

**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.

Share your news!

The President's Weekly Report highlights accomplishment, engagement, progress and success for and within the Hartnell College Community. Please send information and photos by each Wednesday to sfaust@hartnell.edu.

Student leader Jane Hernandez receives national transfer scholarship

Hartnell student leader Jane Hernandez has received a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, one of only 100 awarded nationwide this year based on academic achievement, financial need, persistence and leadership.

Hernandez, who has been the 2021-22 president of the Associated Students of Hartnell College and student trustee on the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, learned of her selection on May 9. Two days later she received a letter of acceptance to Stanford University, where she plans to attend this fall. She was chosen for the prestigious Cooke award from among 440 semifinalists, narrowed from nearly 1,200 applicants at 332 community colleges in 35 states. Twenty-seven of the final 100 are from California.



As a Cooke Scholar, Hernandez will receive up to \$55,000 per year to cover educational expenses such as tuition, housing, books and required fees as she completes her bachelor's degree in psychology at Stanford. Cooke Transfer Scholars also receive one-on-one educational advising and are eligible for internship and graduate school funding from the foundation, and they are welcomed into the Cooke community and network.



(Pictured: Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Steven Crow reads a Jack Kent Cooke notification letter to Hernandez as staff and administrators join in the surprise.)

Hernandez is one of 34 valedictorians in the Class of 2022, with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and she was selected to deliver an address at Commencement on May 20. She is receiving associate degrees in psychology, Spanish and liberal arts.

Starting with her previous role as ASHC vice president in 2020-21, Hernandez has championed student engagement throughout the pandemic, advocating for online students and leading such initiatives as a new monthly newsletter, a student

food pantry and distribution of free feminine hygiene products.

"We are incredibly proud of Jane and thrilled for her to receive this great honor and generous financial support," said Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez. "She has more than earned this scholarship, and we have every confidence that she will make the most of the opportunity in the years to come."

Hernandez's long-term goal is to complete a doctorate in applied psychology and then work in administrative roles at a community college, like Hartnell, that serves a large population of first-generation students, with the ultimate aim of becoming the top executive at such a college.

Hartnell students have received the Cooke Transfer Scholarship in three of the past four years: Jenel Fraij, now at the University of California, Los Angeles, was chosen in 2020, and Mariluz Tejada Leon, who is graduating May 23 from Yale University, was chosen in 2019.

700 graduates will participate in first in-person Commencement since 2019

More than 700 graduates from Summer 2021 through Spring 2022 have signed up to participate in Hartnell's Commencement at 4 p.m. on May 20 at Rabobank Stadium in Salinas. This is the first in-person ceremony since 2019 – and the most participants in recent memory.

In total, 1,241 associate degrees and 1,006 certificates of achievement will be awarded, plus 40 High School Equivalency completions, with 34 students earning valedictorian status because of their perfect 4.0 grade point averages – also a historic number.

Graduating student Tatiana Magdaleno will sing the National Anthem, fellow graduate Jane Hernandez will give the valedictorian address, and Hartnell Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez will deliver concluding remarks. Mask use is encouraged for participants and spectators. The ceremony will be [live-streamed](#) on YouTube.

“From graduates we’ve heard statements like, ‘I’ve never attended a graduation, and this is my first one,’ to ‘It’s taken me six to eight years, so I’m very excited for me and my family,’” said Augustine Nevarez, who has led event planning in his role as director of student affairs for student life. “I think the graduates are very excited about attending, and I’m sure the families are as well.”



Veteran Services Program honors three years of graduating vets

The Veteran Services Program at Hartnell held a Recognition and Appreciation Ceremony for current and former veteran students and their families on May 13 in Steinbeck Hall, with a total of 36 graduates from 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 being celebrated. (Pictured: attending graduates wearing their honor cords.)

Hartnell Governing Board members Aurelio Salazar Jr. and Alejandra Gonzalez attended, and Salazar spoke to underscore the college’s commitment to helping veteran students complete their education. He encouraged them to stay connected. “Whatever your major is, we hope that at some time in your professional career you come back to Hartnell College and support those veterans as well,” Salazar said.



Dean of Enrollment Services Dr. Maria Ceja spoke as well, extolling the work of veterans program staff Ligia Polio, certifying official, and Gemma Uribe-Cruz, counselor, whom she described as the “heart and soul of the veterans program.” The student speaker was 2020 graduate and Marine Corps

veteran Dillon Herrick, who also praised Polio and Uribe-Cruz and recalled his experiences with the Veteran Services Center and the Veteran Students Club, which he said produced friendships that continued even after he transferred to Cal State Monterey Bay. Herrick is graduating Summa Cum Laude from CSUMB in Business Administration and will pursue his own business providing assisted-living services to disabled adults.

Polio and Uribe-Cruz presented awards to several individuals at Hartnell whose support for student veterans has been especially meaningful, including counselor Monica Carrasco (pictured above with Uribe-Cruz).

Current veteran students Fabian Aguilar (Navy), Fernando Guevara (Navy), Luis Amador Flores (Marines), Maria

Machado-Sanchez (Army – pictured) and Eduardo Rico Morfin (Marines) performed the Battlefield Cross Ceremony in tribute to serve members who have lost their lives.

Women’s Track & Field wins third Northern California title

A strong showing across the board helped the Hartnell Women’s Track & Field team win the Northern California Championship for the third consecutive time on May 13, following victories in 2018 and 2019.



For the Panther women, the story was less about winning gold than earning points with numerous top-four outcomes at the regional meet held at Chabot College in Hayward. But freshman Lorraine Mankins did win the pole vault (pictured) by clearing the bar at 11 feet, 3.75 inches, tying her season best, and fellow freshman Ashley Ochoa won in the steeplechase, followed by teammates Mariah Changco and Shantal Martinez. In other action, Sofia Camacho placed second in the 1500 meters, and her time of 4:36.52 moves her to second all-time for Hartnell. Camacho also

finished third in the 5000 meters (18:54.48), followed by Isabelle Torres in fourth.



The men's team placed seventh, having done at least that well for the previous six years, and sophomore distance ace Isaac Gensel (pictured) won the 5000-meter to go with his 10,000m NorCal win the previous Friday. In addition to Gensel's two individual titles, he finished second in the 1500m, at 3:57.76, followed by freshman Esteban Diaz, who also was fifth in the 5000m. Hartnell's top performers will compete at the CCCAA State Championship on May 20.

Hartnell mourns death of longtime trustee Juan Martinez



Former Hartnell Governing Board member Juan Martinez passed away on May 10 at age 69 after a years-long battle with cancer, spending his final days with family in Gonzales. He served on the Hartnell board from 1997 to 2009, sharing the passion he also demonstrated as an activist for farmworkers and other marginalized communities.

As the Monterey County Weekly reported, Martinez witnessed pivotal events in the farmworker movement, beginning at age 11 when he and his father came upon the scene of a truck crash that killed 32 seasonal farmworkers near Chualar in 1963. At age 18, he joined a group that protected Cesar Chavez as the labor leader turned himself in to the Monterey County Jail in 1970.

Martinez dedicated much of his life to preserving such history, including establishing a cultural center in Oldtown Salinas and advocating for the former jail on Alisal Street to become site of the Cesar Chavez National Monument, which instead was located

in Keene. As recently as five months ago, he spoke an event marking a milestone in pesticide safety for farmworkers, saying, "We've got to keep up the fight. Where can you help? What can you do?"

EOPS recognizes 197 graduates with May 13 event on Main Campus

EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) on May 13 at Hartnell recognized 197



graduating students who have benefited from support extended to first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students, including single parents receiving public assistance. Of that total, 106 are graduating with honors, and 131 are transferring to a four-year university. EOPS student Yvone Cortes is one of this year's valedictorians.

Fifty graduates attended the event in Parking Lot 5, next to the soccer field, as EOPS Director Paul Casey and staff congratulated the students. (Pictured: Casey with Program Specialist Marlene Tapia and graduate Adriangel Mendoza, who is transferring to Cal State Monterey Bay to major in digital design).

"Several of our students who attended were very appreciative of EOPS and felt if it was not for EOPS, they might not have made it through college," Casey said.

Transfer center makes third trip of spring, to Cal State Stanislaus

In partnership with TRiO, the Hartnell Transfer & Career Center took six students on three campus-visit field trips this spring, most recently on May 6 to California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock. Previously, 27 students visited Sacramento State and the University of California, Davis on March 4 and 16 visited Fresno State on March 18.

The visits introduce students to resources, programs, majors and the campuses and location of each university. At Stanislaus, a first-time destination for Hartnell, students learned that the campus is one of the few in the CSU system that are not impacted, and it also offers among the most affordable housing.



“The objective in providing these free university visits is to stimulate and strengthen a transfer culture with our Salinas Valley students,” said Mercedes Del Real, transfer counselor. “Many of our students are first in their family to attend college and are coming from a low-income background. These university trips may be the first opportunity they get to explore higher education options beyond Hartnell College, and we are thrilled to be able to provide this service.”

(Pictured: Counselors Tony Anderson, left, and Mercedes Del Real, right, with students on the CSU Stanislaus campus.)

CTE showcases programs at North Salinas High car show

On May 7, in partnership with Salinas Toyota, Hartnell’s Career Technical Education programs attended North Salinas High School’s first car show, hosted by its MECHA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) Club and its DJ Club, led by history instructor Madonna Varela.

Hartnell staff shared information about the Advanced Automotive Technology Program was shared with attendees and more than 70 cars were showcased. (Pictured: Instructional Associate Jessica Mora Martinez.)



In the News

Juan Martinez, a lifelong activist and archivist dedicated to the Salinas Valley’s farmworker history: https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/juan-martinez-a-lifelong-activist-and-archivist-dedicated-to-the-salinas-valleys-farmworker-history-dies/article_34d4fc1c-d187-11ec-a3e5-d381c259d432.html

Instead of quitting, a Hartnell athlete became its first state championship swimmer https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/sports_and_rec_blog/instead-of-quitting-a-hartnell-athlete-became-its-first-state-champion-swimmer/article_98f1195e-d170-11ec-bd91-ffd72d7f802a.html

Flores hammering the ball in the Mexican leagues: <https://www.montereyherald.com/2022/05/14/flores-hammering-the-ball-in-the-mexican-leagues/>

Upcoming Events

Mi CASA Virtual Recognition Ceremony

5 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Panther Night in King City – Registration Fair

5-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

King City Education Center

110 N. Second St.

Orchestra Concert

7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Mainstage Theater (Building K)

Umoja Graduates Celebration

6 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Building N, room 9

Game-A-Thon

12-5 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Main Campus and King City Education Center

Nursing & Health Sciences Pinning Ceremony

11:30 a.m.

Friday, May 20

Mainstage Theater

Class of 2022 Commencement Ceremony

4-7 p.m.

Friday, May 20

Rabobank Stadium

Teacher Pathway/MAESTROs Recognition Ceremony

2 p.m.

Sunday, May 22

King City Education Center

TRiO Virtual Recognition Ceremony

5 p.m.

Sunday, May 22

Via Zoom

Hartnell Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7

Castroville Education Center

