



**HARTNELL COLLEGE**

# HARTNELL COLLEGE **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*September 2023, Issue 1*



## **Welcome Back!**

The start of a new school year at Hartnell College has brought about a surge of positivity and collaboration. It's been heartwarming to witness so many students, faculty and staff banding together to ensure that the return to campus is a smooth one.

From setting up welcome tables and handing out maps to offering guidance and support to incoming students, every member of the Hartnell community is doing their part to create a welcoming and nurturing environment.

I firmly believe that the level of teamwork and collaboration we've seen here is a testament to the kind of caring campus community we strive to be.

With more students on campus this year, it's more important than ever that we continue to foster a culture of inclusivity and mutual support. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of the Hartnell family!

**Michael Gutierrez**  
Superintendent/President



## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

# Ariana Rodriguez

*College Pathways Coordinator Ariana Rodriguez on how Hartnell has played an important role in shaping her future.*



Ariana was born in King City, and has resided in Greenfield her whole life. Being the 3rd generation on her maternal side to call this place home, Ariana's commitment to her community runs deep. Since 2004, Ariana has been an integral part of the Hartnell family, starting her journey at the King City Education Center.

Hartnell has profoundly influenced Ariana's personal and professional life. It allowed her to pursue higher education, inspiring her to pave the way for her children to follow their dreams as well. When Ariana began her journey with Hartnell College, she was expecting the birth of her daughter, Alina, who is now a thriving 2nd year student at Hartnell College. Alina also holds the position of President of the Associated Students of Hartnell College. Additionally, Ariana's oldest child Athena, a Boronda Scholar and former Captain of the Speech Team, successfully graduated from Hartnell College and is now pursuing her master's degree.

***"This is why Hartnell has been such a vital part of our lives. It has enabled me to pursue my dreams and instill in my children the belief that they too can achieve greatness."***

Ariana is the current College Pathways coordinator, serving in this role since 2019. The College Pathways team collaborates with over 20 traditional and alternative education sites

in Monterey County. They provide support to more than 3,000 local seniors, facilitating their transition to Hartnell College after high school. Ariana also organizes Panther Prep Days, which now spans five sessions at four campuses over three days. During Panther Prep, students receive guidance in enrolling for their first semester of college before high school graduation.

When asked about her passion for working at Hartnell, Ariana illuminates her dedication to helping students navigate the college experience. Being a first-generation student, she fully understands the challenges and uncertainties that can arise. Ariana takes great pride in demystifying the college journey and guiding our students. Witnessing the impact of her support on individuals, entire families, and even extended social networks is incredibly rewarding. She has had the privilege of enrolling whole families over several years, from siblings and parents to aunts, uncles, cousins, and even grandparents. Through her tireless efforts, Ariana has witnessed firsthand how transforming one person's life can ripple out and positively influence an entire community. She believes this is the true essence and beauty of working at Hartnell.

[Read the full highlight \*\*HERE\*\*](#)

# ACHIEVING THE DREAM

## FALL KICKOFF RALLY!



On August 25, the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Fall Rally brought the entire campus community together as ONE Hartnell. It was a moment to celebrate, promote teamwork, and grow professionally. This marked the first-ever fall rally at Hartnell College, replacing the traditional convocation. The event served as a warm welcome to the new semester, featuring a state of the college address and an introduction by Superintendent/President Michael Gutierrez. His focus was on Hartnell College's "why," reminding us of the importance of collaboration, camaraderie, and the significant role each individual plays in the student experience.



ATD is deeply grounded in data, equity, and accountability. It represents a vision that encompasses all dimensions of institutional change, urging us to strive for more. From data-driven decision-making to ensuring equity in education and fostering accountability among all stakeholders, Achieving the Dream is an invitation to aim higher and break boundaries. By pledging to ATD, Hartnell College commits to a brighter future for our students.

In our pursuit of expanding opportunities and access, we are cultivating a culture of excellence fueled by the belief that every student deserves a chance to thrive. Together, let's embrace the challenge and Achieve the Dream.



**Hartnell College alumna Uzo Ebo during her moving "I am" speech .**



**Keynote speaker Dr. Monica Parrish Trent, Chief Program and Network Officer, ADT**





## National Steinbeck Center Valley of the World Educator Award

The power of education lies in the ability to inspire and ignite a lifelong love of learning. Clint Cowden, Dean of Academic Affairs - Career Technical Educational & Workforce Development at Hartnell College, has done just that. His tireless work, dedication, and passion for his students has now earned him the prestigious National Steinbeck Center Valley of the World educator award. This award recognizes an individual

who exemplifies the spirit of Steinbeck's writings, inspiring and nourishing a love of learning in others. Clint's story is a testament to the fact that anyone with dedication and hard work can make a positive impact on the world. The ceremony honoring Clint and others will take place on **Friday, September 29, 2023**, at the National Steinbeck Center in downtown Salinas.

Congratulations Clint!

## *Napoleon Navarro selected by the USDA to attend HACU Conference in October*



Congratulations Napoleon Navarro on being selected for a Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference sponsorship by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)! As a student, the opportunity to attend

this conference is both noteworthy and inspiring.

