

# President's Weekly Report



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

## 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.

## Holiday break

The President's Weekly Report will not be published for the Thanksgiving holiday week but will resume for the week of Dec. 3. Please send information and photos by each Wednesday to [sfaust@hartnell.edu](mailto:sfaust@hartnell.edu).

## Message from Dr. Rodríguez

# Reasons for Thanksgiving are many – and all around us

Whatever your Thanksgiving plans may be this week, I hope they include relaxation with family and friends, quite possibly gathering around a delicious and meaningful meal. The holiday is an annual reminder to appreciate all the reasons we have to give thanks, both in our personal lives and here at Hartnell. It is a chance to widen our perspectives – sharing our love with those we hold dear and feeling fortunate for all that sustains us.

I give thanks for my opportunity to help lead this outstanding college, and I deeply value our wonderful employees and all you do for our students. Your caring enthusiasm and unswerving belief in their unlimited potential is what makes Hartnell so remarkable. In turn, we are especially grateful for the students. Their strength and courage inspires us, week after week.



Even as we take a break from our routines, we can stay present to the joys and satisfactions of higher education. We can remember how important it is to thank our colleagues, our students and our many loyal community supporters. Those constants are what enable us to thrive amid all the change and uncertainty of the past year and a half.

I wish you all a truly rejuvenating holiday – and productive weeks through semester's end. Time always flies by quickly, so it's important to pause and acknowledge all that is precious in our lives. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Governing Board launches search for permanent superintendent/president

The Hartnell Community College District on Nov. 17 launched a nationwide search for a permanent superintendent/president to be appointed this spring and start work in July.

Members of the district's Governing Board voted unanimously at their regular meeting on Nov. 16 to approve a position announcement, search timeline and the composition of a search committee that will identify and recommend finalists for their consideration. Assisting in the search will be Community College Search Services, a California-based firm hired with unanimous board approval on Oct. 19. Interim Superintendent/President Raúl Rodríguez, appointed in July 2020, will continue to serve through June.



The position announcement, posted with other documents and information on the Hartnell College [website](#), highlights Hartnell's goal of continual innovation to "serve the needs of our region's diverse and growing population and ensure accessible higher education for all." The deadline for application is Jan. 14.

In an announcement letter on the website, Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez said the district will appoint a chief executive "prepared to uphold, and raise, the standard of excellence that makes Hartnell College one of the most dynamic and innovative community colleges in all of California."

The search timeline, subject to change from unforeseeable circumstances, calls for a 17-member stakeholder search committee to recommend finalists to the Governing Board by mid-February. Following background checks, the board intends to interview finalists and hold a public forum for each finalist in early March. They plan to select a successful candidate in time to complete the hire by mid-April. The board will provide regular public updates on the search process, which will be placed on the superintendent/president search webpages.

## Cross Country teams' performance at state is best ever in Hartnell program's history

Hartnell College Athletics' record of excellence in men's and women's cross country attained new heights on Nov. 20 at the 2021 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) State Championship in Fresno.

The men's third-place team score – led by Isaac Gensel's second-place individual finish – earned them their first state trophy, eclipsing a program-best fourth place in 1992. The women



matched their program-best team mark of second place, also achieved in 2015 and 2018, and placed four runners in the top 30. The combined showing was the Panthers' finest ever, before a large and electric crowd that included friends, family and many Hartnell cross country alumni.

Head Coach Chris Zepeda said the accomplishment is magnified by the enrollment size of the colleges they faced. Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC), which won the state women's race and placed second in the men's, is more than twice the size of Hartnell, as is San Diego Mesa College, which won the men's title and earlier won the Southern California Conference. Riverside, which placed right behind Hartnell in both races, is nearly as large.



"I've always told our kids, 'We're up against giants,' so this is pretty historic," Zepeda said. "That's something they wanted to create – history. For a lot of them, this was their first state championship for community college, and it helps us set the tone going forward for the future."

Gensel (pictured), a 2019 graduate of Monterey High School, covered four hilly miles in 20:11, beating his 24<sup>th</sup>-place 2019 state championship time by 1:07 and claiming the third-fastest time in Hartnell history.

"I ran the whole race with a smile on my face," he said. "It was such a fun race. It's been a great, memorable season. I'm just glad it ended the way it did."

He plans to complete a mission year with the Mormon Church after graduating from Hartnell this spring before resuming his running career at a four-year university.

As a top-14 finisher, Gensel earned All-American honors. The Panther men's second-fastest runner at state was freshman Esteban Deniz, from King City High School, who earned All-State honors by finishing 16<sup>th</sup>, with a time of 20:39. Less than a second behind him, in 19<sup>th</sup> place, was King City sophomore Daniel Correa, who also made All-State.

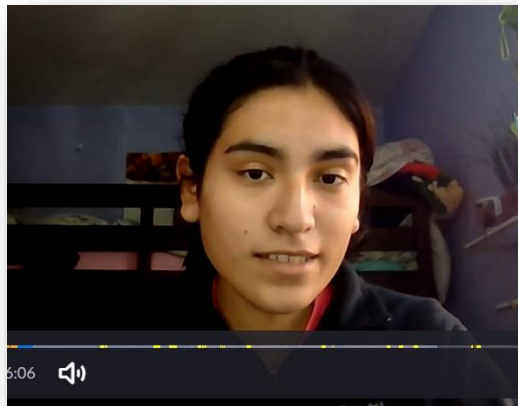


Leading the Hartnell women were a pair of former North Salinas High teammates, freshman Sofia Camacho, and sophomore Valeria Lozano-Gomez, who placed eighth and ninth, respectively (pictured fourth and third from left), with times of 18:48 and 18:50 over 3.1 miles.

Both are All-American, and Lozano-Gomez became only the fourth Hartnell woman to repeat that distinction in cross country. Camacho earlier won at NorCal, with Lozano-Gomez in third, to seal the Panthers' conference title. All-State honors went to Hartnell's Andrea Villegas, a freshman from North Monterey County High School, who placed 20<sup>th</sup> with a time of 19:24.

## STEM Internship Program holds symposium, honors Bliss and unveils a new webpage

The Hartnell STEM Internship Program's 15<sup>th</sup> annual student symposium on Nov. 12 highlighted student interns' achievement during the 2020-21 academic year and recognized former Hartnell STEM dean Shannon Bliss as this year's Andy Newton STEM Internship Partner Award recipient. The one-hour program via Zoom was also the unveiling of the program's new webpage at [hartnellstem.org](http://hartnellstem.org).



The event celebrated the 40 Hartnell students who completed eight- to 10-week internships with partners in higher education, private industry and federal agencies and another 140 who completed 16-hour micro-internships, which are a gateway to additional research experience.

"We need to thank the students," said Dr. Mohammed Yahdi, interim dean of STEM, "because without the students there would be no internship program – there would be no college. So thank you to the students who undertook to get out of their comfort zone and have that educational experience."

The five current students and graduates gave panel presentations on their work were: Maria Elena Diaz Angel, a biology and chemistry major who completed a virtual

internship at University of California, Santa Cruz on Shinga Toxin-producing E. coli in food; Yesenia Magallanes (pictured), an electrical engineering major, who completed a virtual internship on "Developing an Environmental Quality Monitoring System" with the NASA Space Consortium; Jesus Delgadillo Ponce, a 2021 engineering graduate who completed an in-person internship on highly durable plastics at the Naval Postgraduate School and now attends Fresno State University; Citlally Lopez-Leon, a biology major, who completed an in-person internship in public education and stewardship at the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve; and Jose Lomeli-Vega, a construction management major, who completed an in-person internship at the Space Sciences Laboratory of UC-Berkeley as a contributor to a rocket that will analyze energy from the aurora lights.



Bliss (pictured with Joel Thompson, interim director of the Science and Math Institute, left, and Dr. Yahdi) received the Andy Newton partner award for her work in support of STEM internships, both as a dean and now as founder of a non-profit organization, Seeds4STEM, including engaging students through a micro-internship and an internship over the past year.

"I'm very proud of the work that Hartnell College does with the STEM internship program," Bliss said. "It's a very unique program, and sometimes students don't realize how unique it is. Most colleges don't have the ability to provide internships, so I always like to make sure students know that."

## Campaign for College Opportunity recognizes Hartnell transfer success

Hartnell is among 44 California Community Colleges and 15 California State University recognized for success in preparing Latinx students for university transfer during the Campaign for College Opportunity's Champions of Higher Education for Excellence in Transfer awards program on Nov. 16.

