

# 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 has moved to twice-monthly publication while the volume of news is slower due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

## Dr. Rodríguez announces awards for individuals' strength and resilience

During the Student Success Conference on Jan. 21, I announced nine recipients of Strength and Resilience Awards for their support of continued student success despite the pandemic. Truly all of our employees and students are deserving of recognition and thanks for courage and determination over the past 10 months.

These Strength & Resilience Award honorees, in four categories, were selected from among 37 highly deserving nominations:

### STUDENTS

**Melissa Orduño** (respiratory therapy): As the single mother of two school-aged boys, Melissa's challenges have been especially great. While maintaining her own online learning in respiratory therapy and assisting her sons with theirs, she fell seriously ill with COVID-19.

**Guadalupe Rodriguez** (sociology): Guadalupe has demonstrated her ability to serve others as a participant in the Student Support Services/TRIO program. This fall, she took the lead to rebuild the TRIO Club.

### FACULTY

**Dr. Kelly Locke** (mathematics): From the start of the pandemic, Kelly showed outstanding leadership in helping Hartnell meet Chancellor's Office requirements for



delivering courses online. She led the Curriculum Committee's conversion of courses under an emergency blanket Distance Education Addendum.

**Sandra Rudo** (vocal music): Sandy's advanced use of technology and willingness to commit long hours enabled her students to continue their vocal music studies and to perform three times via YouTube – in spring and winter concerts and during the highly successful fundraiser, Gala for the Arts.

**Dr. Ann Wright** (biology): Ann is recognized for her leadership in translating the microbiology lab course into a virtual experience that still included hands-on learning. She also handed out take-home lab kits for students, taking time to personally offer encouragement to many.

#### **CLASSIFIED STAFF**

**Geri Alonzo** (program assistant I for College Readiness): Geri's tireless work and dedication have been instrumental in Hartnell's ability to maintain dual enrollment during the pandemic. Not only has she maintained communication with students through email and by establishing virtual office hours, she has assisted students in their transition as first-time Hartnell freshmen.

**Celia Anderson** (program assistant II for CTE and Workforce Development); When the pandemic hit, Celia immediately switched from her busy work on campus events and community outreach to join in establishing a student-led peer coaching model to support students in their transition to online learning.

**Belen Gonzales** (coordinator of jobs and internship placement): Belen has been instrumental in organizing virtual career and job fairs, maintaining work with K-12 educational partners and students, encouraging and mentoring Hartnell student interns, and going out of her way to ensure that students have reliable internet for their studies.

#### **MANAGEMENT**

**Augustine Nevarez** (director of student life): Through his determined effort and in recognition of great need, Augustine has provided the necessary leadership to maintain twice-monthly Pop-Up Food Pantries through distribution in the Parking Structure. He also led the way in establishing the in-person study area last month, creating a model to build on this spring.

## **Hartnell receives statewide award for energy savings and efficiency**

The Hartnell Community College District has received a 2020 Excellence in Energy and Sustainability Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for solar power generation and other energy-reducing steps expected to save \$26 million over their lifetime.

The projected 4.7-million-kilowatt hour reduction in electricity use offsets more than 3,300 metric tons of carbon dioxide – equivalent to removing 714 cars from the road each year. The 2.6 megawatts of solar photovoltaic generating capacity installed on the Alisal and Main campuses since 2013 includes a new 1.3-megawatt canopy system atop the Hartnell Parking Structure (pictured), which went online in July.

Hartnell was among five of the state's 73 college districts recognized on Jan. 19 for actions by their governing boards to drastically reduce their carbon footprint and save taxpayer dollars



through lower utility bills or for leadership and teaching on climate and sustainability.

The award also noted how Hartnell has incorporated its energy-saving projects into existing career training programs and the college's STEM curriculum. Computer kiosks at the Alisal Campus and in the Willard Lewallen STEM Center on the Main Campus display real-time solar power generation.