The HACU Conference is a chance to be a part of something bigger, where students and educators come together for a common mission - to promote educational opportunities for Hispanic students and to meet the needs of business, industry, and government through shared resources.

We commend you Napoleon for your dedication to education. We cannot wait to see what experiences and lessons you'll bring back from this conference.

# Hartnell College Cross Country's Andrea Villegas achieves milestone victory

The Hartnell College Cross Country team has long been a source of pride for the college, and this past weekend only further cemented their reputation as a team to watch. During the State Preview on Saturday, September 2, in Fresno, California, at Woodward Park, Hartnell College sophomore Andrea Villegas rose to the occasion by beating both a season and Hartnell College record for women's cross country.



Villegas' triumph marks a significant milestone, becoming the first Hartnell woman to win the State Preview. Villegas' 18:36 run is not only an impressive achievement, but it also makes her the second-fastest community college woman this season. With their unwavering dedication and talent, the Hartnell College Cross Country team continues to prove that hard work pays off.

Chris Zepeda, the Cross Country and Track and Field Athletic Coach at Hartnell College couldn't

be more excited for his student athletes. "With an unwavering dedication to their sport, these athletes repeatedly work tirelessly to push themselves to new heights."

The Hartnell College Cross Country team's recent accomplishments mark a historic moment for Hartnell College, and all involved couldn't be more thrilled. "These athletes inspire us all, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish next," Zepeda added.



## ***Have something important to share?***

The President's Report highlights accomplishment, engagement, progress, and success for and within the Hartnell College community.

The President's Report will be distributed every two weeks. Please send information and photos by each Tuesday to [vagonzalez@hartnell.edu](mailto:vagonzalez@hartnell.edu).

# Hartnell College aims to improve student outcomes with the addition of five Student Success Specialists

Amidst the ever-changing community college landscape, Hartnell College has prioritized building positive relationships with students. Intending to improve student success rates from the beginning of their college journey, Hartnell has welcomed five student success specialists who offer various support services to guide students toward obtaining a college certificate, degree, or continuing their education at a four-year college or university. Through active engagement, connection, and collaboration with counseling, the admissions office, and all programs and resources on campus, these specialists support students from day one. Noteworthy to share, a positive impact on students is already noticeable in just a few short months.

The efforts of the specialists are part of a broader plan, driven by the idea of guided pathways, and aimed to synthesize various initiatives on campus. For years, a dedicated team of Hartnell staff and faculty members have worked towards enhancing the student experience and finding ways to encourage connections with the campus, one another, and the community. The goal was to create a clear pathway to success that is easy for students to navigate while understanding that student priorities will often change.

The student success specialists offer meta-major-specific guidance to help students stay on track. Meta-majors consist of related academic majors and degrees within a specific career area, assisting students

in making informed decisions based on their interests, knowledge, skills, and abilities. Students identify with a meta-major and are paired with a student success specialist who will assist them in registering for appropriate classes aligned with the education plan of their desired degree, set forth by their counselor. Ultimately, Hartnell College aims to reduce the time it takes for students to graduate or transfer, and move into a meaningful career.

The Student Success Specialists are located inside the Student Success Center in Building N, Room 4 on the Main Campus.

For more information, call (831) 770-7060 or email [studentsuccess@hartnell.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@hartnell.edu).



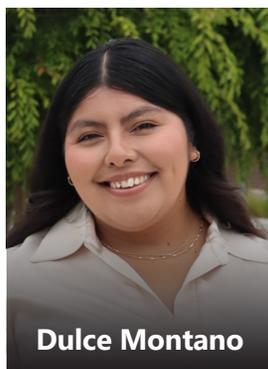
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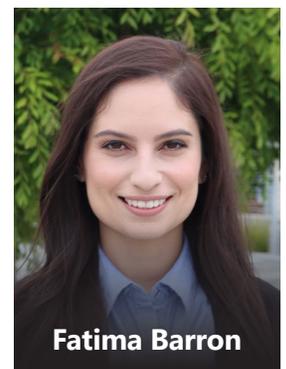
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# Soledad Unified High School District students' creative projects come to life

Soledad Unified High School District students recently showcased their talent and creativity by designing and constructing iron vineyards using Hartnell College's state-of-the-art robotic welders. These vineyards will play a crucial role in the FIRA-World Ag Robotics Forum-USA event in Salinas from September 19 - 21.

FIRA-USA is a unique gathering that brings together farmers, robot manufacturers, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss and showcase the latest advancements in autonomous farming.

The high school students' iron vineyards will be used in a vineyard robotic test field, providing a real-world platform for various robots to demonstrate their capabilities and performance.

This project is part of the Alisal campus's Agriculture and Industrial Technology program, which offers rigorous and relevant education through partnerships with local industries and the community.

By participating in this project, the students gained hands-on experience in welding, fabrication, design, and Mechatronics and developed essential skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication.





