



# President's Weekly Report



## 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.

## Weekly Report is weekly once again

Beginning with this edition, the President's Weekly Report will resume its weekly schedule for the first time since April 2020. Please send your news items to [sfaust@hartnell.edu](mailto:sfaust@hartnell.edu).

## Fall classes bring students back to campuses, with COVID caution

The much anticipated start of the Fall 2021 semester and a return to at least 50 percent in-person instruction college-wide finally arrived last week, with multiple reminders of the need for continued precautions amid COVID-19's emerging Delta variant.

"It's going to be a great fall semester, hopefully a great academic year, and we have challenges, but we'll get through them together," said Dr. Raúl Rodriguez, interim superintendent/president, as he opened the online Convocation on Aug. 27.



Hartnell Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez (pictured) also spoke at Convocation, saying to all employees, "I want to thank you wholeheartedly on behalf of so many students who I've had the honor of speaking with who have shared countless stories about how they were able to either connect with their faculty member or get the support they needed."

"... For the students you get to come into contact with, please remember that they too are coming to school with so many challenges laying on their shoulders," she continued. "So we



need to be mindful. Just like we've had our own challenges and have had to figure out our own familial situations with our own kids, just like that our young adult and returning students are dealing with those same situations."

Associated Students of Hartnell College (ASHC) President Jane Hernandez said during a Sept. 1 Town Hall on a possible employee-student vaccination requirement that she has been impressed by everything the college has done to minimize the risk for students and employees during its gradual return to in-person learning and campus life.

"In all honesty, Hartnell is not meant to be an online community college," Hernandez said. "It's an in-person community college. That's how we build relationships and socialize and build up leadership skills, by being in-person."

The start of classes on Aug. 30 included the first face-to-face instruction ever at both the new Soledad Education Center and the newly expanded King City Education Center, where hundreds of students began using facilities funded through Bond Measure T.

On the Main Campus, the Student Center was again bustling with students (pictured above) studying and enjoying food and drinks from The Grille, where they (and employees) received a 10% purchase discount when showing their use of the [Titan self-screening app](#). Also in the Student Center, ASHC and the Office of Student Life presented a new Week of Welcome activity each day, including the Town Hall, a Resource Fair on Aug. 31 and a Club Rush on Sept. 2. Twenty-four administrators and staff served in shifts at a tent to welcome and assist students as they headed onto campus.

The opening night of classes at the Soledad center on Aug. 30 attracted media coverage from [KION-TV/Telemundo](#), including an interview with center director Ana Gonzales who said, "We're really happy and just excited for this day." First-year instructor Monica Carrasco was teaching the first class (pictured), a Student Success Seminar (COU 1), and she told her students, "Today is the first day of a new chapter in your life, and it starts with Hartnell College."



Here are a few more scenes from the last couple of weeks, with descriptions below:



Clockwise from above left: 1.) Preschoolers began the fall session at the Child Development Center on Aug. 23, with reduced enrollment to promote physical distancing. 2.) Women's Basketball team members and fellow student-athletes attended a welcome barbecue and information fair on Aug. 26 outside the athletics fieldhouse (Building P). 3.) Tables adjacent to Building D have proven popular with students, more so than before the transformation of the Central Plaza. 4.) The Alisal Campus and Career Technical Education (CTE) were represented at the Aug. 31 Resource Fair in the Student Center by, from left, Belen Gonzales, director of job and internship placement, student worker Citlali Alvarez and Celia Anderson, CTE program assistant II. 5.) A crew began preparing the Starbucks store in the Student Center to reopen on Sept. 14.



# Convocation spotlights commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

With a theme of "Students at the Center of a Culturally Sensitive College," the 2021 Convocation was a daylong series of live presentations and breakout sessions with a special emphasis on student success through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion. About 320 faculty and staff joined the event through Zoom. Other topics included the new and expanded south Monterey County education centers, a streamlined professional development system for all Hartnell employees, the college's new equity-oriented research dashboards and experiential learning.



The day began with a session on "Culturally Relevant Course Design" presented by faculty and staff members on a Cultural Curriculum Audit Team that met over the summer. The presentation included ways to make syllabi and Canvas pages more welcoming, promote active learning and make content more culturally relevant, such as including a TED talk-style video featuring women of color in the field of computer and information literacy.

Dr. Raúl Rodriguez, interim superintendent/president (pictured left), used his opening remarks to make cautionary note of a recent incident of racism at Salinas High School and emphasize Hartnell's own need to be "vigilant" as it strives to become a truly anti-racist institution.

"When we talk about equity, talk about diversity and talk about inclusion," Dr. Rodríguez said, "we're talking about building a culture of caring here at Hartnell that cares about every single student and helps them to move forward and be successful in their goals, whatever those goals might be."

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson (pictured above) said post-event evaluations from Convocation participants' showed many are excited about using the information they learned from a variety of presenters and topics.

