

2014-15 Employee Innovation Grant Recipient Report
Hartnell College
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Innovation Grant Goals:

- 1) Program development/ Faculty professional development, research, and outreach
 - a) Fits with HCC vision of Hartnell College being “nationally recognized for the success of our students”, in seeking to build a strong Theatre program for the twenty-first century, that complements CSU/UC Theatre BA programs, and makes our students competitive among academic and job applicants – “developing leaders who will contribute to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our region and the global community,” through strong academic programming, extracurricular, and internship opportunities.
- 2) Partnership & collaboration with area colleges and universities
 - a) Fits with HCC Mission of “Focusing on the needs of the Salinas Valley...providing educational opportunities for students to reach academic goals in an environment committed to student learning, achievement and success.”
- 3) Discussion and Q & A with faculty, staff, and administrators at area schools to determine model programs and to assure effective preparation for students in Hartnell’s developing AA-T, AA, and Certificate Programs
- 4) Research of academic and employment possibilities for Hartnell students

Goals Met:

- Visit to American River College 10/17/14 (All proposed courses/programs met with approval and encouragement from ARC Chair, Kathy Burleson.)
Visit to ARC planned for October 17 was quite a success. I was able to gain some tremendous insights on the importance of the dual Theatre/Cinema program, and to see a wonderful all-student production which has been entered into the KCACTF regional competition. This last really firmed up my intent to have all-student productions at Hartnell, which students can enter into regional competition thus earning awards, scholarships, and all-around recognition for acting, design, tech, etc. I was most impressed also with the great acting opportunities presented by the ARC production calendar. Students at ARC fill all roles and are thus allowed to perform the leading roles in each of ARC’s productions. I look forward to Hartnell’s students having the same opportunities in 2015-16. One of the most notable suggestions ARC faculty made concerned the Theatre/Film partnership. ARC faculty suggested that it is the Film Appreciation courses - taught to very large groups of students each semester - which pay for the Theatre/Film program.)
- Visit to CSUMB 10/27/14 (with Dean Lila Staples in Visual and Public Art), 11/5/14 (with Chair, Enid Ryce)
In my meeting with Dr. Ryce on 11/5, we discussed CSUMB’s and Hartnell’s efforts to grow and expand programs to meet student needs in the area. She explained that CSUMB’s enrollment has grown exponentially since her appointment five years ago. She explained that internal shifts within the CSUMB programs have led to the dissolving of CSUMB’s academic theatre offerings, and discussed recent efforts of Cinematic Arts and Technology faculty to re-introduce theatre to CSUMB students to meet their needs, suggesting that as CSUMB does not have a theatre facility (The World Theatre on their campus is a separate entity from the academic programs) and as the university has

experienced dramatic increases in student enrollment leading to contestations for classroom space, it would be highly beneficial to CSUMB to partner with Hartnell to allow CSUMB students to take courses in Theatre at Hartnell. On a separate but related note, Dr. Ryce explained that in her tenure at the university, she and her colleagues have radically changed the Cinematic Arts and Technology program, making it a flagship program, dramatically increasing enrollment, and making it easier for students to get through in four years, as well as to transfer into the program from two-year colleges. When I discussed the growing programs at Hartnell in Theatre and Cinema, she agreed that AA-T and AA programs in Theatre were very important to develop, explaining that they'd been unable to partner with MPC due to MPC's lack of solid AA programs in the disciplines. She also strongly supported the Applied Theatre and the Cinema Certificate of Achievement programs, expressing strong interest in collaborating to build Applied Theatre programming as a partnership effort. Dr. Ryce also strongly supported the Cinema Certificate and all courses proposed for Cinema and Theatre. She reiterated that the Beginning Single Camera production course should be offered at Hartnell (students have to use a camera and make a video), as should the Playwriting/Scriptwriting course, and a Film History (should be an actual history, not an appreciation). These, she stressed, are the three courses transferring students need for the Cinematic Arts and Technology program (the program into which many of our students are planning on transferring).

- Meeting 12/8/14 with Hamish Tyler who invited me to tour the MCOE campus and discussed with me the wonderful educational programs and partnerships involved in the California Career Pathways trust Grant project - which was not approved for 2015, but which they are nonetheless re-working proposals for, for 2016.
- Meeting 10/28 with area high school – Millennium Charter High School about concurrent enrollment and collaborative possibilities, with plans made for offering concurrent enrollment courses through Hartnell at Millennium, beginning Fall 2015.
- Conference attendance at:
 - The American Society for Theatre Research conference, Baltimore, MD, November 2015, participating in the Performance and Ecology Working Group to present: “Theatre of Interbeing: Sandy Spieler and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre”, as well as participating in the workshop on Teaching Theatre Studies Today, within the Distance Education Innovations subgroup
 - The Earth Matters on Stage Conference, Reno, NV, offering a workshop/discussion in “Singing the Body Electric: Aging, Ageism, and Female Body Ecology”, as well as participating in workshops and discussions on theatre history and future directions within the academic and professional theatre in light of current ecological imperatives. Much discussion of drought, theatre for social change, food justice, etc. and keynote speaker: Jose Cruz Gonzalez from Cal State LA, discussing “The Long Road Today”, social practice theatre project capturing Santa Ana’s story. This I discussed with Jon Selover and Melissa Chin Parker of The Western Stage, and was pleased to note that their plans for the Braceros project will take a similar approach to benefit and encourage dialogue among Salinas communities.