"We are extremely proud of this recognition and affirmation from the California Community Colleges system," said Hartnell Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez. "It's a win-win-win because we are reducing our climate impact, being a careful steward of taxpayer dollars and providing a highly relevant learning opportunity for students."

## 'State of the College' update shared with supporters of Hartnell

The Hartnell College Foundation on Jan. 28 delivered a live one-hour "State of the College" [program](#) (start at 5:42) via Zoom to more than 100 online donors and supporters of Hartnell.

Produced in the library/learning resource center (pictured) the event was co-hosted by Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, Governing Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez and Vice President of Advancement and Development Jackie Cruz.

In addition to a welcome from Padilla-Chavez and an overview from Dr. Rodríguez about college momentum and student success amid the pandemic,

the program included a 3.5-minute video [tour](#) of current Measure T bond-funded construction projects and a 15-minute video excerpt from a [panel discussion](#) by five students, moderated by Veteran Services Counselor Gemma Uribe-Cruz (pictured: plant science sophomore Juan Rodriguez).

Padilla-Chavez welcomed newly elected trustees Margaret D'Arrigo and Alejandra Gonzalez and spoke to the challenges the college and its community are facing at this time.

"We recognize that we're living in a rather interesting time," she said, "not just because of the pandemic, but we know at the national and local level there is public discourse. What you should all be very proud of is the fact that at this college, at your college, we're committed to creating the next generation of leaders, not just for our local community, but for the nation. We do that by providing our students the opportunity to engage in diplomatic and critical-thinking conversations."



Dr. Rodríguez ended his presentation by introducing five new members of the foundation board, honoring late Salinas Valley philanthropist Andy Matsui and announcing fundraising numbers for calendar year 2020 – 2,843 gifts totaling \$5.9 million.

Cruz wrapped up the event by highlighting 18 lead donors for the three education centers and the Center for Nursing & Health Sciences. She concluded, "Thanks to each and every one of you for being part of the Hartnell family – and 'Salinas Valley Strong,' let's keep going!"

# Week of Welcome Feb. 1-5 to guide Spring '21 students

The Office of Student Life and Associated Students of Hartnell College have a full schedule of virtual events during Week of Welcome for the Spring 2021 semester, Feb. 1-5:

- **11 a.m., Feb. 1: Panther's Re-Connect with Tech** – Upload Hartnell's mobile app, Discord, Instagram and Facebook and enter to win one of several giveaways. (<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/95787044412>)
- **10 a.m. Feb. 2 and 11 a.m. Feb. 3: Office of Student Life Information** – Get introduced to the many programs, services and activities provided by the Office of Student Life. (2/2--  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97128229377>; 2/3 –  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/9976104458>)
- **3 p.m. Feb. 4: Club Informational** – Meet members of the ASHC Interclub Council and learn how to join or start a student club. (<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98303904232>)
- **12 p.m. Feb. 5: ASHC Town Hall** – Meet student representatives and share experiences in navigating online learning. (<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/92707391867>)



## Employee giving campaign seeks to exceed 2020 mark

The Hartnell College Foundation has launched its 2021 Employees for Student Success giving campaign, with a fundraising goal of 200 donors contributing \$125,000.

That aims for an increase over 2020, when 184 employees donated \$118,133, with a record-high average gift of \$642 and 67 employees exceeding the \$1,000 mark to become President's Circle members, also a record high.

Total giving is \$815,000 since the effort was launched in 2010 during a time of economic crisis. The money goes to meet needs in such areas as scholarships, Dreamer students, emergency scholarships (rent, food, utilities, etc.) and athletics.

Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development, announced the goal set by a 30-member employee-giving committee during the Student Success Conference on Jan. 21. She also introduced guest Ana Ibarra (pictured), a 2013 Hartnell graduate in biology and former WELI Scholar who went on to UC Berkeley and is co-founder of Xinampa, a Salinas-based biotechnology lab.