"We appreciate all of the presenters who made this event a success," Dr. Wilkinson said, "including our superintendent/president and our Governing Board president."



# New Meta-Major webpages guide students toward career interests



Hartnell has taken another big step forward in its College Redesign work to further student success by publishing [webpages](#) in support of Meta-Majors, which are collections of academic majors within a broad career area. These were developed by Hartnell faculty and staff over the past two years, following the lead of other California Community Colleges in an initiative commonly known as Guided Pathways.

The main Meta-Majors webpage includes an explanatory video (pictured), summarized in this [shorter version](#). There are five Meta-Majors at Hartnell: Arts & Languages; Agriculture, Business & Industries, Health Sciences; Social Sciences; and STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology & Math). Determining a Meta-Major will help students choose classes that relate to a specific degree — achieving their academic goals as efficiently as possible.

The key to using Meta-Majors is the [Program Mapper](#), which provides career data, academic program descriptions and easy-to-use guides to course requirements for degrees and certificates within each Meta-Major. The Meta-Majors webpages also include suggested steps for each Meta-Major, such as when to look for an internship or join student clubs.

Said Carla Johnson, dean of student affairs for student success, in a Sept. 3 email, "We share these webpages with you in the hopes that you will explore them and apply the Meta-Majors concept to help Hartnell students navigate options related to transferring to a four-year university or immediately beginning a career."



## Student is part of winning team of NASA college scholars



Based on her success in a six-week NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program (NCAS) this past winter, current Hartnell astronomy and physics student Ivon Tapia was invited to join an online competition from July 19-29 – and her team was among the winners.

Tapia, who in May received her Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts, has chosen to pursue her recently discovered passion for space science while also attending Cal State Monterey Bay, with the immediate goal of becoming a physics teacher. She is a mother of three school-aged children and works full-time as a correctional supervising cook at the Salinas Valley State Prison near Soledad. Two of her younger siblings are also Hartnell students.

Tapia was chosen for the “virtual onsite experience” in July based on her earlier performance in the NCAS program. It is funded in part by the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP), which is committed to engaging underrepresented and underserved students in STEM fields. Astronomy instructor Dr. Pimol Moth encouraged Tapia to pursue these opportunities.

For the competition, Tapia’s 11-member team assigned one another responsibilities such as scheduling, budget and outreach as they designed a mission to send a 3D printer to the Moon that would create habitats for four astronauts. Her role was public affairs officer. The team won first place among the four teams within its group.

Tapia said her favorite part of the competition was the “experience of meeting so many different people from different places” within NASA via Zoom and learning about their personal and professional journeys.

## Football opens at home on Sept. 11, as soccer, VB, XC squads show promise

**Football:** Following postponement of its first game since 2019, set for Sept. 4 against Yuba, the Hartnell Football team will open at home against Foothill at 1 p.m. on Sept. 11 in Rabobank Stadium in Salinas. Hartnell employees and students are admitted free with a college ID.

**Men’s Soccer:** The Panthers began their season with three straight wins, including two home victories against Irvine Valley (2-1) on Sept. 3 (pictured) and Fresno (4-2) on Sept. 4 to claim the title in the annual Hartnell Tournament. The team opened on the road at Clovis (2-0) on Aug. 27. They will next host Marin at 4 p.m. on Sept. 10. Admission is free to all home soccer and volleyball games and cross country meets.

**Women’s Soccer:** The team is 1-2, notching its first win on Sept. 4 against Santa Barbara in the New Balance Showcase at Ventura College. Their next two games are at home, against Canada at 4 p.m. on Sept. 8 and Ventura at 12 p.m. on Sept. 11.



**Volleyball:** The Panther women beat Cuesta Tournament (3-1) on Sept. 3 during the four-date Hartnell Classic series, bringing their season record to 1-4 as they head into a four-game road trip that will take them to De Anza, Sierra (facing Shasta and Sierra) and finally Gavilan in Gilroy on Sept. 15. The team is home on Sept. 17 to face Los Medanos at 1 p.m. and Redwoods at 5 p.m. Catch their home games in person in the Hartnell Gym or via a new live stream on the [Hartnell Athletics YouTube channel](#) (pictured, Sept. 1 vs. Fresno).

**Cross Country:** The men’s and women’s cross country teams dominated at their opening meet, the Tour de Cuesta, on Aug. 27 in San Luis Obispo. The men’s team easily outdistanced

the other four schools, said Head Coach Chris Zepeda. Leading the men were sophomores Isaac Gensel, Francisco Maciel and Esteban Deniz. The Hartnell women placed five runners in the top eight, led by the race winner, sophomore Valeria Gomez-Lozano. Their next meet is the Norcal Preview on Sept. 10. The Panthers will host the Toro Park Invitational on Oct. 1.

## Softball coach Casey Watt continues family tradition

As Hartnell's new head softball coach, Casey Watt has stepped into shoes that her father, Andy Watt, filled for 28 years until his retirement in 2018.

