

# 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.

## Let us share your graduation news:

As in past years, the President's Weekly Report is eager to share employees' personal or family graduation announcement in upcoming editions. Please send the person's name, relationship to you, school of graduation, degree or level of graduation, date of graduation and a photo if possible to [czavala@hartnell.edu](mailto:czavala@hartnell.edu).

## Hartnell honors 1,230 grads with virtual Commencement on May 21

The Hartnell College Class of 2021 received their degrees and certificates on May 21 during four simultaneous virtual Commencement ceremonies at 5 p.m., which have received more than 5,500 views on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). A total of 1,230 students ranging in age from 16 to 66 completed 1,646 degrees and 1,121 certificates. There were 29 valedictorians with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.



Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez and Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez delivered congratulatory remarks, as did student speakers Bianey Torres and Julissa Rodriguez and additional students from each academic grouping, or meta major.

Also speaking was Leily Garcia, who earned four Hartnell degrees and will graduate from Soledad High School on June 12. She will head to the University of California, Los Angeles this fall to study biology and pursue a medical degree. Read her full story [here](#).

"Whether you realize it or not, all of you who are graduating today have made a remarkable transformation in your time here at Hartnell," Dr. Rodríguez said. "What



you have accomplished at this college matters, and hopefully those lessons you have learned will guide you for the rest of your lives. I know you all have dreams, so don't be afraid to dream big. The sky's the limit!"

Padilla-Chavez, speaking on behalf of the entire board, noted the special meaning of graduation for students who spent their entire final year learning online. "You've already proven that you can handle adversity and overcome them successfully," she said. "So go out and share your gifts and talents with the world. Remind people along your path that you came from Hartnell College, and there's nothing you can't handle."



Graduate speakers touched on similar themes, including thanking family and friends for their support. Said Virginia Tovar-Rodriguez (pictured), speaking during the Agriculture, Business & Industries ceremony, "Getting here was nothing easy. Many of us had more struggles than others, but we never gave up, and that is why we are here today, celebrating our accomplishments."

Recognition of graduates will continue on May 28, when 270 students participate in a series of three in-person ceremonies in the new Central

Plaza on Main Campus. They will be individually photographed and congratulated by Dr. Rodríguez and Governing Board members.

## Academic and student service programs hold graduation events to celebrate success

### Nursing & Allied Health

The Nursing & Allied Health programs held three pinning ceremonies on May 21 for graduates in Registered Nursing, Vocational Nursing and Respiratory Care. Students received stoles, pins and white roses. Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez delivered welcome remarks, and each program had a class speaker. They were: Sonia Molinero (RN), Crystal Hernandez (VN) and Adeline Ramirez (RCP).

"We have laughed together, cried together and, you know, had a few nervous breakdowns together," Molinero said. "But most importantly, we survived a global pandemic together!" (Pictured: Nursing instructor Denise Diamond places a stole on RN graduate Bridget Nieto-Salcedo.)



## Center for Achievement and Student Achievement (Mi CASA)

The Center for Achievement and Student Advancement (Mi CASA), part of the Office of Equity Programs, held a Virtual Graduation Celebration on May 20 for students and their families and loved ones. The live event included messages from Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez, Dreamer counselors and UndocuLiaison Miriam Vazquez-Gonzalez (pictured). Among the recipients of this year's Hartnell Dreamers Scholarships, funded by the Employees for Student Success campaign, were: Myrna Pacheco Ramos (transfer) and Carlos Santiago Pacheco (continuing).



Each graduate received a Grad Kit of balloons, centerpieces, hanging décor, confetti poppers and a grad yard/door sign that was delivered to their homes the previous. A video featuring Equity Programs staff included a message from Director Bronwyn Moreno, who said, "We know that you will continue to be leaders in your family and in your community, and you have many more accomplishments ahead of you. And we are here for you. We still want to be your Mi CASA family. We love you, we appreciate you and congratulations!"

## EOPS/CARE & CalWORKS

On May 20, EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs held their 21st Student Recognition Ceremony, greeting 54 of their 140 graduates in the roundabout adjacent to the parking structure on Main Campus.

Program staff congratulated each student and handed out recognition certificates and swag bags containing a graduation stole, keychain, tote bag and Hartnell pennant.

Governing Board Trustee Margaret D'Arrigo also participated. (Pictured: Counselors Millicent Madrigal (left) and Nancy Reyes with graduate Reina Zavala Chavez.)



## Teacher Pathway Program and MAESTROS

The joint Teacher Pathway Program and MAESTROS programs streamed a live recognition event on Facebook and Zoom on May 14, honoring more than 60 graduates.

