



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

## President's Weekly Report to the Board of Trustees

Reports available at [www.hartnell.edu/presidents-report-hccd-board-trustees](http://www.hartnell.edu/presidents-report-hccd-board-trustees)

May 24, 2019

### 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.

## 2019 Commencement achieves record in associate degrees and certificates

Bittersweet though it was to preside over my final Commencement as superintendent/president of Hartnell College, I was proud to join with our graduates and their families – and the entire Hartnell family – in celebration as we awarded the most credentials ever in our 99-year history.

The nearly 650 students who participated in the May 24 ceremony at Rabobank Stadium represented 1,663 associate degrees and 1,098 certificates of achievement. Among them were 466 graduating with honors, including 16 valedictorians who had earned nothing but A grades.

I reminded the graduates that no one accomplishes anything alone, as evidenced by the crowd of 5,000 relatives and friends who had come out to support them. Among those supporters were Hartnell Community College District Governing Board members President Aurelio Salazar Jr. (pictured, at left, with Vice President Patricia Donohue and trustees Ray Montemayor, Irma Lopez, Candi DePauw and Manuel Osorio), who were all members of the platform party.

It was my great honor to present Hartnell's 2019 Distinguished Alumnus award to keynote speaker Alfred Diaz-Infante, a 1984 Hartnell graduate and the longtime president and CEO of the Salinas-based Community



Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc., or CHISPA. Hartnell is just one of many important community causes and organizations he has helped guide with his expertise and vision.

Diaz-Infante (pictured), whose farmworker parents immigrated to the Salinas Valley in 1961, spoke of their fierce belief in the value of education – and his own family’s decision to establish a scholarship at Hartnell for children of agricultural workers with financial need. He also told the graduates that “grit,” which he defined as unwavering courage and strength, is “what got me where I am today.”



One of our valedictorians, Youssef Al-Shinnawi, also spoke, recalling the campus culture of determination and encouragement he discovered at Hartnell in 2017 after his family relocated from Ohio to Salinas following his graduation from high school.

“After meeting so many dedicated teachers and hardworking students at Hartnell, I discovered all the opportunities that were available here,” he said. “Despite how difficult it was, it allowed me to develop my leadership skills, discover my interests and also meet new friends, with connections that will last a lifetime.”

I want to thank the faculty and staff of Hartnell, whose attendance and assistance as volunteers at Commencement was greatly appreciated. Special thanks as well to Augustine Nevarez, director of student affairs/student life, for his role in coordinating this complex undertaking.

## **Nursing and RTC programs recognize graduates in annual pinning ceremony**

Just hours before Commencement, Hartnell’s Registered Nursing, Vocational Nursing and Respiratory Care programs honored their 92 graduates in a pinning ceremony filled with hugs, laughter and tears of joy.

Dean of Academic Affairs for Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Debra Kaczmar welcomed hundreds of family and friends to the 1:30 p.m. event in the Mainstage Theater of the Center for Performing Arts.

In the audience was Adrienne Laurent, chief strategic communications officer for Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, which earlier this year gave Hartnell \$3 million in support of our nursing and allied health programs. That gift will be recognized with the SVMH name on the new building that is projected to open in 2021.



The nursing and respiratory care cohorts were each represented by a student speaker, all of whom did an excellent job.

RN Class Speaker Brandon Waidmann said the role of a nurse is "to cure sometimes, but to care always. We see people, not diseases. We care for hearts and minds and emotions."

VN Class Speaker Guadalupe Arreola recalled how students had symbolically shared what they had to offer one another by contributing to a pitcher of water – "a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on."



RCP Class Speaker Alfredo "Freddie" Alvarez (pictured) compared the students' teachers and supporters to the unsung individuals who packed parachutes for American paratroopers during World War II. "Above all," he said, "we can't overlook the greatest contributors to our success, our instructors, Mrs. (Tanya) Ho and Mrs. (Emily) Brandt, whose tireless dedication inspired us to do better."