She proudly counts her dad among a handful of prized coaching mentors and was just 3 days old when she attended her first Panthers softball game. She is pictured on Sept. 2 with her parents, Cathy and Andy.

"I've been able to learn from some great coaches along my way, one of them being my dad, who I've been able to help coach," Watt said. "I've been around coaching for my entire life."

After helping San Jose State University win two softball titles as a four-season outfielder who hit .303, she was an assistant at Menlo College from 2017-19 before rejoining the Spartans staff in 2019-20. She has a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from SJSU with an emphasis in physical education is working on a master's.

"We feel extremely fortunate to have Casey join our head coaching staff," said Dan Teresa, dean of academic affairs for athletics, physical education and health. "She has enormous passion for softball, and she obviously grew up with the game."



## Castroville center gets exterior stucco as hardware is added to nursing interior

Two more Hartnell construction projects funded by Bond Measure T, the Castroville Education Center and Center for Nursing & Health Sciences, continue to advance toward completion.



In Castroville, the stucco finish coat has been applied to the exterior (pictured left) and skilled trade workers are installing electrical, mechanical, plumbing systems as well interior finishes. Curb, gutter and paving work are close to completion as well. The center is scheduled for completion by early 2022.

In the nursing building on Main Campus, exterior stairs and final outside trim are nearly complete, and finishes are being applied throughout the



interior (pictured right), including doors, doorframes, lights and ceiling registers. The center is scheduled for completion later this fall.

## Foster care program joins in annual school supply giveaway



The Foster and Kinship Care Education program at Hartnell partnered with the Foster Parent Association to provide a Foster Parent Appreciation/Backpack and School Supply Giveaway on July 31 at Spreckels Memorial Park.

The annual event distributed 150 backpacks filled with school supplies for ages preschool to 12th grade. In addition, families received fresh produce and dry goods from the Food Bank of Monterey County; each child received a bag with arts and crafts; and each family received pizza and breadsticks to go. Families were invited to participate in person or had the option to drive up.

## In the News

### Hartnell not letting small roster derail its goals:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/08/25/college-football-hartnell-not-letting-small-roster-derail-its-goals/>

### Hartnell hosts first classes at the new Soledad center:

<https://kion546.com/news/2021/08/30/hartnell-college-hosts-first-classes-at-the-new-soledad-center/>

## Upcoming Events

### Hartnell Governing Board – regular meeting

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 7

Alisal Campus, 1752 E. Alisal St., Salinas

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/95997129124>

### Women's Soccer vs. Canada

4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 8

Hartnell Soccer Field

### Pop-Up Pantry

Friday, Sept. 10

12 p.m.  
Hartnell Parking Structure

**Men's Soccer vs. Marin**

4 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 10  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**Opening for "Six Rooms" solo art exhibition by  
Le Joe**

5 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 10  
Hartnell College Seminar Gallery (Building J)

**The Western Stage: "A Doll's House, Part 2"**

Sept. 10-26  
Studio Theatre (Building K)  
Website:  
<https://www.westernstage.com/adollshousepart2>

**Women's Soccer vs. Ventura**

12 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 11  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**Football vs. Foothill**

1 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 11  
Rabobank Stadium

**Pop-Up Pantry**

Friday, Sept. 17  
12 p.m.  
Hartnell Parking Structure

**Hartnell Governing Board – development meeting**

5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 21  
Steinbeck Hall (Building C, Main Campus)  
Alisal Campus, 1752 E. Alisal St., Salinas

**Hartnell Governing Board – regular meeting**

5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 5  
Soledad Education Center, 1505 Metz Road

**Women's Soccer vs. Sierra**

12 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 17  
Hartnell Soccer Field

*"Six Rooms"*  
by  
**Le Joe**

Solo Exhibition  
September 2021

 Amantecatl Artist  
in Residence  
Alisal Center for the Fine Arts

 ACFA Resident Artist  
**Le Joe**  
[www.lejoearts.com](http://www.lejoearts.com)

 411 Central Ave,  
J Building, Salinas,  
CA 93901

The "Six Rooms" art exhibit embodies an array of emotions interweaving community, agony and inspiration through elements of abstraction, color, and social imagery.

**Opening Night** 

Friday, September 10th  
5:00 pm -7:00 pm

**Hartnell College Seminar Gallery**



**Volleyball vs. Los Medanos/Redwoods**  
1 p.m. (Los Medanos) and 5 p.m. (Redwoods)  
Friday, Sept. 17  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Women's Soccer vs. Allan Hancock**  
2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 21  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**Men's Soccer vs. Allan Hancock**  
4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 21  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**The Western Stage: "The Wizard of Oz"**  
Sept. 24-Oct. 10  
Mainstage Theater (Building K)  
Website: <https://www.westernstage.com/thewizardofoz>

**Football vs. Los Medanos**  
6 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 25  
Rabobank Stadium