

# 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.

## 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!

## Hartnell singers lend their voices to Aquarium's 'Favorite Things'

With help from Hartnell College Singers, the Monterey Bay Aquarium shared a message of solace and joy amid the pandemic on March 12 through a [3.5-minute video](#) set to the song "My Favorite Things."

The video, with vocals provided by 16 Hartnell students, went out to 100,000 Aquarium email subscribers and 153,000 YouTube followers, plus thousands more Aquarium friends via other social media channels.

The Aquarium staff conjured the idea of adapting the beloved "Sound of Music" tune and invited Hartnell vocal music instructor Sandra Rudo and her singers to help make it happen.

"They were just thrilled to be asked to do this," said Rudo, who directs the Hartnell Choir and Chamber Singers. Brandon Ellsworth, choir director at North Salinas High School, helped with the production.

The volunteer Hartnell singers recorded their vocals in early January while on Winter Break, and the Aquarium team meshed the audio with video snippets of sea life and masked employees, reminding viewers of the wonders that await them when the Aquarium reopens.





The singers appear in a Zoom-style window at the end of the video, with the on-screen acknowledgment, "Special thanks to the Hartnell College Choir! You're otterly pawesome!"

Following a two-hour group rehearsal on Zoom, the singers polished and recorded their own parts, with many using high-fidelity microphones provided by the

Hartnell College Foundation and its Council of Arts. Rudo and Ellsworth combined the audio with musical accompaniment via computer and sent the finished recording to the Aquarium.

Rudo said her students were "just smiling" as they watched the video together on Zoom before its release: "I should have taken a photo of them watching themselves so I could show them the film."

## Governing Board approves 15 as as newly tenured faculty members



The Hartnell Community College District Governing Board approved 15 newly tenured faculty for 2020-21 at its March 2 meeting.

They are: Cynthia Ainsworth, library; Lisa Davis, nursing; Pedro Escoto, advanced automotive technology; Brook Foley, counseling/STEM; Ivan Guerrero, athletics/women's soccer; Norma Isela Cuevas, counseling/career-transfer; Daniel Lopez, communications; Miguel-Angel

Manrique, mathematics; Valerie Maturino Lopez, counseling; Dr. Matthew McElhenie, EMT; Brian Palmer, mathematics; Heather Rodriguez, counseling; Lesha Rodriguez, art; Deborah Thorpe, nursing; and Molly Wilson, English.

Board President Erica Padilla-Chavez announced the names following the board's action in closed session, adding, "We're very, very proud of everybody, and we're very excited to know that this stellar group of faculty members will hopefully be forever family members of our wonderful community college, so congratulations!"

## **\$300,000 Hartnell-CSUMB grant will support student soil research**

Hartnell and Cal State Monterey Bay have received a joint two-year, \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund undergraduate student research on use of soil microbes to suppress diseases that hinder agricultural crops.

Dr. Emily Rustad, an agricultural science instructor for Hartnell, worked on the successful grant application with Dr. Jose Pablo Dundore-Arias, an assistant professor of biology and chemistry at CSUMB.



Starting in Fall 2021, the USDA grant will provide classroom-based undergraduate research experiences in plant and soil science courses at Hartnell and CSUMB. That student work will contribute to a larger research project studying the impact of the soil bacteria *Collimonas* as an antagonist to soil-borne diseases. The grant will also fund related 12-week paid summer research internships for students from both schools, and as well as support a new agriculture-centered career and internship fair for students at Hartnell, CSUMB and other institutions in the Monterey Bay region.

Dr. Rustad said that in addition to giving participating students invaluable research experience, the project may make an important real-world contribution to reduced reliance on pesticides, which sometimes kill "good" organisms along with harmful ones.

"One of the effects of using a biological control like *Collimonas* is that you're introducing a microbe that competes with the pathogen but doesn't necessarily kill all the other microbes that are helping the soil," she said.

## **WELI Forum highlights student success and power of mentoring and other support**

More than 170 supporters of the Women's Education and Leadership Institute (WELI) at Hartnell joined an 85-minute online WELI Forum on March 5, presented by the Hartnell College Foundation.