## HAPPY RETIREMENT!

After 23 years of dedicated service to Hartnell College, Dr. Liz Estrella from the counseling center embarked on a new journey - RETIREMENT! It's a bittersweet moment for many who have worked with her and learned from her knowledge. Dr. Estrella's contributions to the college community are immense, and her presence will surely be missed. Congratulations, Dr. Estrella, on a truly remarkable career!

HARTNELL COLLEGE PRESENTS

# 17TH ANNUAL STEM INTERNSHIP SYMPOSIUM



PLEASE JOIN US TO SHOWCASE AND CELEBRATE THE 2023 SUMMER INTERNS.  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED.

DATE:

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

LOCATION:

HARTNELL MAIN CAMPUS  
411 CENTRAL AVE SALINAS, CA  
S-BUILDING LOBBY

TIME:

11:00AM-2:00PM

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ANELY MENESES AT [AMENESES@HARTNELL.EDU](mailto:AMENESES@HARTNELL.EDU)



## NEW EMPLOYEE WELCOME!

**We are happy to introduce Edwina Tangitau, our new Director of Public Safety.** Edwina studied Business Management at Oxnard College and served on Ventura County’s Child Developmental Resources Policy Council, where she was honored with a Service Award in 2018.

Edwina brings with her nearly two years of experience at Seed Beauty, initially as the Corporate Security Manager and most recently as the Safety and Security Manager. Her leadership within the General Services Department encompassed Safety, Security, Facilities, and Environmental Health. Her efforts included internal restructuring of resources and processes, resulting in significant cost savings, improved efficiency and compliance, and a reduction in injuries and incidents. Prior to Seed Beauty, she spent 6 years in various roles within the physical security industry, including Security Supervisor, Post Commander, Account Manager, and Scheduler. Warm welcome to Hartnell!

## RECAP IN PHOTOS!



National night out in King City

District 5 celebration at Sussex Circle in King City



Hartnell College Alisal campus at the Monterey Motorsports Festival

Presentation of the 23-23 ASHC Officers during a Board of Trustees meeting





Welcome Week Tent during first week



Rancho Cielo's annual Food Box distribution event



Board of Trustees welcoming students during the first annual Panther Connect



Dr. Liz Estrella's retirement celebration.



MFGT-112A students learning about Alternating Current, measuring capacitance, inductance, and their reactivity to circuits.



Indigenous forum and Mexican handcraft fair hosted by the Mexican Consulate - San Jose



Achieving the Dream Fall Kickoff Rally

## RECAP IN PHOTOS!



Presented by



**JOIN US**  
FOR THE FREE

**DREAM IT!**  
**DESIGN IT!**  
**CREATE IT!**

**FAB LAB STEM**  
**LAB EVENT**

Media Sponsor:



Register at:

<https://dreamitdesignitcreateit2023.eventbrite.com>

Join Chevron, MCOE and the Fab Foundation for an **afternoon of dreaming, designing, and creating** at the official launch of the Central Coast Mobile Fab Lab.

Enjoy hands-on learning and play activities, food trucks, jump houses and a live broadcast from KDON radio.

The whole family will be inspired by the Chevron STEM Zone, an interactive space for kids and parents to learn how science, technology, engineering and math are connected to everyday life.

**THE MOBILE FAB LAB STEM EVENT FEATURES:**

- Activation stations in three zones
- Free popcorn
- Arts and crafts
- Jump houses for kids
- Photo booth
- Official unveiling of the Central Coast Mobile Fab Lab
- Food trucks (food for purchase)
- Live remote with KDON radio station

**SATURDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 14**  
**12:00-3:00 P.M.**

Salinas Regional Soccer Complex, 1440 Constitution Blvd., Salinas, CA



**Learn more** about the Mobile Fab Lab by visiting [www.centralcoastmobilefablab.org](http://www.centralcoastmobilefablab.org)

**MORE INFO**



## Upcoming Events

### SPORTS CALENDAR

#### **Women's Soccer vs. Allan Hancock**

2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 19  
Hartnell Soccer Field

#### **Men's Soccer vs. Allan Hancock**

4 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 19  
Hartnell Soccer Field

#### **Pop-Up Pantry**

11 a.m.  
Thursday, September 21  
Main Campus  
Building C, Office of Student Life

#### **Volleyball vs. Los Medanos & Sequoias**

12 p.m. & 4 p.m.  
Saturday, September 23  
Hartnell Gymnasium

#### **Pop-Up Pantry -- South County**

11 a.m.  
Tuesday, September 26  
Soledad and King City  
Education Centers

#### **Women's Soccer vs. Santa Rosa**

2 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 26  
Hartnell Soccer Field

#### **Volleyball vs. Gavilan**

6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 27  
Hartnell Gymnasium

#### **Men's Soccer vs. Canada**

4 p.m.  
Friday, September 29  
Hartnell Soccer Field

#### **Football vs. Merced**

1 p.m.  
Saturday, September 30  
Rabobank Stadium

### WESTERN STAGE

#### **4,000 Miles**

A Western Stage production  
September 29 - October 28

#### **The Thanksgiving Play**

A Western Stage production  
September 30 - October 29