"I want to speak to the strength and resilience that I learned as a student at Hartnell," Ibarra said, "and I know that had to do with the administrators and the educators and everyone who built the community that I needed."

Employees can initiate or increase their giving by emailing Terri Ugale of the foundation staff at [tugale@hartnell.edu](mailto:tugale@hartnell.edu).

## CHOMP returns seven ventilators loaned in March for COVID-19

Seven ventilators loaned in March by the Hartnell Respiratory Care program to the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic have been returned.

Dr. Debra Kaczmar, dean of nursing and allied health, shared the news on Jan. 27, calling it a “good sign for Monterey County.” Hartnell also loaned a total of 13 ventilators to CHOMP, Natividad Medical Center and the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System.

Assisting with the return of the ventilators were respiratory care students (pictured, from left) Maria Willis-Dizon, Kristi Albanez and Neftali Lazaro. The equipment remains available to CHOMP if needed, Dr. Kaczmar said.



## 2021 Killian Scholars chosen following December auditions

Three students have been awarded Killian music scholarships for 2021, which provides them with a \$2,000 scholarship award each semester, free private lessons and program-funded field trips to universities and concerts, coronavirus permitting. Auditions and interviews were held on Dec. 7.



Two of the recipients are returning from last year – Noel Padua, clarinet, and Jaycen Florez, euphonium. The new recipient is vocal music student Tatiana Magdaleno, who also plays the keyboard.

Since its establishment in 2018, Killian scholarships have benefited up to 10 full-time music students a year who apply and audition for the opportunity, which also requires maintaining a 3.0 grade point average and evidence of financial need. It was

endowed by a gift from the estate of Jack and Suzanne Killian, longtime supporters of the arts at Hartnell.

To qualify, students must show evidence of achievement in music, be prepared to enroll as a full-time music major at Hartnell and file a FAFSA application.

Magdaleno, who performs with the Hartnell Choir and Hartnell Chamber Singers and is part of a band called TNT & The Explosions, said the support will keep her on a fast track toward her goal of transferring to San Jose State and becoming a high school music teacher.

## Coder Dojo coding classes adapt and persevere despite COVID-19

Hartnell's Coder Dojo computer coding classes for Salinas-area students ages 8-17 has forged ahead since the pandemic forced it to convert to all-online instruction last spring.

The weekly Saturday classes, part of the college's K-12 STEM Program, will run from Feb. 20 through April 10 for Spring 2021. They are taught by computer science students at Cal State Monterey Bay, including students in the CSin3 degree partnership with Hartnell. Hartnell students serve as program assistants.

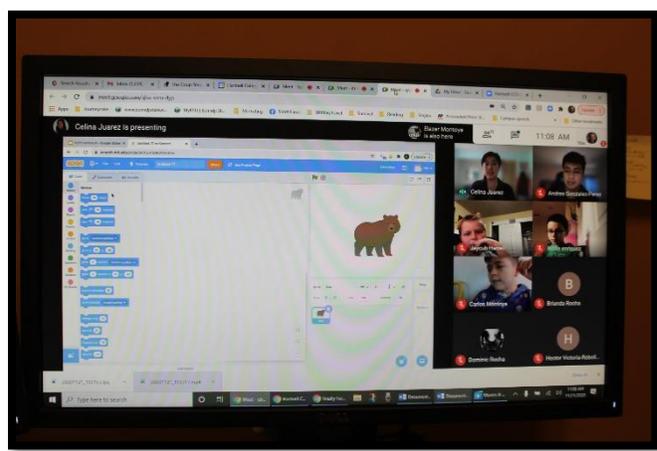
This fall, 250 students participated, using curriculum adapted from the in-person program that was held at Hartnell's Alisal and King City campuses, as well as school sites in Soledad, Gonzales, Greenfield and north Monterey County. The in-person sessions typically had

about 400 students.