RCP graduates received stoles and crystal awards, and RN and VN graduates received stoles and lamps that symbolize the lamp carried by nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War.

## Hartnell again makes top 10 in state ranking of nursing programs

The website RNCareers.org on May 20 released fourth annual educational [rankings](#), with Hartnell College ranked ninth in California for associate degree registered nursing programs and among the best nursing schools in the nation with a grade of 97.06%.

The website describes itself as a team of nurse educators, nurse practitioners, RNs and LPNs with the mission of providing information students need as they begin their nursing careers.

"We rigorously evaluated 1,892 RN programs on a number of factors important to nursing students including first-time NCLEX passing rates, accreditation, program offerings and more," the organization said in its announcement.

"Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system and preparing great nurses is something we'd like to acknowledge Hartnell College for doing so well," said nursing writer Laura Jacobson.

A similar nursing career website, nursingprocessorg, in April issued its own ranking, placing Hartnell fifth in the state.

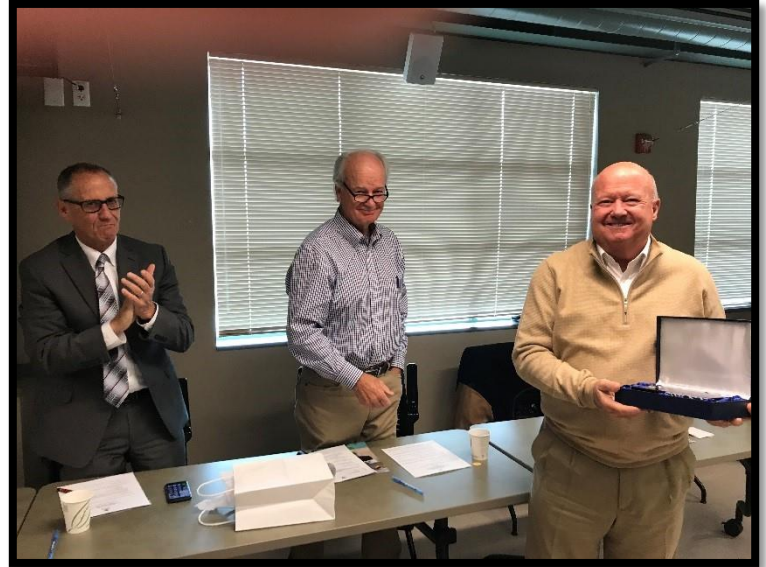
## Ag Steering Committee honors Jim Bogart of Grower-Shipper

The Hartnell Ag Steering Committee presented an award to Jim Bogart, who is retiring as president and General Counsel of the Salinas-based Grower-Shipper Association of California during its May 21 meeting at the Alisal Campus, recognizing his 40 years of service to Salinas Valley agriculture. Since 2006, Bogart (pictured, at right) has served as vice-chair of the steering committee.

I updated members on implementation of the college's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, with its goals targeting student completion, completion efficiency, transfers and employment. Committee members also heard from student Ag Ambassadors about their experience at Hartnell and volunteer work in the community.



Following the students' presentation, the committee discussed the first implementation phase of its own five-year strategic plan for the Agricultural Business and Technology Institute, adopted last September. Phase I will focus on the three strategies: development of more structured student internships with local ag employers, increased outreach to Salinas Valley high schools and enhancement of the diesel program to include off-road equipment.



## **With cake and a sincere thank you, Hartnell recognizes classified staff**

Scores of Hartnell employees came together in the new lobby of Mainstage Theater on May 22 to have a piece of cake and share in recognition of our wonderful and dedicated classified employees.

Using the example of a current student who lost her arm in an auto accident and has expressed thanks for all the help she receives from Hartnell staff and faculty, I made the point that even though we serve thousands of students year, we only make a difference one student at a time.

Governing Board Vice President Patricia Donohue extended a warm thank you to classified staff on behalf of her fellow trustees, saying, "You support the smooth operation of our offices, the safety and maintenance of our buildings and facilities and property and the direct instruction of our students. ... You are the backbone of our college."

Herbert Cortez, president of the CSEA chapter at Hartnell (pictured), said he looked forward to the reception becoming an annual event. "I hope this is the start of a great tradition," he said.



## **EOPS to begin accepting apps for assistance in Fall 2019**

The Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOPS) will begin accepting applications for the Fall 2019 semester on June 3. EOPS is designed to assist first-generation college students with academic counseling, textbook credits, lending library, student success workshops, priority registration and other support services.

Students must be a California resident, enrolled as a full-time student, with 12 units or more (student receiving disability services can be enrolled in six units) and have completed a 2019-20 application for FAFSA or the CA College Promise Grant. AB540 students are also eligible to apply for EOPS services.

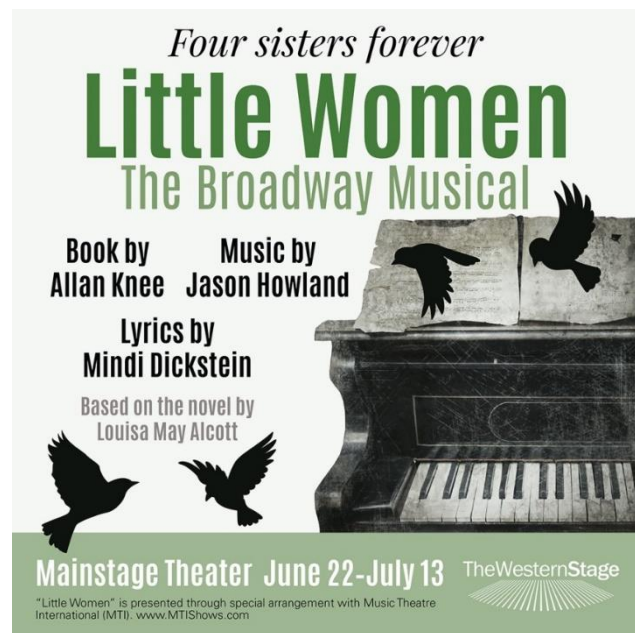
The application is available online at <https://hartnell-ssp.mylacai.com/apply.php>

## **Western Stage presents 'Little Women' from June 22 through July 13**

The Western Stage theater company at Hartnell will present "Little Women, The Broadway Musical" in performances from June 22 to July 13.

Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved semi-autobiographical novel, "Little Women" is filled with adventure, romance and a deep sense of hope. This heartwarming drama follows the four March sisters as they struggle to find their own paths, mirroring the growing pains of a changing America.

Performances will be at the Mainstage Theater in the Center for Performing Arts (Building K). Friday and Saturday productions are at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays are at 2 p.m. Tickets at [westernstage.com/tickets](http://westernstage.com/tickets) or 755-6816 (5-8 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday).



This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring sign-language interpreters, real-time captioners or other accommodations should contact the Box Office at least one week prior to the event at (831) 755-6816 or [westernstage@hartnell.edu](mailto:westernstage@hartnell.edu).

## Spark! Theatre Camp offered in July for children ages 9-15

The Western Stage will be offering its annual Spark! Theatre Camp for children ages 9-15. with three sequential Tuesday-Saturday sessions: July 9-13, July 16-20 and July 23-27.

Spark! is a fast-paced introduction to performance and technical theatre taught by Western Stage and guest professionals. Campers will explore more than 40 activities in 15 days, and each camp day will be different from the others.

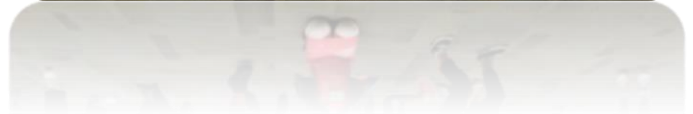
With a team of 16 teachers, campers will be led in activities ranging from singing and dancing, to sword-fighting, lights and sound, scenic painting, costume construction, acrobatics and juggling. Each week will culminate in a Saturday open house and ice cream social for family and friends.

Children may enroll in one or more of the sessions, which meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee for one session is \$150, two sessions for \$250 and all three weeks for \$325. A discount is offered for Hartnell faculty/staff families. Contact James (Pete) Russell for registration and information at [jrussell@hartnell.edu](mailto:jrussell@hartnell.edu) or (831) 755-6929.

## Deadline upcoming for next wave of travel and conference grants

The Hartnell Professional Development Committee reminds all employees of an upcoming July 15 deadline to seek travel and conference reimbursement funds during the 2019-20 academic year.

The Professional Development Travel and Conference reimbursement program provides Hartnell employees access to outside professional development and training to improve student learning and success. Awards will be made for up to \$1,000 per person per





academic year. Funds can be used to pay for conference fees, conference materials, travel, hotel, and food.

Travel proposals will be submitted to and reviewed by the Professional Development Committee, based on such criteria as relevance to the strategic priorities and goals of the college and how recently individual employees have received travel funding. The application dates are Jan. 31, April 15, July 15 and Sept. 15. Applications must be reviewed and signed by the applicant's immediate supervisor.

For more information on these programs and for the materials to apply and nominate, please visit the [Professional Development Program webpage](#). Please direct any questions to Human Resources Executive Assistant [Belle Lozada](#).

## In the News

**Hartnell College graduation:** <https://www.thecalifornian.com/picture-gallery/news/2019/05/25/photos-2019-hartnell-college-graduation/1235256001/>

**From fields to classrooms: Former Salinas farmworker earns bachelor's with honors at 58:** [https://www.thecalifornian.com/in-depth/news/education/2019/05/24/california-farmworker-education-immigration-mexico-migrant-indigenous-zapoteco-oaxaca-salinas/1135820001/?cid=facebook The Salinas Californian&fbclid=IwAR2ED6R3WIZTNGUqjLF7aPVE vdvKI uTc8bJh gmfKq7V6mQ2O2h2VVJjk](https://www.thecalifornian.com/in-depth/news/education/2019/05/24/california-farmworker-education-immigration-mexico-migrant-indigenous-zapoteco-oaxaca-salinas/1135820001/?cid=facebook%20The%20Salinas%20Californian&fbclid=IwAR2ED6R3WIZTNGUqjLF7aPVEvdvKIuTc8bJhgmfKq7V6mQ2O2h2VVJjk)

## Upcoming Events

**Note:** All event locations are on the Main Campus in Salinas unless otherwise noted.

### **Summer and Fall 2019 Registration**

#### ***Continuing Students and New Matriculating Students***

Summer through June 16; fall through Aug. 11

### **Child Development Center Bridging Ceremony**

Friday, May 31

Morning session: 9-11 a.m. (Studio Theater, Building J)

Afternoon session: 12:45-3 p.m. (Building M)



**Hartnell Football Golf Tournament**

10 a.m. registration, noon start  
Friday, May 31  
Crazy Horse Ranch, Salinas

**Third Annual Dreamers Banquet**

6-8 p.m.  
Friday, May 31  
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**HEP Recognition Ceremony**

12 p.m.  
Saturday, June 1  
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

**"The Miracle Worker"**

[The Western Stage](#)  
June 1-22  
Mainstage Theater

**Summer Bridge Orientation**

SSS/TRiO Guided Pathway  
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
June 10-14

**ASVAB Career Exploration Assessment**

[Registration](#) for Hartnell students  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 12  
Transfer and Career Center  
Building C, room 132

**CalPERS on the Road: "Planning Your Retirement"**

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Register at [calpers.ca.gov](http://calpers.ca.gov)  
June 19  
West Wing Conference Room  
Salinas City Hall  
200 Lincoln Ave.