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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



HARTNELL COLLEGE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM SECURES CONTINUED FULL APPROVAL FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) has renewed the Hartnell College Vocational Nursing Program's full approval for another four years, starting February 2, 2025. This marks the program's 61st consecutive year of "Continued Approval."

Achieving BVNPT approval is crucial, as it ensures the program's curriculum meets the high standards set by the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. This approval guarantees that graduates are fully prepared to practice safely and competently as Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) in California. Ultimately, it protects the public by ensuring a high-quality education and clinical experience and allows graduates to sit for the licensing exam to legally practice in the state.





OPENING OF THE NEW RISING SCHOLARS CENTER

On Thursday, February 13, 2025, the Hartnell College Community, local law enforcement, and students gathered to celebrate a milestone in the ongoing commitment to justice-impacted students: the opening of the new Rising Scholars Center. This new center represents an exciting Hartnell College Rising Scholars Program expansion.

The Rising Scholars Center will provide students with various resources, advisors, and tailored support to help them succeed academically and personally, offering a dedicated space to support justice-impacted students attending in-person classes across our campuses. Since its inception in 2016, the Rising Scholars Program has grown to support students on our campuses and extend its reach beyond, providing education and opportunity to justice-impacted individuals in the wider community.

Through partnerships with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Monterey County Sheriff's and Probation Office, and the

Monterey County Office of Education, the program enrolls over 400 incarcerated students each semester across five partner facilities: CTF Soledad, Salinas Valley State Prison, Monterey County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and the Monterey County Youth Center. Courses are selected to support students on their path to completing an Associate of Arts degree.

Data shows that with an Associate Degree, recidivism rates in Monterey County have dropped to just 8.5%, in contrast to the 41.9% recidivism rate statewide. This achievement underscores the transformative power of education the program provides.

Through these efforts and strong partnerships, we are empowering our students toward positive social mobility while also making a lasting impact on our community. The opening of the Rising Scholars Center is not just a milestone for Hartnell College but a validation of the difference education can make in the lives of individuals and society as a whole.



LADY PANTHERS FINISH THE SEASON STRONG

The Hartnell Women's Basketball team wrapped up an impressive season, finishing 2nd in the Coast Conference South and securing an 11th seed in the Northern California State Playoffs.

Several athletes earned recognition:

1st Team All-Conference: Daeja Hollands, Bailey Cotter

2nd Team All-Conference: Hanna Harvey

Honorable Mention: Dalilah Ruano, Amanda Torrez, Sarai Wheeler

In a hard-fought playoff battle against Skyline, the Lady Panthers came up just short, falling 54-55 in a nail-biter on February 26th. With a 17-12 overall record, the Women's Basketball team, along with their families and friends, showed spirit all season long.

HARTNELL COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S 19TH ANNUAL STEAM FAMILY SCIENCE DAY

Release provided by the Hartnell College Foundation



The Hartnell College Foundation and the K-12 STEAM Program proudly presents the 19th Annual STEAM Family Science Day on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hartnell College, 411 Central Avenue in Salinas. Parking will be free.

This is an event to be enjoyed by all age groups, to engage in fun STEAM activities and learn about STEM at Hartnell College. Student clubs, staff, and faculty will highlight innovation and the fantastic world of science to inspire the next generation of scientists in the Salinas Valley.

For the first time this year, Family Science Day is set to host a series of local STEM events, competitions, and inspiring speakers that promise an engaging and educational experience for the entire family. One of these events is the distinguished Monterey County Science & Engineering Fair, which will exhibit science projects authored by some of the most talented high school students across the county.

The Hartnell College Foundation is also hosting the first of its kind, Salinas City Elementary School District (SCESD) regional Invention Convention competition alongside a dedicated Computer Science spotlight. This culminating event will showcase the creativity of young inventors as they experienced the power of imagination and invention education.

Concurrently, the San Jose Tech Interactive will be visiting Hartnell College to host a regional Tech Challenge trial, engaging students from Alisal Unified School Districts (AUSD) and SCESD, preparing students for the final showcase.

At the heart of this STEM celebration is the keynote address by professional race car driver and race team owner Erin Vogel. In collaboration with Friends of Laguna Seca, Vogel, who has paved the way for women representation in motorsports, will deliver an inspiring message aimed at motivating the audience to break through barriers and reach for the stars.

The free family event will feature STEAM hands-on activities, speakers, physics demos, a reptiles' den, art tables, food vendors, music, fun, and much more! ■



HARTNELL COLLEGE AT THE ACHIEVING THE DREAM CONFERENCE

Working Together to Improve Student Success

Since 2023, Hartnell College has been a proud member of Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national network of community colleges united by the belief that education is a transformative force for building more equitable and economically vibrant communities. Together with Hartnell College, ATD is helping reshape the college—transforming how the institution leads and teaches —by placing students at the heart of everything. The mission is to ensure that all students have access to life-changing learning opportunities that open doors to community-changing careers.

At this year's national convening of community colleges, Hartnell College had the honor of sharing the success of the Math Academy to ignite inspiration for other institutions to explore similar approaches. The Math Academy is a four-day intensive workshop designed to help students regain confidence in their math skills through targeted support and innovative teaching methods. Over the years, Hartnell College has seen remarkable improvements in student pass rates in math —a testament to the program's impact.



Pictured from left to right:

Gabriela Lopez, Interim Dean of Student Equity & Pathways
Jason Garrett, Director of Student and Academic Support Services
Leticia Contreras, Mathematics Professor
Jennifer Moorhouse, Mathematics Professor
Gayle Pitman, Vice President of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness, and Success

CAREER HUB TEAM AND LEARNING TO LEAD PROGRAM TAKE STUDENTS TO SOUTHWEST AG SUMMIT

From February 16th to the 21st, six Hartnell College students from the Career Hub, in partnership with the Learning to Lead program, attended the Southwest Ag Summit in Yuma, Arizona. This opportunity allowed the students to engage with industry professionals, explore diverse agriculture career pathways, and gain valuable insights into the agriculture sector.

The trip provided students with firsthand industry exposure by visiting key agricultural operations. Among the notable stops were Sutton Ag, RDO, 3 Star Lettuce, and Tanimura & Antle—companies that have significant operations in both the Salinas Valley and Yuma, furthering the understanding of the strong ties between the two areas.

For many students, this experience was eye-opening and inspired them to consider transferring to a four-year institution in pursuit of a career in agriculture.

The Southwest Ag Summit trip was made possible through generous funds from the Hartnell Foundation and the USDA NextGen grant. The collaboration between the Hartnell College Career Hub, the Learning to Lead program, and key industry partners proudly participate in these meaningful experiences to ultimately support the development of the next generation of agricultural leaders.