(Pictured: Beginner class on Nov. 21, taught by Hartnell graduate and current CSUMB student Celina Juarez.)

K-12 STEM Director Julie Stephens-Carrillo credited Coder Dojo Program Specialist Samuel Valdez and other staff for putting in the work to rework the classes – with PowerPoints and hands-on approaches – so even beginning students could participate and learn from home.

"We took the time and asked, 'What can we use and what can't we use?'" Stephens-Carrillo said.



## Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit will be presented online March 18-19

Hartnell is a co-sponsor of the 2021 Salinas Valley Ag Tech Summit, which on March 18-19 will deliver in-depth and actionable insights on a range of topics vital to a thriving fresh produce industry – all presented in a virtual format. [Registration](#) is available now, with no cost to attend.



A President's Reception will kick off the summit from 5-6:30 p.m. on March 18, including a Fireside Chat with Karen Ross, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, moderated by Dennis Donohue, director of the Western Growers for Innovation and Technology.

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez will open the evening with a welcome and brief update on Hartnell's Agriculture and Business Technology Institute. The college is presenting the eighth annual event in partnership with the Western Growers center and the Salinas Valley Ag Tech Institute.

During the full-day program on March 19, morning sessions will feature agricultural and ag tech leaders presenting on key issues, including workforce challenges and the critical role of education. Afternoon sessions will spotlight "Ag Tech in the Americas," providing a fresh focus on challenges and opportunities in Latin America.

Ross, state food and agriculture secretary since 2011, is this year's Ag Tech Summit keynote speaker.

## **Dr. Sonja Sheppard is associate director of Nursing and Allied Health program**

Dr. Sonja Sheppard has joined Hartnell as associate director of nursing and allied health, working with Dean Dr. Debra Kaczmar to enable student success in nursing, respiratory care, EMT and public health.

Dr. Sheppard, who began her position in October, has more than three years of experience as a director and dean, six years as an instructor and 21 years of clinical experience, beginning with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1986. Most recently, she was director of nursing at Unitek College in Sacramento, since 2018, preceded by three years as a dean of nursing at Brightwood College campuses in Salida and Sacramento.



Dr. Sheppard holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Capella University, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instructional Design from American Intercontinental University and a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts from the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Dr. Jimenez signs contract to co-author Latinx studies text

Dr. Hortencia Jimenez, Hartnell sociology instructor, has signed a textbook contract with SAGE publishing to complete "The Latinx Experience: Interdisciplinary Perspectives," a collection of essays examining the shifting contours of Latinx identity.

Joined by co-author Dr. Maria Joaquina Villaseñor, professor of Chicanx-Latinx studies at Cal State Monterey Bay, she is inviting contributions of essays for possible inclusion in the book.

"Although this book is scholarly in nature, it will be broadly accessible to a wide range of audiences and suitable for use in undergraduate courses in community colleges, four-year universities, and perhaps, high school ethnic studies courses," the authors wrote.

## Hartnell grad Armbrister wins national trophy in plant science

Tyler Armbrister, a 2019 Hartnell graduate from Watsonville who is now president of the Plant Science Club at Fresno State, won first place in the 2020 Presidents' Trophy contest on behalf of his club from the nationwide Students of Agronomy, Soils & Environmental Sciences organization.

Armbrister, who completed Hartnell degrees in agricultural business and plant science, won the competition by delivering video presentation showcased the club's professional opportunities, industry partnerships and fundraising over the past year. Judges from agronomy, crop science and soil science societies also evaluated the club's problem-solving skills, innovation, teamwork and creativity.

"Representing Fresno State at one of the most competitive and prestigious competitions in agronomy was truly a dream come true for our club," Armbrister told Fresno State News. "This year's competition posed unique challenges, and we still came together to adapt to the platform and overcome any challenges."



virtual

## Destiny Amaro promoted to campus safety supervisor

Destiny Amaro is the new campus safety supervisor at Hartnell for employees of Allied University Security Services.

This is the second promotion for Amaro, who started as a safety officer two years ago and was promoted to corporal six months ago. She participated in Hartnell's High School Equivalency Program and completed her high school degree in 2017.

"I am looking forward to working with you all and getting to know everyone a little better," she wrote in a Jan. 20 email to all Hartnell employees. "If anyone has any safety questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me."

Daniel Scott, director of public safety and emergency management, provides overall management of campus safety operations.



## Westfall's embrace of healthy lifestyle is recognized by MCSIG

Cristina Westfall, program assistant for physical education and athletics, was recognized in December by MCSIG Health Insurance as its Wellness Employee of the Quarter for Healthy Lifestyle.

For her selection among nominations received from all school districts served by MCSIG, Westfall received a framed certificate and restaurant gift card. She has embraced a healthy lifestyle since March, turning the limitations of the pandemic into an opportunity to work out at home and try new recipes.

"When shelter-in-place started and gyms were closed, I realized, why not do an online workout?" she said. "It has been quite a journey, but my goal was met through losing 25-plus pounds over 10 months. This journey made me adapt to a new lifestyle of healthier eating habits, exercise helped coping with quarantine, and it made me feel better and with more energy. Also, yoga classes with (Hartnell Volleyball) Coach Jamie Pedroza helped with stretching, posture and relaxation."

MCSIG, the Municipalities, Colleges, Schools Insurance Group, provides a variety of health care plans to school districts and other public entities throughout Monterey County and beyond.

## In the News

**Hartnell Community College District recognized for solar power generation efforts:**  
<https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2021/01/31/hartnell-energy-and-sustainability-award/4294615001/>

**The Buzz 08.21.21:** [https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/the\\_buzz/the-buzz-01-28-21/article\\_64d61074-6052-11eb-864d-73d8430e8f8b.html](https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/the_buzz/the-buzz-01-28-21/article_64d61074-6052-11eb-864d-73d8430e8f8b.html)

**Recursos Para Soñadores en La Costa Central:** [https://noticiasya.com/monterey-salinas/2021/01/22/recursos-para-sonadores-en-la-costa-central/?fbclid=IwAR3Wk0ZGqgqGt5zaAs2Hgi6Um6iIEn\\_NUfGjrQWRLOxw6aLqTaYm5CkX4LY](https://noticiasya.com/monterey-salinas/2021/01/22/recursos-para-sonadores-en-la-costa-central/?fbclid=IwAR3Wk0ZGqgqGt5zaAs2Hgi6Um6iIEn_NUfGjrQWRLOxw6aLqTaYm5CkX4LY)

**2020 Year In Review | Projects pave the way to community progress:**  
<https://kingcityrustler.com/2020-year-in-review-projects-pave-the-way-to-community-progress/>

**Salinas Valley first responders receive COVID-19 vaccinations from nursing students:** <https://salinasvalleytribune.com/salinas-valley-first-responders-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-from-nursing-students/>

**Western Food Safety Summit Goes Virtual:**  
<https://www.qualityassurancemag.com/article/western-food-safety-summit-goes-virtual/>

## Upcoming Events

### **Panther's Reconnect with Tech**

11 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 1

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/95787044412>

### **Office of Student Life Information**

10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97128229377>

### **Hartnell College Governing Board**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Office of Student Life Information**

11 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/9976104458>

**Student Club Informational**

3 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98303904232>

**Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop**

6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>

**ASHC Town Hall**

12 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 5

Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/92707391867>

**TPP/MAESTROs Informational Sessions**

3 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Register: <https://bit.ly/2L4mun>

**Hartnell College Governing Board – Board Development**

4 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**TPP/MAESTROs Informational Sessions**

3 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Register: <https://bit.ly/2L4mun>

**Hartnell College Governing Board**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop**

6 p.m.

Thursday, March 4

Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>

