Measure T forum on Main Campus to be held Sept. 19

Please join us this Wednesday, Sept. 19, for a public forum on Measure T projects. The presentation will begin at 6 p.m. in Building E, room 112, of the Main Campus. The forum will cover plans for a new Nursing and Health Sciences Building and renovations to Buildings D and E, as well as the upcoming expansion of the King City center and construction of a new Outreach Center in Soledad. I will provide background and updates and then introduce project architects, who will present their latest designs. Following the presentation, members of the public will have a chance to ask questions and receive answers from the presenters. The Facilities Planning and Construction Management Department has scheduled a similar forum on Sept. 26 at the Soledad High School Community Room. The first of three forums was held Sept. 12 at the King City Education Center. It was well attended, with an excellent presentation by Jonathon Strnad of Kasavan Architects and enthusiastic engagement from local officials and community members.

Hartnell joins in welcome for returning students

The city of Soledad and the Soledad Unified School District hosted a wonderful back-to-school celebration on Sept. 15, and I was able to attend for a seventh time. I am always grateful for the opportunity to address the gathering, and this year it was so exciting to tell everyone that the Soledad Education Center is being designed and will soon be a reality. Of course, I also thanked everyone for their support of Measure T, which is funding the facility.

The city and school district are great partners with Hartnell, and the entire Soledad community has such pride and spirit. It seems that every high school student is involved in one or more extra- or co-curricular activity. The Soledad High School Aztecs cheerleading team performed, as did the school’s Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC). I was pleased to be photographed with Soledad USD Superintendent Tim Vanoli, Assistant Superintendent Randy Bangs and Soledad High Principal Jeff James.
Dr. Lewallen guides conference
I am proud to be serving a fifth term as chair of the Community College Facility Coalition (CCFC) (https://www.caccfc.org/). The statewide coalition held its annual conference Sept. 10-12 in Sacramento, and it was an honor for me to preside over the event.

More than 500 higher education peers and colleagues convened at the 25th annual meeting. Highlights included keynote speakers, workshops, a networking dinner and a sold-out trade show where more than 30 vendors showcased their products and services.

Students, employees pause to remember 9/11
At 11 a.m. on Sept. 11, Hartnell students, staff and faculty paused in the campus Student Center to consider the enduring impact of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. The Remembrance Ceremony was an opportunity for students to reflect on events that many were too young to understand when they occurred 17 years ago. The memorial is a tribute to all who lost their lives that day – and all the first responders who perished or were injured as they worked to save lives.

Business faculty Peter Calvert reminded the audience how dramatically the attacks involving commercial airliners led to increased security in airports and other public spaces. As the ceremony concluded, EMS program students preparing to become first responders themselves posed for a photo under a banner that read, “We Will Never Forget.”
Faculty gain approval for more OEI courses
Lindsey Bertomen, full-time faculty in Administration of Justice, and Jennifer Grohol, part-time faculty in History, successfully added two exchange-ready online course to the Online Education Initiative (OEI). Hartnell now has five OEI-approved classes, with more on the way.

The rigorous OEI review process ensures that courses are ADA-accessible and enable meaningful student-faculty contact. Courses are also reviewed for academic integrity and sound pedagogy.

Online education in California has accelerated tremendously, as has the success of its online students. Ten years ago, there was a gap between online and face-to-face success rates, but that is steadily closing. An August 2018 study by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office, found only a 4 percent difference in student success rates in online versus face-to-face and this difference is shrinking fastest among students under age 25.

Lewallens host evening for new employees
My wife, Michele, and I were pleased as always to host and welcome Hartnell’s newest faculty and staff at our home on Sept. 13.

We were joined by 17 of the employees who have joined our team since October 2017, as well as 20 staff and Governing Board members Pat Donohue and Manuel Osorio.

Both board members welcomed the newcomers to what Donohue called the “Hartnell family.”

“We care passionately about our students, and we also care about one another, too,” she said. “So know that you are part of a very nurturing family here that supports all of you and the work that you do.”
Planning retreat focuses on enabling student success
Hartnell’s Strategic Plan for 2019-24 moved forward on Sept. 14 thanks to about 40 faculty and staff who gathered for much of the day to break down obstacles to student success and completion.

With guidance from Dr. Brian Lofman, dean of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness, English instructor Dr. Hetty Yelland and Dr. Layheng Ting, interim director of Institutional Research, participants worked in teams to identify and prioritize strategies through which employees can improve outcomes for all categories of students.

Work will continue with an operational planning retreat on Nov. 2 as the college advances toward completion of the new five-year plan for its launch in July.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Respiratory Care Program Informational Session
4-4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 18
Building – B, 110

Vocational Nursing Informational Session
3–5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19
Building – B, 110

Registered Nursing Informational Session
4–4:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19
Building – B, 110

Community Forum - Facilities
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19
Main Campus, Building C-124 (Steinbeck Hall)

WELI Forum
5:30–8:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 20
Tehama Golf Club
Community Forum - Facilities
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 26
Soledad High School – Community Room

Gala for the Arts
5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 17
STEM Center Building

Athletics Hall of Fame
11:45 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3
Hartnell College – Main Campus
Information: 831-755-6810 or email to aclarke@hartnell.edu.

For more events, go to Calendar at www.hartnell.edu

IN THE NEWS
Hartnell hosts forums on expansion projects
https://kingcityrustler.com/article/hartnell-hosts-forums-on-expansion-projects

Local football coverage: