



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.

Note to readers:

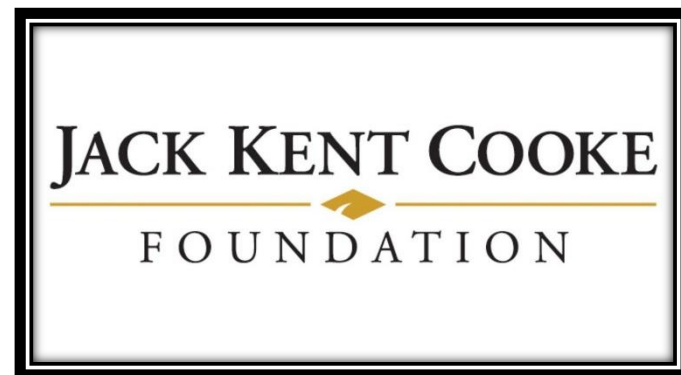
The President's Weekly Report to the Community has moved to twice-monthly publication while the volume of news is slower due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

Five Hartnell students are semi-finalists for Jack Kent Cooke transfer scholarship

In the past decade, Hartnell College students have achieved great success in the highly competitive Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, receiving the \$120,000 community college award in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2020.

This year again holds great promise because a record five Hartnell students have been selected as semi-finalists for 2021. They are among just 406 chosen from more than 1,500 applicants at 398 schools. Out of 97 total California semi-finalists announced on Feb. 22, only three other California colleges had as many selected as Hartnell, and all are significantly larger.

Hartnell's semi-finalists are: Ilyne Castellanos (majoring in political science and Spanish), Isabel Perez (art and social and behavioral sciences), Julissa Portillo (biology), Rosa Sanchez Garcia (math, biology and chemistry) and Sonia Molinero Martinez (social and behavioral sciences).



The 2021 Cooke Transfer Scholar recipients will be announced in April. In 2020, Hartnell had two semi-finalists: Jenel Fraij, who received a 2020 scholarship and is now studying applied mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Estefania Villicana, now studying sociology at UCLA. Selection is made based on exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, service and leadership.

Students have expanding role in COVID-19 vaccination effort

Participation by scores of Hartnell College nursing students in administering the COVID-19 vaccine in Monterey County and educating residents on the need for vaccination will soon expand to include the school's respiratory care and EMT programs.

The role of vocational and registered nursing students, which began in December, will grow exponentially in coming weeks as the college assists Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas in giving 4,500 vaccine doses to agricultural workers and other high-priority groups.



Students earn clinical hours that count toward their graduation but are not paid for their work. Many have completed multiple shifts — providing information, giving injections, screening vaccine recipients or observing for adverse effects after the shots. The need is especially great for those who speak both English and Spanish.

Said Dr. Sheppard, "One student told me, 'The more people we vaccinate in our community, the higher the chances of eradicating this COVID.'"

Nursing students also have presented information about the vaccine to groups of agricultural workers, beginning with employees at facilities of grower-shipper Taylor Farms in Salinas, San Juan Bautista and Gonzales.

"I think just by giving them all the facts we can remind them that in the end this is going to help everybody," said second-year RN student Alvaro Hernandez-Torres, who presented and answered employee questions on Feb. 23 in Gonzales (pictured).

Erica Padilla-Chavez, president of the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, said the students are making a historic contribution in their own communities. "There can be no better evidence of just how important our students and graduates are to the health and well-being of people in Monterey County and beyond," she said. "We are all very proud and grateful for their service."

Area high school students Zoom in for introduction to CTE at Hartnell

Hartnell's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs hosted hundreds of Monterey County high school students and educators for Career Education and Virtual Tour events on Feb. 24 and 26, as part of a National CTE Month observance in partnership with Mission Trails ROP/CTE.

The one-hour presentations included a [video](#) from a pre-recorded Zoom panel of CTE graduates; a [video tour](#) of Hartnell’s Agricultural & Business Technology Institute (Alisal Campus), courtesy of the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership; video statements from nursing students; and live presentations by instructors in a wide variety of CTE programs.



