeting, we announced a plan to offer up to 20% of classes through in-person instruction during the summer term that starts June 7 and up to 50% of classes in-person during the fall term that starts Aug. 30. Likewise, we continue to offer an in-person study area and are moving toward limited in-person student services by appointment. We also expect to offer some in-person services in our new Soledad and expanded King City education centers by June.



All of this is being undertaken with the utmost focus on the safety of our students and employees, in keeping with guidance from county, state and federal guidance and through consultation with our Return to Campus Working Group and employee bargaining units. On a statewide level, Gov. Gavin Newsom's has established the goal of reopening the state by June 15, with continued public mask usage and other safety precautions.

Hartnell's many steps include providing ample access to person protective equipment (PPE), tracking of individuals of on-campus, setting up plexiglass barriers within public reception areas, installation of building air filters that exceed required standards and identification of routes in and out of campus buildings to promote social distancing.

Although we remain deeply concerned about those students who have stepped away from their education because of the challenges of online learning and pandemic life in general, recent surveys suggest that our current students are finding overall academic success and feeling generally satisfied with online student services, while remaining cautious about face-to-face instruction.

Hartnell was already moving toward more online instruction and services before the pandemic, but this situation has accelerated our use of available tools for serving students through the internet. I expect that trend to continue, even as we strive to restore the obvious benefits of classroom learning and on-campus student life.

Here are additional details about these developments:

On-campus vaccine clinic held April 23

About 900 people, including Hartnell students and employees and community members, signed up to receive the Moderna vaccine for COVID-19 during an all-day clinic presented by Natividad Medical Center in the new and old gymnasiums on Main Campus (pictured). The opportunity was widely communicated through college email, Canvas and social media, as well as through media reports on KSBW-TV and elsewhere.



Free COVID-19 testing available in Lot 4

Virus Geeks, a third-party service provider (pictured), on April 19 began conducting free drive-through COVID-19 testing on Hartnell's Main Campus in parking Lot 4, by Building J and the tennis courts. The testing will be available from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until further notice.

The hour between 9 and 10 a.m. is designated for Hartnell students and employees, who can arrive in their vehicles or on foot. Test recipients are notified of results within 24-72 hours. Individuals can be tested regardless of whether they are experiencing any [COVID-like symptoms](#).

Students adapt but remain cautious

Recent surveys by the Office of Institutional Planning, Research & Effectiveness in partnership with the Associated Students of Hartnell College have found increasing student success in adapting to online teaching and student services and continued concerns about the safety of in-person instruction.

Responses from 942 students who responded to an online survey earlier this month, received earlier this month found that 77% said adapting to online courses has been “easy” or “not bad,” up from 75% who said that in a similar survey conducted in spring 2020. The new respondents also reported fewer problems with online course materials, essential services and course assessments than they did in a survey conducted last spring. Three-quarters are now positive regarding the availability of virtual help desk support, online counseling and instructors’ adjustments to support online instruction. Students said their greatest challenges with the new format were online communication, personal distraction/ time management and mental health. Complete results are available [here](#).



A separate new survey examined student perceptions and attitudes on a return to in-person learning. It found that, at least for now, just 38% definitely want face-to-face instruction, and 57% of 743 respondents said they were either slightly or very uncomfortable with returning to campus in the near future. They cited personal and family health as their greatest concerns. Students voiced strong support (96%) for use of masks by themselves and others on campus, and 76% said they either had or would receive the COVID-19 vaccination, even if not required to do so. Those results are also available [here](#).

Rising Scholars program celebrates first incarcerated student graduate

Hartnell’s Rising Scholars program for incarcerated students has announced its first graduate, Casey Brown (pictured), who in December completed an associate degree in general studies.

Brown reports that his academic accomplishment will increase the likelihood that he will be released on parole from the Correctional Training Facility (CTF) in Soledad following an Aug. 3 hearing. He began taking Hartnell classes in Fall 2018. He hopes to continue work on a bachelor’s degree in social welfare and ultimately pursue a doctorate in social policy, with the goal of becoming a teacher.

In a letter of thanks to Brenda Jones, college pathways coordinator for Rising Scholars, Jones, he wrote, “What your program gave me was a picture of my potential. I cannot tell you how immensely invaluable that is or how significantly the Rising Scholars program changed my life.”

Jones said Brown was the first person she met after becoming Rising Scholars coordinator in June 2019, and he became her “unofficial assistant” in the classroom that day.



"There are so many obstacles that prevent an incarcerated student from obtaining a degree," she said. "But he did it, and he did it under the circumstances of a global pandemic."

The Rising Scholars program is supporting over 500 students this semester at CTF, Salinas Valley State Prison, Monterey County Jail and through concurrent enrollment at Monterey County Juvenile Hall.

