Share your news!
The President’s Weekly Report is distributed every Monday and highlights accomplishment, engagement, progress and success for and within the Hartnell College Community. Please send information and photos by each Thursday to sfaust@hartnell.edu.

Board committee is first step toward permanent superintendent/president

The Hartnell Community College District Governing Board has formed an ad hoc board committee to gather information on and identify potential consultants who can assist the board in a search process for a permanent superintendent/president.

At the conclusion of the board’s regular meeting on Sept. 7 at the Alisal Campus, President Erica Padilla-Chavez said trustees Candi DePauw, Alejandra González and Raymond Montemayor will serve on the committee.

Padilla-Chavez said the ad hoc committee will forward potential search firms to the full board for consideration at a future meeting and the board will inform college stakeholders and the wider community about its direction and progress.

The board’s steps to begin a search process are in keeping with California Community College policy, which limits interim appointments for top college leaders to two years. System Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley suspended that time limit last year because of disruptions to hiring caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the waiver expired this June.

Dr. Raúl Rodríguez was appointed interim superintendent/president of Hartnell in July 2020 and will have served in that role for the maximum allowed time in June 2022.
Vaccine mandate vote planned for board’s Sept. 21 meeting

The Hartnell Governing Board completed a first reading of board policies that would require all Hartnell students and employees, including those studying and working remotely, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Governing Board will consider adoption of the policies at a subsequent meeting.

More than half of California Community College districts have already taken such a step. Administrative procedures for Hartnell’s implementation of the vaccination requirements, including religious and medical exemptions, are being developed and will be shared with the college community.

Hartnell continues to require use of masks in all college buildings, as well as social distancing within classrooms. One of strategies to prevent spread of the coronavirus is use of a self-screening computer app called Titan HST before coming onto campus. Daniel Scott, director of public safety and emergency management, said there has been a sharp upswing in use of the app since the fall semester began on Aug. 30. Typically, more than 800 people a day complete the app’s six questions, and that number has reached 1,200. Likewise, Food Service Manager Kenneth Skinner said about 65% of student and employee customers at The Grille in the Student Center are receiving a 10% food and beverage discount by showing their green “passing” screen on Titan.

Soledad proclaims Oct. 23 Higher Learning Awareness Day

The Soledad City Council voted Sept. 1 to proclaim Oct. 23 “Hartnell College Higher Learning Awareness Day,” coinciding with the college’s public Grand Opening Celebration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day at the Soledad Education Center.

Center director Ana Gonzalez appeared before the council, highlighting the launch of in-person classes there this semester, including an especially popular lineup of English as a Second Language courses.

“We have recruited and enlisted another [ESL] instructor, so we will be adding that course next week,” Gonzalez said. “We’re very happy to be serving here in Soledad.”

The Oct. 23 celebration will open with a ribbon cutting, followed by tours and demonstrations and presentation of music and art by Soledad children. A free hot dog and hamburger lunch will be served.
Ethnic studies conference set for Sept. 17-18 at Alisal Campus

The Hartnell Ethnic Studies program will present the Fourth Annual Salinas Valley Ethnic Studies Conference on Sept. 17-18 at the Alisal Campus. Organizers describe the focus as “promoting and developing the academic, civic engagement, advocacy and service skills that will transform and sustain our communities through a critical and culturally responsive approach that values humanity, equity and inclusion.”

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez will deliver a welcome address at 9 a.m. on the first day. Also on the conference agenda are such sessions as "In This Together! Creating a Whole-School Interdisciplinary Approach to Ethnic Studies Implementation through the Anti-Racist Teacher Inquiry Group Model,” on Sept. 17, and a “Politics & Ethnic Studies Statewide Roundtable” on Sept. 18.

The registration fees for the two-day event is $400, including meals and sociocultural performances. Limited scholarships are available. For more information, email salinasvalleyethnicstudies@gmail.com.

Alvarez is program assistant for the Office of Student Life

Forrest Alvarez has joined the Office of Student Life as program assistant, working with director Augustine Nevarez and the Associated Students of Hartnell College.

Alvarez, who started Aug. 23, said his focus is on “creating an exciting and inclusive environment for all Hartnell students and our community.”

His prior experience includes work for the College of Extended Education and International Programs at California State University, Monterey Bay, assisting international students’ transition into U.S. college life. He also is working on a master’s degree in counseling psychology at San Jose State University.
Men’s Soccer goes 4-0 and Men’s Cross Country wins upset

The Hartnell Men’s Soccer team smoked Marin at home on Sept. 10, 10-0, with goals by nine players, including two by freshman forward Allan Bedolla from Pajaro Valley High School. The win maintained the Panthers’ perfect season, 4-0, and affirmed Head Coach Daniel Ortega’s confidence in their prospects. They play next at home at 4 p.m. on Sept. 21 against Allan Hancock.

Another special win came on Sept. 4 in a home game against perennial power Fresno (pictured), part of the two-day Hartnell Tournament. Ortega predicts Hartnell will be in the post-season mix this year, with a strong squad distinguished by a high-speed style of play. In 2019, the Panthers reached the second round of the CCCAA playoffs, with just 16 total teams, before losing to Fresno 1-0.