Hartnell faculty emphasized the many rewarding career opportunities available through such programs as agricultural business, advanced automotive technology and digital web design and mobile development. They also stressed their welcoming support and encouragement for students.

“We are people just like you,” said diesel technology instructor Mark DeHart (pictured, from Feb. 24), “and our ultimate goal is that we want you to succeed, and we will do what is necessary to see that you succeed. But we’re going to have fun doing it.”

Panther student-athletes aiming for spring-sport competition in early April

Hartnell Athletics teams in the traditional spring sports of softball, baseball, swim/dive and track and field are looking forward to starting their 2021 seasons with a limited schedule as early as April 10.



Because of COVID-19, the Panthers’ fall and winter sports of football, men’s and women’s soccer, volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball and cross country were not able to play shortened seasons in the early part of the Spring 2021 semester as hoped. But they will expect to compete in two scrimmage-style practice games before the semester ends on May 22.

Panther student-athletes and coaches have held regular workouts under careful conditions starting in December, shortly before Winter Break, and resuming Jan. 25. Teams have met for two hours, three times a week. Participants undergo temperature checks, maintain physical distancing and practice in pods of 10 – always outdoors (pictured: men’s and women’s soccer).

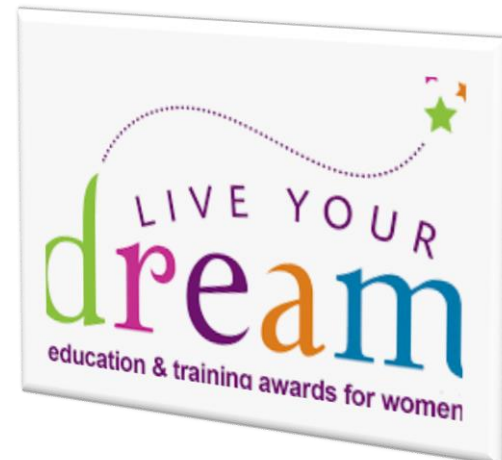


“I am grateful to the resilience of our student-athletes and the dedication of our outstanding coaches, trainers and counselors,” said Dan Teresa, dean of academic affairs, athletics, physical education and health. “They are all working together to maintain our proud Panther Athletics tradition.”

EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS student receives \$1,000 scholarship to support her dreams

Hartnell student Brianna Bustamante, has received a \$1,000 Live Your Dream Scholarship from Soroptimist International of the Americas. The organization says the award goes to women who provide primary financial support for their families, giving them “the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.”

Bustamante, the single mother of a 3-year-old daughter, will graduate in May with an Associate for Transfer Degree in Business Administration, and she plans to transfer to a California State University campus. She participates in the EOPS, CARE and CalWORKS program.



Hartnell foundation board approves a new five-year strategic plan

On Feb. 17, the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors unanimously approved a new five-year strategic plan, formalizing a \$34.1 million funding goal made up of \$30.5 million toward priorities identified in the foundation’s President’s Task Force funding plan and \$3.6 million for operations.

The plan, aligned with the college-wide strategic plan for 2019-24, is organized around the foundation’s focal theme of “Connect, Grow and Catalyze,” combined with overarching operational excellence. Among key objectives are “vibrant relationships with donors,” “expand annual income stream,” foster “diversity, equity and inclusion,” providing “holistic support” for students and spurring “innovative initiatives.”

“I think the foundation has got a great road map for the next five years, and the task for all of us is just to methodically execute it,” said strategic planning Chair David Warner, a long-serving former foundation board member and retired president of Pacific Valley Bank in Salinas.

Induction ceremony welcomes 43 students to Hartnell-CSUMB teacher ed pathways

Hartnell on Feb. 19 hosted a virtual Induction Ceremony for 15 students in Cohort 5 of the Teacher Pathway Program (TPP) for elementary education and 28 new students in the MAESTROS program for K-12 or special education. Both are in partnership with Cal State Monterey Bay.





Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez and others provided welcoming remarks and words of encouragement. The keynote speaker was Andrew Rodriguez, who teaches English at Salinas High School and was named 2020-21 Monterey County Teacher of the Year. During the induction ceremony, TPP/MAESTROs staff and Hartnell Counselor Heather Rodriguez surprised him with another award (pictured).

“The event is our way of recognizing our participants for their commitment to the teaching profession and to officially introduce them as new members of their respective program,” said Jesus Clemente, coordinator of TPP + MAESTROs. “More importantly, the event brought together new program participants from MAESTROs and TPP as they become part of a larger family of future educators striving to make a positive impact in the lives of others.”

TPP+MAESTROs presents NSF-funded STEM Teacher Panel on mentoring

On Feb. 24, the MAESTROs and Teacher Pathway Program facilitated a panel for current and aspiring teachers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields that explored both how to become and connect with a mentor. The Zoom event drew an audience of 30 people.

Participants heard from four panelists: Dr. Immanuel Williams, mathematics lecturer at California Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo; Leti Conteras, Hartnell mathematics instructor (pictured); Nicholas Carlson, chemistry teacher at Gonzales High School; and Kristen Hart, science teaching-credential student and co-teacher at Alisal High School.



The panelists spoke about their academic and career pathway and the people in their lives that have supported and mentored them along the way. Panelists touched on themes of asking for help, and they also reminded students that it is OK to fail, as long as you do not quit.

The event was made possible with funding from the National Science Foundation-NOYCE grant, in which Hartnell is a partner with University of California, Santa Cruz; and the UC Science & Math Initiative. The MAESTROs and Teacher Pathway invites faculty to collaborate on future teacher panel events, by email at teach@hartnell.edu.

Salinas Valley Promise continues to support students in pandemic

The Salinas Valley Promise (SVP) Program, which combines mentoring, life-skills and leadership training and two years of free tuition for first-time, full-time students, has launched a peer mentor program to pair successful second-year students with new SVP scholars, with the goal of increasing retention and persistence.

This past month, the peer mentors received professional development training including FERPA training and mentorship training to prepare them for their roles. More than 250 SVP students have already been paired with peer mentors, and more than 800 conversations have been logged through the virtual mentoring platform.



Also, to provide professional development and address economic needs of students, SVP joined with Ana Valles of the Hartnell Financial Aid office on Feb. 16 to ensure that they are able to successfully apply for scholarships offered through Hartnell.

“Based on the need we have seen from students, it was important to provide an opportunity to help students navigate the application and understand how to apply to scholarships,” said Chynna Obana, lead SVP coordinator. “Over 50 students logged on to receive information and have their questions answered.”

Obana has also hosted twice-weekly informational meetings for prospective SVP students and families. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2021-22 school year and are due March 2, which is also the due date for FAFSA and CA Dream Act applications. For more information please visit <https://www.hartnell.edu/promise/>.

MILE and WELI scholars join in mentor workshops on Feb. 20



Students in the MILE (Men’s Institute for Leadership & Education) and WELI (Women’s Education & Leadership Institute) programs on Feb. 20 held the first of three mentor workshops this semester via Zoom. Both are leadership, mentoring and scholarship programs for continuing students.

The men’s session was jointly led Dr. Jay Singh, director of academic affairs, student and academic support service, and Luis Juarez, ethnic studies instructor, for MILE. Dr. Nereida Oliva, sociology instructor, led the women’s session. Participants

focused on identifying personal motivational factors and strengthening inner self-concept, to strengthen resilience for their virtual learning.

For example, during the MILE workshop, scholars shared their “why” – why they are in college and what they hope to achieve as a result. (Pictured: MILE participant Carlos Aguilar.)

Ag Ambassadors offers field day for high school FARMS Leadership

On Feb. 22, CTE Job and Internship Placement Coordinator Belen Gonzales and student Agriculture Ambassadors presented a field day event for the local FARMS (Farming, Agriculture, and Resource Management for Sustainability) Leadership program. The program introduces, trains and recruits high school students for college and career opportunities in agriculture and environmental sciences.