Mental Health First Aid certification now available in online format

Back by popular demand, and appropriately necessary amid the challenges of COVID-19, Hartnell is again offering Mental Health First Aid Certification training to all employees.

The courses are being offered in a new online format that includes a two-hour independent module and a six-hour virtual training session with trainers. There are two options: a full-day course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 30 (with a one-hour lunch break) or a two-part session from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 11-12. Sign up [here](#) for limited student openings.

Said Augustine Nevarez, director of student affairs for student life, who announced the courses, "Let's work together and support those in need of mental health support."



Volleyball player Tennant receives scholarship at U. of St. Katherine

Hartnell volleyball setter Maxine "Max" Tennant was surrounded by family and friends in the lobby of the Main Gym on April 12 as she signed a letter of intent to attend and compete for University of St. Katherine in San Marcos. She will receive a scholarship for the 2021-22 school year. She is pictured, center, with family.

Tennant, a graduate of North Salinas High School, plans to study business at St. Katherine, with an ambition to succeed her late father in the catering business at some point. After high school, she traveled to Kansas to play for Neosho College but returned to Salinas after her freshman year. Hartnell Head Coach Jamie Pedroza invited her to join the Panthers squad.



Pedroza described Tennant's ability to "survive and thrive" as a student-athlete after the mid-season death of her father as "one of the most amazing journeys myself professionally as a coach has ever seen."

"She could have stopped at any point, and she didn't," Pedroza said. "She kept on preserving and pushing. This girl works very hard. She works day in, day out. ... Coaching her has been pure pleasure."

Tennant said her time at Hartnell "was a great experience," and she thanked Pedroza and the rest of the "amazing" coaching staff.

Coach Zepeda shared pride in selections to All-Decade XC teams

Cross Country Head Coach Christopher Zepeda has announced that former Hartnell runner Diego Leon has been named to the 2010-19 Northern California [All-Decade Men's Cross Country Team](#) by the California Community College Athletic Association. (Leon is pictured third from the right.)

Leon, who attended Hartnell in 2013-14, was Northern California champion in 2014 and became Hartnell's second ever individual state champion in his final cross country season as a Panther.



Zepeda, who participated in the selection process, also shared that four former women's team members were named to the CCCAA's [All-Decade Second Team](#) for 2010-19. The four and their years at Hartnell are: Malena Grover (2014-15), Brandi Hobson (2013-14), Rachel Shimabukuro (2014-15) and Daniel Salazar (2018-19). Selected for Honorable Mention were Monica Ruelas (2017-18) and Arlene Diaz Leal (2017-18).

Former technology dean Dr. Zahi Atallah appointed college president in Illinois

Dr. Zahi Atallah, former Hartnell Dean of advanced technology and applied technology at Hartnell, on July 1 will become president of Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill. He previously was vice president of academic affairs at Blackhawk Technical College in his native Wisconsin, after having been at Hartnell from 2011-17.

Dr. Atallah continues to express a strong belief in the power of community college education. "You can earn a degree and transfer, or you can earn a degree or certificate in a career and technical field," he said. "There's workforce ed, and there are a lot of classes that people can take just for fun. It is phenomenal thing. We really change lives."



Instructor Theodosian to teach workshops on Audacity software for student instruction

The Salinas Valley Arts & Innovation Hub in May will offer a series of free online workshops in use of the free audio software program Audacity, which allows users to record live audio and prepare other audio for computer playback.

The sessions are scheduled for 7-8 p.m. on May 10, 12, 17 and 19 and will be taught by Constantine Theodosian, a musician and Hartnell music faculty member. Four hours of Flex Credit have been approved for faculty who complete the series.

The Zoom link is: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97005952799>



In the News

Clipboard: Motz, Martinez win Race The Commons Series for March:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/04/11/clipboard-motz-martinez-win-race-the-commons-series-for-march/>

Name Dropping | Bay Federal names scholarship recipients:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/04/11/name-dropping-bay-federal-names-scholarship-recipients/>

Upcoming Events

Pop-Up Food Pantry

12 p.m.

Friday, April 30
Main Campus Parking Structure

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

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 4
Steinbeck Hall
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>

Western Food Safety Summit

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5-6
<https://thewesternfoodsafetysummit.com/>

[POETIC VOICES](#)

Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)

6 p.m.
Thursday, May 6
Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>

Pop-Up Food Pantry

12 p.m.
Friday, May 14
Main Campus Parking Structure

Governing Board Meeting – Development

5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18
Steinbeck Hall
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>

Governing Board Meeting – Regular

5 p.m.
Tuesday, June 1
Steinbeck Hall
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/hccd/Board.nsf/Public>