"This year's Champions are shining examples of what happens when colleges and universities embrace policy that supports California students and work intentionally to close racial equity gaps," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Specifically, Hartnell was recognized for having a higher rate of Associate Degree for Transfer completion among Latinx student than for all students.

At Hartnell, 69% of Hartnell's degree-earning Latinx students received an Associate Degree for Transfer in 2020-21, making them better equipped to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year university. Hartnell awarded a total of 752 ADTs last year.



## Transfer outreach efforts reach students and are shared by National Public Radio

Hartnell participated this fall in a series of informational Transfer Chats for students via Zoom with Cabrillo and Monterey Peninsula colleges on Oct. 25-28, as well as presenting virtual Transfer Tuesday workshops through October and November that help students review and submit their transfer applications to California state schools and private universities.

The work caught the eye of National Public Radio, which recorded and shared three minutes of an Oct. 26 Transfer Chat on School-Life Balance for broadcast on the [20-minute NPR podcast](#) "Life Kit." The program was intended to help listeners "better understand what the transfer process actually looks and sounds like," said NPR Assistant Producer Clare Marie.

Mercedes del Real, Transfer and Career Center counselor, said NPR's interest "highlights the accessibility and utility of our virtual Transfer Chats. We had an average of 33 students in attendance for each Transfer Chat event, and 153 total registrations for our events, including 77 from Hartnell College."



## Virtual Town Hall Forum on Nov. 15 covers breadth of College Redesign

Twenty-four presenters came together on Nov. 15 to present a [Virtual Town Hall Forum on College Redesign](#) at Hartnell, covering the initiative's strategies to strengthen educational pathways, foster continuous improvement, promote engagement with organizational culture, drive increasing student success and close persistent equity gaps.

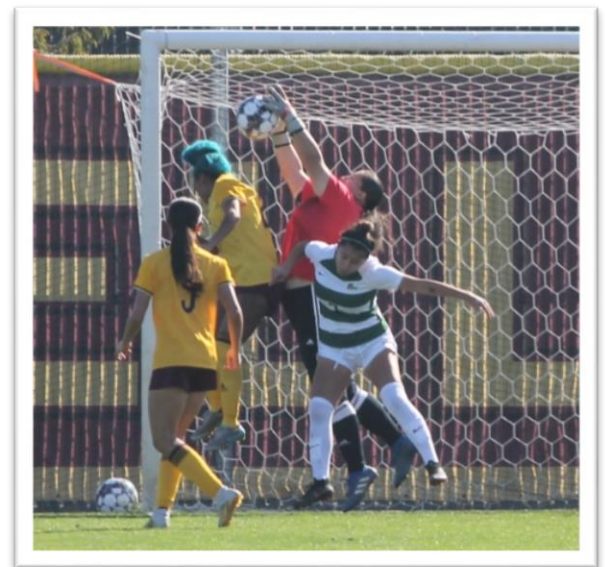
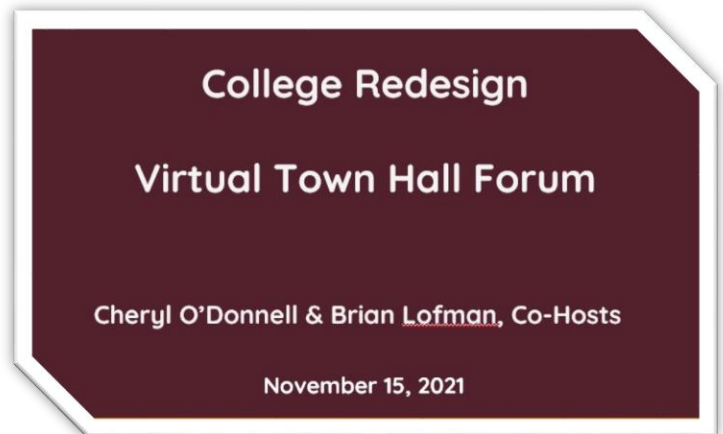
Among subjects covered were first-year completion of transfer-level English and math (Dr. Peter Gray), infusing equity practices into curriculum (Dr. Kelly Locke), program maps and Meta-Majors (Dean Carla Johnson) and digitization of manual processes (Vice President David Phillips).

Interim Superintendent-President Dr. Raúl Rodríguez was joined in his welcome by ASHC President Jane Hernandez, and both Academic Senate President Cheryl O'Donnell and Dr. Brian Lofman, dean of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness, co-hosted the event.

Dr. Lofman followed up with an email thanking all presenters for their preparation and participation. "I recognize that the challenging and time-consuming work that you are putting into each college redesign is enormous, entails the coordination of many component parts, and involves collaborating with co-leads, a team, and/or a great many individuals across organizational silos to embed new practices into our everyday operations," he wrote. "The synergistic impact on students, their experience, and student outcomes will undoubtedly be increasingly deeper and more pervasive as these and other college redesigns are more fully developed and implemented over the next several years."

## Men's and Women's Soccer and Volleyball win openers to stay in the playoffs hunt

All three sports competing in fall playoffs won their first-round games and will play a second round before Thanksgiving break. The men's and women's basketball teams also are continuing their seasons, with just a few upcoming home games.



**Men's Soccer:** The Panthers beat Napa Valley at home on Nov. 20, 3-2, with goals by Ricardo Hinojosa, Ramirez Sanchez – and the winning goal by Anthony Rangel in the final minute. They next face Fresno at home at 2 p.m. on Nov. 24. Admission to all playoff games is \$12 for adults, and \$8 for 55-plus and 12-under.

**Women's Soccer:** Hartnell defeated Canada at home, 2-0, on goals by Yvette Rojas and Carly Lowi. They next face San Francisco at home at 2 p.m. on Nov. 23. (Pictured is a save against Canada by Hartnell goalie Ency Soto.)

**Volleyball:** Hartnell beat Ohlone on Nov. 20 for the third time this season, 3-1, on their home court. The Panthers lost the first set, 22-25 but roared back for three straight wins, 25-19, 25-21, 25-20. They will travel to Feather River for their next playoff game at 6 p.m. on Nov. 23.

**Women's Basketball:** The Panthers, 1-8 so far, have home dates at 5 p.m. on Nov. 23 vs. Ohlone, 6 p.m. on Dec. 16 against Siskiyou and 12 p.m. on Dec. 22 against Foothill.

**Men's Basketball:** With a 2-4 season start, Hartnell will host West Hills-Lemoore at 3 p.m. on Nov. 27. They will face Foothill at Monterey Peninsula College at 1 p.m. on Dec. 2 but won't play at home again until Jan. 5, when they face San Jose at 7 p.m.

## Vocal concert on Dec. 6 will kick off six-event winter performance series

Hartnell's instrumental and vocal music programs will begin their 2021 Winter Concerts Series with a recital by vocal students at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the Mainstage Theater, located in the Center for Performing Arts (Building K). The recital will be directed by Sandy Rudo.

The remaining events are Dec. 14-16:

**Jazz and Concert Band Winter Concert,** 7 p.m. on Dec. 14, Mainstage Theater, featuring the Hartnell Jazz Ensemble, directed by Steve Ettinger, and the Hartnell Wind Ensemble, directed by Daniel Zeff.

**Winter Instrumental Recital,** 3 p.m. on Dec. 15, room K-125, featuring students from the Music 11 class, directed by Steve Ettinger.



**Winter Choral Concert,** 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 15, Mainstage Theater, featuring the Hartnell Choir & Chamber Singers, directed by Sandy Rudo.

**Hawaiian Music Concert,** 7 p.m. on Dec. 15, room K-125, featuring students in the Music 6 class, directed by William Faulkner. (Pictured: Hawaiian Concert in 2019.)

**From Russia with Love,** 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 16, Mainstage Theater, featuring the Hartnell College

Community Orchestra performing holiday music and music of Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Prokofiev and others, conducted by Steve Ettinger, with Daniel Zeff, assistant conductor.

Masks are required for all audience members. No tickets are required, though donations may be requested. For further information, contact Steve Ettinger at 755-6906 or [settinger@hartnell.edu](mailto:settinger@hartnell.edu).

## Sixth-grade visitors get look at the Soledad Education Center

About 80 sixth-graders from San Vicente Elementary School in Soledad walked across Orchard Drive on Nov. 15 for a tour of their neighbor, the Soledad Education Center. Coincidentally, the school's mascot is also the Panthers.