Hartnell has been a long-time host for the FARMS Leadership Program and the FARMS Advanced program field days, but this year they had to get creative and go virtual. Lesson plans were created and supplies for kits were ordered, organized and distributed. (Pictured: ambassadors Ruby Romero and Martha Haro assemble kits at the Alisal Campus).



Gonzalez and the Ag Ambassadors put together a virtual tour of the Alisal Campus and informational videos to walk students through each step of the hands-on activities they would be completing at home. The ambassadors created soils and seeds activities to give participants a variety of skills to work on. Students from Greenfield, Gonzales, Salinas and Soquel took part.

Thrower Villasenor will compete for Div. I San Jose State next year

Sophomore thrower Pablo Villasenor III on Feb. 26 signed a letter of commitment to attend and compete for the NCAA Division I track and field program at San Jose State University. He was joined in celebration by his parents, former coaches at Gonzales High School and Hartnell coaches, including a proud Chris Zepeda, Hartnell's head coach in men's and women's track and field and cross country.

Having also played a season of football for the Panthers, Villasenor achieved his goal of moving on to the next level in track and field after just three countable competitions during the abbreviated 2020 season. Nonetheless, he became one of the all-time top 20 hammer throwers in Hartnell history, qualifying for the Northern California Championship, and also competed in discus.



An ebullient Villasenor tweeted: "Always wanted the opportunity to compete at the highest level possible. Here is my chance!"

In the News

Hartnell agriculture students share their pride:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/154UOU7pLJbTSbPrCSXMD9mH862NVNGgI/view?usp=sharing>

Hartnell students help spread vaccine education to farmworkers:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/02/27/hartnell-students-help-spread-vaccine-education-to-farmworkers/>

Estudiante de enfermería educa a trabajadores sobre el proceso de vacunación en Gonzales: <https://noticiasya.com/monterey-salinas/2021/02/23/estudiante-de-enfermeria-educa-a-trabajadores-sobre-el-proceso-de-vacunacion-en-gonzales/?fbclid=IwAR3L6m8RHxkNkFiaCSu2pTqeFYckfWhkC73LmxSISylcI9I9SY5JBi20n0A>

Salinas college and ag group hold summit on new technology:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/02/22/salinas-college-and-ag-group-hold-summit-on-new-technology/>

Track and field: Hartnell College's Pablo Villasenor to throw at San Jose State:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/02/25/track-and-field-hartnell-colleges-pablo-villasenor-to-throw-at-san-jose-state/>

Former Gonzales Spartans athlete heads to San Jose State:

<https://salinasvalleytribune.com/former-gonzales-spartans-athlete-heads-to-san-jose-state/>

Seaside's Choates makes Pac 12 debut in track:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/02/26/seasides-choates-made-pac-12-debut-in-track/>

New Hartnell College campus in Soledad nears completion:

<https://salinasvalleytribune.com/new-hartnell-college-campus-in-soledad-nears-completion/>

Breaking Barriers – Young Salinas councilman is committed to civic engagement:

<https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2021/02/19/breaking-barriers/>

Upcoming Events

Hartnell College Governing Board

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)

6 p.m.

Thursday, March 4

Register: <https://bit.ly/HartnellESL>

Seventh Annual WELI Forum

12 p.m.

Friday, March 5

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qDwzfi1ZQvmU9Vb0Vef_zw

STEAM Virtual Career and Job Fair

1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Register: <https://bit.ly/3qz1TVw>

Languages, Education, & Cultural Arts

Virtual Career and Job Fair

1-3 p.m.

Friday, March 12, 2021

Register: <https://bit.ly/3qz1TVw>

Pop-Up Food Pantry

12 p.m.

Friday, March 12

Hartnell Parking Structure

Hartnell College Governing Board – Development

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Business, Hospitality & Entrepreneurs

Virtual Career and Job Fair

1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Register: <https://bit.ly/3qz1TVw>