More than half graduated with honors, and many are transferring to Cal State Monterey Bay to continue their teaching studies. Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president of academic affairs, shared her congratulations, and the keynote speaker was Dr. Ernesto Vela, assistant superintendent of student Services at the Monterey County Office of Education.



TPP graduate speaker Maria Cantu, among those continuing onto CSUMB, said, "I thought I was too old to pursue a new career, but I was inspired by this quote, 'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.' I realized that receiving this degree was important to me to make my dream come true."

## Umoja program

Hartnell's Umoja program held a graduate recognition event on May 14 in the parking structure roundabout on Main Campus, distributing kente cloth graduation stoles and certificates to four of this year's five graduates.

Pictured, from left, are Victoria Coleman, Umoja program coordinator; graduates Asante Madrigal (Summa Cum Laude, Communications and Sociology, transferring to San Diego State); Theresa Schlapfer (Liberal Arts/Political Science and Administration of Justice, transferring to the University of Arizona); Alyce Foster, Vocational Nursing, transferring to Sacramento State); and Tony Anderson, Umoja counselor. Also attending the event was Audrey Jones (Magna Cum Laude, General Studies/Language & Rationality, transferring CSUMB), and not attending was Rahmad McLaughlin (Business Administration).





## Veteran Services Center

The Veteran Services Center began recognition of 11 graduates with a drive-through event on May 10 in the Main Campus parking roundabout, where staff distributed certificates, medals with engraved names and patriotic tassels (pictured). A recognition program via Zoom on May 13 included Dr. Romero Jalomo, vice president of student affairs; Gemma Uribe-Cruz, veterans counselor; Ligia Polio, veterans certifying official; and Governing Board trustees Candi DePauw and Aurelio Salazar Jr. Said Polio, "It was amazing to recognize these students who despite the pandemic challenges were able to graduate."

## Michelle Vazquez will attend a UC on a \$20,000 Baskin scholarship

New graduate Michelle Vazquez has been selected as Hartnell's 2021 recipient of the two-year \$20,000 Peggy & Jack Baskin Foundation Scholarship, which is awarded to "bright, highly motivated, low-income women" attending Hartnell, Monterey Peninsula College and Cabrillo College. She is a 2018 graduate of Alisal High School.

Vazquez, who majored in biology at Hartnell and has been active in TRiO and the STEM Internship Program, is still finalizing her transfer plans. This summer she will participate in a pre-medical program at UC Davis. She is the oldest of three daughters of a single mother who emigrated from Mexico and has been unable to work because of an injury suffered as a fieldworker.



Speaking at the May 22 Party Near the Library fundraising luncheon, she said she was determined to become a physician and help her family financially.

"My mom has always been the only provider, and one way or another she has ensured that my sisters and I have food and a roof over our heads, even though we have always lived in a crowded one-bedroom apartment with other people," Vazquez said. "Moments like these have inspired me to work hard in order to graduate from college debt free and get my family out of poverty. My ambition and perseverance have trained me to never lose sight of my goals."

## **U.S. Department of Ed renews HEP funding with \$2.38M grant**

Laura Zavala, director of the High School Equivalency (HEP) program at Hartnell, said the “weight was lifted off my shoulders” this month after receiving notification that the U.S. Department of Education has granted a fourth five-year grant renewal in support of her team’s work – a total of \$2.375 million. (Pictured: A HEP team portrait from 2019.)

HEP helps migrant farm-workers and their families attain their high school equivalency and transition to higher education, vocational/technical training, military or improved employment.



“We’re tremendously honored,” Zavala said. “It is an extremely competitive process. We started preparing about two years ago. It is not something that began last year.”

The application focused on making HEP’s services more accessible to students, something that has been accomplished in partnership with the Salinas Valley Adult Education Consortium and the Monterey County Workforce Development Board.

“It speaks volumes to the level of professionalism of my staff that we were able to transition to online learning within a few days of being notified of the shelter in place” last spring,” Zavala said. Eighty-five percent of Hartnell HEP students continued their studies after the online transition.

The renewal application also focused on connecting high school equivalency students to opportunities for continued education at Hartnell, including through career-technical programs at the Alisal Campus. In addition, it includes establishing High School Equivalent courses as non-credit, meaning Hartnell can count them toward its full-time equivalent students, gaining state funding to help defray growing program expenses.

## Party 'Near' the Library christens plaza as donors gather to support students

The Hartnell College Foundation's annual spring fundraising event, Party in the Library, made a sudden switch to a virtual presentation in 2020. On May 22, it moved outside, with a new name: Party Near the Library.



A festive crowd of 200 sponsors and foundation donors at the President's Circle giving level gathered across the tiered Central Plaza west of buildings D and E on for a catered luncheon that included performances by six bands, recognition of longtime volunteer David Warner and a live auction to garner more support for scholarships and other foundation efforts.

Warner, who served as a foundation board member from 2013-19 and is current co-chair of its Strategic Plan for Operations Committee, received the foundation's annual Leadership Award, presented to an exceptional leader distinguished for service to Hartnell College and the greater community. He is retired as president of Pacific Valley Bank.

"I have to say it's been a real joy working with the foundation over these many years," Warner said. "The foundation is doing fantastic work day in and day out, and it's just been a delight to have been a part of it and contribute a little bit each day. ... All the current members of the board and the previous members of the board are the best of the best of Monterey

County, and to be a part of it has been a real privilege." (Pictured: Warner with foundation board President Judy Sulsona.)

## Dean of Athletics Teresa says spring 'ending on a great note' for Panthers

Thanks to the diligence of athletics trainers David Beymer and Alexandra Ritz, the efforts of coaches and the cooperation of student-athletes, Hartnell Athletics finished strong this spring, with competition, scrimmages and even a limited number of spectators.

For example, on May 21, Men's Soccer hosted a scrimmage with UC Santa Cruz (pictured) and the Swim/Dive Team hosted Cabrillo in the Hartnell pool. Baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer and track and field have all competed at home and away on limited schedules, and volleyball has had two scrimmages as well. The basketball, football and cross country teams did not compete this spring but were able to practice and prepare for next fall and winter.

"We've been able to have student-athletes come back on campus and practice and be able to scrimmage, with our fall sports, and be able to play games with our spring sports," said Dan Teresa, dean of academic affairs for athletics, physical education and kinesiology. "We're ending on a great note here in the spring, so we're excited about that."



Teams have been subject to regular COVID-19 testing and temperature screening, they have worn masks while not competing traveled in larger buses to allow for social distancing. In the past three weeks, athletes have been able to designate up to two spectators to attend games, allowing their parents to see them compete. "It's not an easy process, but after a while it becomes routine," Teresa said.

Recruitment for fall sports has also been strong, with competitive squads and solid roster sizes, he said.

## Summer Online Math Academy invites students to register now

The summer 2021 [Online Math Academy](#) invites students who will be taking a math class in the coming year to [register](#) for a choice of two sessions during the week of Aug. 16-21: 8:30-12:30 p.m. or 4:30-7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, plus a Saturday session from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Although the program will be completely online, students will work directly with Hartnell's outstanding math faculty and Math Academy tutors to prepare for such courses as pre-algebra, elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, statistics, trigonometry/pre-calculus and calculus.

The goal for Math Academy is to provide students with opportunities to work in small groups in a welcoming and supportive learning environment. Important dates and registration information are below. For more information, email to [mathacademy@hartnell.edu](mailto:mathacademy@hartnell.edu).

## In the News

**Sixteen-year-old high school student graduates with four degrees from Hartnell College:** <https://kion546.com/news/monterey-county/2021/05/21/sixteen-year-old-high-school-student-graduates-with-four-degrees-from-hartnell-college/>

**Soledad senior to graduate with 4 AAs from Hartnell heads to UCLA:** <https://www.ksbw.com/article/soledad-senior-to-graduate-with-4-aas-from-hartnell-heads-to-ucla/36506225>

**Some higher ed students dropped away during the pandemic, but administrators see hope for fall:**

[https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local\\_news/some-higher-ed-students-dropped-away-during-the-pandemic-but-administrators-see-hope-for-fall/article\\_97814342-b370-11eb-b186-d7f6a7a03270.html](https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/some-higher-ed-students-dropped-away-during-the-pandemic-but-administrators-see-hope-for-fall/article_97814342-b370-11eb-b186-d7f6a7a03270.html)

## Upcoming Events

### **MAESTROS/TPP Informational Session**

3-4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26

Via Zoom: [register](#)

### **Pop-Up Food Pantry**

12 p.m.

Friday, May 28

Main Campus Parking Structure

### **In-Person Graduate Recognition Ceremony**

11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Friday, May 28

Central Plaza, Main Campus

### **Memorial Day – campuses closed**

Monday, May 30

### **Governing Board Meeting – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1

Steinbeck Hall

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

### **Summer Session begins**

Monday, June 7

### **Governing Board Meeting – Development**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15

Steinbeck Hall

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

### **Governing Board Meeting – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, July 6

King City Education Center

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