Their visit included a science demonstration by Hartnell Science Lab Technician Tito Polo (pictured) and the chance to hear from a panel of Hartnell students.



Soledad center director Ana Gonzalez reported that as the students were walking back to their school, one of them shouted back, "Thank you. I'll see you in college!"

Gonzalez told students and staff afterward, "To me, that comment is a result of your warm welcome and supportive attitude. Thank you! I am so proud to be part of this team."

## Student Life and ASHC organize sock drive and Lights of Love

The Office of Student Life and Associated Students of Hartnell College (ASHC) are seeking employee and student participation in two holiday giving programs to help individuals and families in need.

Socksgiving, which continues through Nov. 30, is a drive to collect new pairs of socks that will be shared with Salinas organizations that assist the homeless. Socks should be brought to room 140 in the Student Center.

Lights of Love is an opportunity for members of the college community to provide gifts for the children of Hartnell students. Participants are asked to pick up a name or names from the Office of Student Life, purchase an appropriate gift and return it wrapped by Dec. 6.

For additional information, call the Office of Student Life at (831) 755-6734. And thank you!

**Socksgiving**  
FOR TOES IN NEED

Join us in collecting new socks to donate for those less fortunate during the holidays.

**November 8-30**

Bring your new socks donations to the Office of Student Life, C-140



## Campus Pride provides safe-space training for 48 people in October

Hartnell's LGBTQIA-Allies group joined with the national [Campus Pride Safe Space](#) program to present safe-space training for 48 employees and students, including 25 who participated on Oct. 8 and 23 who took part on Oct. 15. Available spots filled quickly, suggesting strong interest for training in future semesters.



The two-hour online training included topics on LGBTQ history, the importance of a safe space on campus, LGBTQ identities and terminology and creating a safe space for inclusion. Each participant received a certificate of completion.

## In the News

**Most students who want to transfer colleges don't. Here's how to start:**

<https://www.npr.org/2021/11/10/1054306602/how-to-transfer-colleges>

**College football: Hartnell's Flores named Multi-Purpose Player of the Year:**

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/11/18/college-football-hartnells-flores-named-player-of-the-year/>

**College cross country: Hartnell women finish second, men third at state finals:**

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/11/20/college-cross-country-hartnell-women-finish-second-men-third-at-state-finals/>

**Hartnell's cross-country teams are one race away from claiming the state championship:** [https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news\\_blog/hartnell-s-cross-country-teams-are-one-race-away-from-claiming-the-state-championship/article\\_a9952c04-4990-11ec-b26c-a32b6871c157.html](https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/hartnell-s-cross-country-teams-are-one-race-away-from-claiming-the-state-championship/article_a9952c04-4990-11ec-b26c-a32b6871c157.html)

**Cross Country | Hartnell runners prepare for state meet Saturday:**

<https://kingcityrustler.com/cross-country-hartnell-runners-prepare-for-state-meet-saturday/>

## Upcoming Events

**Women's Soccer Playoff vs. San Francisco**

2 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 23

Hartnell Soccer Field

Admission: \$12 adults, \$8 55-plus and 12-under

**Women's Basketball vs. Ohlone**

5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 23  
Hartnell Gym

**Men's Soccer Playoff vs. Fresno**

2 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 24  
Hartnell Soccer Field  
Admission: \$12 adults, \$8 55-plus and 12-under

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

All campus sites closed  
Nov. 25-26

**Men's Basketball vs. West Hills-Lemoore**

3 p.m.  
Saturday, Nov. 27  
Hartnell Gym

**Hartnell Governing Board – Annual Organizational Meeting**

5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 14  
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

**Jazz and Concert Band Winter Concert**

7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 14  
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

**Winter Instrumental Recital**

3 p.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 15  
Room 125, Building K

**Winter Choral Concert**

10:15 and 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 15  
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

**Hawaiian Music Concert**

7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 15  
Room 125, Building K

**From Russia with Love**

7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 16  
Mainstage Theater (Building K)

**Women's Basketball vs. Siskiyou**

6 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 16  
Hartnell Gym

**Final Day of Fall Semester**  
Dec. 18