“We have a lot of pace up front,” Ortega said. “We’re fast. I mean we just pretty much turned it into a track meet against Fresno, and they just could not handle our speed. They ran out of legs."

Women’s Soccer Head Coach Ivan Guerrero is also high on his team’s prospects after they began the season 2-2, with two wins in the last week: 2-1 over Santa Barbara on Sept. 4 in Ventura and at home against Canada, 4-0, on Sept. 8. They play next at home at 2 p.m. Sept. 21 against Allan Hancock.

“It’s kind of cliché – ‘Defense wins championships’ – but we take a lot of pride in that,” Guerrero said. “We go with that mentality every day that we have to get a shut out regardless of how many points we score.”
The Men’s Cross Country team won the Northern California Preview Meet in Rocklin on Sept. 10, with sophomore Isaac Gensel (pictured), a Monterey High School graduate, placing first in the four-mile race with a time of 21:28. He was among five Hartnell runners in the top 14. This was the first time Hartnell had defeated No. 1-ranked American River College since 2017. Sophomore Valeria Lozano-Gomez of Women’s Cross Country, a North Salinas High School graduate, took first among 63 runners in the women’s three-mile race with a time of 19:42. Freshman Sofia Comacho, also from North Salinas High, was fourth with a time of 20:28.

Hartnell Volleyball stands at 2-6 so far this season, including a win and a loss on Sept. 10 in the Sierra Classic at Sierra College. The Panthers beat Shasta 3 games to 0, with 40 kills spread among seven players, followed by a 0-3 loss to Sierra. They play at home again on Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. vs. Los Medanos and at 5 p.m. vs. Redwoods.

Castroville Artichoke Festival supports Castroville center

On Aug. 27, the Hartnell College Foundation received a $10,000 donation from the Castroville Artichoke Festival committee for Hartnell’s Castroville Education Center.

These funds are part of a $1.36 million fundraising drive to provide seed money for the first five years of operational costs at the Castroville center, scheduled to open in January. The foundation is continuing similar drives for the Soledad and King City centers.

Pictured, from left: Clint Cowden, dean of academic affairs for career technical education and workforce development; Kathryn Parish, president of the Artichoke Festival Board of Directors; Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, interim superintendent/president; and Dr. Steven Crow, vice president of administrative services.
Office of Student Life commemorates 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks

On Sept. 9-10, the Office of Student Life joined the nation and the world in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which claimed almost 3,000 lives, including those aboard United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed at Shanksville, Pa.

This year’s remembrance event featured a visual display in the Student Center on Main Campus depicting a timeline of the events of that day and a Remembrance Banner honoring the victims.

Said Augustine Nevarez, director of student affairs for student life, “We encourage our campus community to ... reflect on the events that have had a long-lasting impact on our community and nation.”

In the News


COVID protocols are fluid on college campuses: https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2021/09/10/covid-protocols-are-fluid-on-college-campuses/

Hartnell College board takes first steps in search for a permanent superintendent/president: https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/hartnell-college-board-takes-first-steps-in-search-for-a-permanent-superintendent-president/article_a43a92ee-1286-11ec-9caa-7b53ec7a84b5.html


Hartnell’s first week sees need for more classes: https://kingcityrustler.com/hartnells-first-week-sees-need-for-more-classes/

Hartnell College reopens with new South Monterey County facilities for fall semester: https://kingcityrustler.com/hartnell-college-reopens-with-new-south-monterey-county-facilities-for-fall-semester/

Fútbol to football: a Fresno State player embraces his Mexican roots: https://collegian.csufresno.edu/2021/09/futbol-to-football-a-fresno-state-player-embraces-his-mexican-roots/#.YTzDDp1Kq2x


Upcoming Events

The Western Stage: “A Doll’s House, Part 2”
Through Sept. 26
Studio Theatre (Building K)
Website: https://www.westernstage.com/adorllhousepart2

Pop-Up Pantry
Friday, Sept. 17
12 p.m.
Hartnell Parking Structure

Women’s Soccer vs. Sierra
12 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 17
Hartnell Soccer Field

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

Salinas Valley Ethnic Studies Conference
Sept. 17-18
Alisal Campus
Registration: https://hartnellfoundation.org/salinas-valley-ethnic-studies-conference-registration/

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

Hartnell Governing Board – development meeting
5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 21
Steinbeck Hall (Building C, Main Campus)
Pop-Up Pantry
Friday, Sept. 24
12 p.m.
Hartnell Parking Structure

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

Women’s Soccer vs. Diablo Valley College
4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 28
Hartnell Soccer Field

Men’s Soccer vs. Evergreen Valley
1 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 1
Hartnell Soccer Field

Volleyball vs. San Jose
6:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 1
Hartnell Gymnasium

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country – Toro Park Invitational
Friday, Oct. 1
3:30/4:30 p.m.
Toro County Park

Hartnell Governing Board – regular meeting
5 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Soledad Education Center, 1505 Metz Road; Soledad

Men’s Soccer vs. Canada
4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 8
Hartnell Soccer Field

Football vs. Feather River
1 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9
Rabobank Stadium