Hartnell Community College District presented its 2018 Commencement ceremony Friday, May 25, 2018 at Rabobank Stadium. This class was awarded 1,276 degrees and 906 certificates, based on preliminary numbers - the largest number to date. Many of the graduates earned multiple degrees. These students have demonstrated tremendous tenacity, perseverance, and grit in achieving their goals. Rabobank Stadium was filled to capacity! This is the largest group of participating graduates the College has experienced to date! Families and friends were there to support their graduate(s). Among the Class of 2018, 13 are valedictorians and 434 graduated with honors. Bianca N. Ojeda gave the Valedictorian Address on behalf of her peers. President of the Board of Trustees, Manuel Osorio and the President of the Academic Senate, Chris Moss, congratulated the graduates and shared some words of wisdom.
This year’s Commencement speaker was Distinguished Alumnus 2018, Rafael Vazquez. His message inspired attendees and graduates to follow their dreams no matter the circumstances. He is currently a Superior Court Judge for Monterey County.

During the ceremony, a posthumous degree was awarded to the family of Dominique Gachett. After her passing, it was determined that she had met the criteria to receive this degree posthumously.

The Class of 2018 is composed of individuals with grit and resilience. I congratulate these students now Hartnell Alumni and celebrate their accomplishments. They are off to making us all proud!

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We want to hear your graduation story. Share a photo of you, your husband, children, or grand children who are graduating this year. A special section will be dedicated to you and yours in the next Weekly Report.
Deadline to submit is noon, Friday, June 1, 2018 to emontenegro@hartnell.edu.
[If graduation happens after June 1, please send photo and description still for future publication]

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The Veterans’ Center has lots to celebrate

The Hartnell College Veterans Services Program held its Fifth Annual Recognition Ceremony, on May 18, 2018. This year, the Program celebrated the accomplishments of 19 students who completed their academic goals at Hartnell College. One student completed his Associate Degree for Welding Technology, 18 students earned an Associate degree and/or certificate of achievement, and 18 applied and were accepted to the California State University system as transfer students. The Program also celebrated the accomplishment of nine Hartnell College Veterans Services Program alumni, who obtained their Bachelor's degrees at their institutions. The Annual Ceremony allows attendees to acknowledge the Memorial Day Holiday, by embedding both the Fallen Soldier and the Absent Soldier ceremonies into its program. These two ceremonies commemorate and honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The student veterans of Hartnell College paid tribute to the late John Barajas, a Hartnell Alumnus;
he was issued the Walk of Honor Award and in his memory, a brick with this name was added to this area of reflection.
In addition, the staff and students presented tokens of appreciation via awards and certificates to the many community supporters and donors who continuously contribute to the Program and Veterans Club. This year was a memorable one. One of the highlights was to have the honor to host the Remembering Our Fallen National Display. All of the contributors are great sources of financial support for our events and thus continue to thank them. Congratulations to our graduates!

**Department of Supportive Programs & Services (DSP&S)**

DSPS held its recognition ceremony on Monday, May 14, 2018. Over 60 students, faculty, staff, and volunteer note takers attended. DSPS faculty and staff assisted students with preparations for final exam scheduling and registration for summer and fall.

**DSP&S Lunch with the President**

On May 9, 2018, the DSP&S Department joined me for an informal lunch. We had a chance to talk about Measure T and phase 1 of the renovation and building projects; the budget and the new funding formula; our graduating class; employees for student success; the new strategic plan; the new vision; and a lot more.

Every month, it is my honor to have groups of students and staff join me for these informal lunches. At this one, those in attendance included: Director Amy Lehman, Heidi Gentry, Silvina Zepeda, Valerie Maturino Lopez, Amy Barret-Burnett, Eva Diaz, Jessie Almada, Nelida Ponce, Evangelina Quiroz, Ileana Gutierrez, and Alma Rodriguez.

**Baseball Players commit to 4-year universities**

On May 21, 2018, two Hartnell College Baseball student-athletes signed their letters of intent to two different four-year institutions. Student-athlete Evan Dean, signed an athletic scholarship with Menlo College. He will be transferring this fall. Ricky Torres, signed his letter of intent for William Jessup University.
Torres also committed under an athletics’ scholarship. We wish these two Panthers the best of luck in their future endeavors. Go Panthers!

[Evan Dean, left in blue shirt; Ricky Torres, right in black shirt]

**Student-Athlete Spotlight: Nick Gardoni**

For this week’s Student-athlete spotlight, we recognize Nick Gardoni a student-athlete in our Hartnell Baseball team. Gardoni as a Palma alum who found something special within Hartnell’s baseball program, plus a history of older siblings attending the college. During his four years in high school, he was able to go to playoff trips and won the league during his senior year! Gardoni loves the sport; he appreciates how far it has taken him with his education and skill set. A lot of his teammates say he bats like Joe Panik of the San Francisco Giants and as a big fan, he doesn’t mind the comparison. Gardoni welcomes any opportunity to go pro and as a 2nd Basemen and hard hitter, he’s had a great season alongside his teammates: 37 hits, 10 doubles, and 54 bases to go along with a .370 batting average!

Gardoni has given his team great effort and even though he recognizes the teams’ season did not produce the wins they desired, the journey and progression as a team speaks volumes of their character. Of course, the life of a student-athlete is not easy and involves a tremendous amount of work. However, Gardoni understands this, stating that one of the biggest challenges is focus. As for the team, their motto is family, school, and baseball. Even with the challenges he faced, he still managed to play a stellar season and even make it on the Dean’s list for the academic year. As a sophomore, and physical education major with an emphasis in kinesiology, Gardoni looks to transfer this year to a four-year institution. He is currently undecided, but says he wants to continue to pursue higher education and play baseball at the next level. All this progress and hard work has flourished due to the great support system around him. Much of it has to do with his family and everything they have done for him. On the field, the coaching staff led by Head Coach Travis Babin, have given him all the tools he needs to succeed as a student-athlete. Go Panthers!

**Strategic Planning Brief**

*by Dr. Brian Lofman*

At its final meeting for the 2017-18 academic year on May 16, 2018, the College Planning Council approved the following key modifications to Planning & Improvement Processes for the 2019-2024 Strategic Planning Cycle:

1. The Model for Integrated Planning & Sustainable Continuous Quality Improvement will include the potential for resource re-alignment in addition to resource allocation.
2. The Program Planning and Assessment (PPA) Process will be linked directly to operational planning within the broader strategic planning cycle to ensure that strategic student success priorities (increasing student degree/certificate completion, student completion efficiency, student transfer to four-year institutions, and student employment opportunities) are integrated across and within divisional, office, and program unit planning. The submission of PPA budget requests will occur within a compressed period prior to the approval of funding for the applicable fiscal year, thereby shortening the time between requests and funding decisions. Comprehensive program reviews will no longer be mandated except for programs triggered for potential establishment, revitalization, or discontinuance, but annual PPA reporting will continue as was required through the 2013-2018 Strategic Planning Cycle.

3. Continuous Improvement (CI) Processes will concentrate on: Safe and Inclusive, Learner Focused Facilities; Student Career Placement: Student Communication; Student Transfer to 4-Year Institutions; and Workflow Efficiency and Digitized Paperwork.


**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Richard McGrath is retiring!**
Wednesday, May 30, 2018
12:00 to 2:00 PM in E-112
You are invited to celebrate with him!

The Western Stage presents **The Secret Garden**
June 23 – July 14, 2018
Mainstage Theater - 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2:00 p.m. Sundays.

**TICKETS AND INFO:** $26 general admission; $24 for seniors and military; and $12 for children age 5 – 15. Hartnell students are free with student I.D. Other students $20 with I.D. or $5 Student Rush on day of performance. For single or group tickets and information, go to [westernstage.com](http://westernstage.com) or call 831-755-6816.

**PRESS:** For press tickets, contact Berniz House at [mailto:bhouse@hartnell.edu](mailto:bhouse@hartnell.edu) or call 831-755-6012.

Western Stage presents **It Can’t Happen Here.**
June 2 – July 23, 2018
7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
2:00 p.m. Sundays
For tickets and information, go to westernstage.org
Or call 831-755-6816
Athletics Hall of Fame
Saturday, November 3, 2018
Hartnell College – Main Campus
For more information about the induction, call 831-755-6810 or email Ashton Clarke at aclarke@hartnell.edu.

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

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK
Investing in the promise - Opinion
https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/opinion/2018/05/24/opinion-investing-promise-salinas/634421002/

CSUMB graduates largest class yet
http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/article/NE/20180519/NEWS/180519638

High school grad looks forward to Hartnell and shares his story of grit

SVMHS Board Member Alfred-Diaz Infante Honored at Hartnell College for his Leadership

Soledad reaches CCS D-II baseball semifinals; Palma, Carmel advance in D-III
http://www.montereyherald.com/article/NF/20180519/SPORTS/180519810

Soledad reaches semifinals
https://soledadbee.com/article/soledad-reaches-semifinals

Tiny House Village design proposals for Veterans Transition Center to be unveiled

El Dorado High has a new head coach
https://www.mtdemocrat.com/sports/el-dorado-high-has-a-new-head-coach/