The student completion and leadership program has graduated some 200 women scholars and granted about \$400,000 in scholarships since 2011. Participants receive leadership training, mentorship and a \$2,000 award.

The midday event was streamed on YouTube, taking the place of an annual in-person dinner event because of the pandemic. It included remarks by Interim Superintendent/President Raúl Rodríguez, emotional video testimonials by WELI mentors and former student participants, live speeches by two WELI students and a panel discussion on resilience with four women on the front lines of medicine, education, crisis counseling and the Salinas Valley agriculture community



Dr. Rodríguez (pictured) shared his commitment to supporting women students as the father of two daughters, one who has graduated from college and the other who is still several years away from starting college.

"It's so important that we support young women – at the elementary level, at the middle school level, at the high school level and certainly at the college level," he said, "and I'm so glad we have this WELI program, and I can tell you it's getting results."



Dr. Rodríguez cited several statistics on WELI's impact, including the fact that 97% of participants achieve their academic goals, with nearly three-quarters graduating with a certificate or degree, compared with 41% of comparable women students not in WELI.

The student speakers were Hartnell current student Maricarmen Gonzalez Coronado, who will graduate with degrees in business administration, communications and economics, and 2020 graduate Lesly Cruz, who plans to complete her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Cruz (pictured) described the many ways WELI helped her succeed, including help with textbook expenses and workshops in financial literacy and self-love. She said she hopes to help young women in the future through mentorship and philanthropy.

"If my path can inspire at least one woman, I will feel more I have more than accomplished my goal," Cruz said.

## Employee participation exceeds goals as 2021 giving climbs to \$134,372

With 198 individuals taking part, the 2021 Employees for Student Success campaign has surpassed participation goals for several employee categories and increased total donors by 6 percent over last year, with \$134,372 in gifts or yearly pledges.

Speaking on behalf of the Committee for Employee Giving and Student Success, Vice President for Advancement and Development Jackie Cruz said CSEA employees and full- and part-time faculty all stepped up this year.

"I am so happy for all of us," Cruz said. "We are a very generous group of individuals! Thank you and congratulations."

Winners of prize drawings were Dina Hayashi, executive assistant for academic affairs, who received a bag of Hartnell swag, and Dr. Jennifer Moorhouse, math instructor, who received a set of Air Pods.

## College again recognized as 'Military Friendly' for overall success and completion metrics

Hartnell has again been designated a Military Friendly® School for 2021-22, among 757 institutions receiving the designation for its overall student success and that of veteran students. The list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine. The rating is based on student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence and loan default rates.

"Schools who achieve designation show true commitment and dedication in their efforts," said Kayla Lopez, the program's national director of military partnerships. "Our standards assist schools by providing a benchmark that promotes positive educational outcomes, resources, and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the Military Community."

Hartnell typically has about 125 veteran students, including veterans' spouses and dependents and children of disabled veterans.

## Educator in Residence Series offers online lectures on April 16 and 30

The Hartnell Professional Development Committee has announced two Educator in Residence talks on storytelling and student success, April 16 and 30.





At 10 a.m. on April 16, novelist, comics writer and screenwriter Ben Percy (pictured), who also was a guest author at Hartnell's 2021 Student Success Conference in January, will present "Super-Powered Storytelling," which he describes as a "SMACK-BLAM-POW" discussion that addresses how working comics has challenged him to be a better person.

The second presentation, at 10 a.m. on April 30, will be by Diego Navarro, founder of the Academy for College Excellence (ACE) and a professor emeritus at Cabrillo College. His lecture, titled "Constructs for Building an Equity-Minded Culture," will examine how Hartnell can improve student success by understanding and establishing an equity-minded culture.

Both programs are free and open to all students, faculty, staff and community members. A Zoom link will be provided to employees, and students and others can join via YouTube livestream, with a link that will be posted on the Professional Development Committee [webpage](#).

## **Instrumental and vocal groups will present Music Extravaganza on April 2**

The Hartnell Department of Music will present its 2021 "Music Extravaganza" at 6 p.m. on April 2, featuring all of the performing groups in the Hartnell College music department. The event will be presented live on YouTube and will include an opportunity to donate to the Hartnell College music fund.

Guitar students will perform under the direction of instructor Phil Collins, and the Hartnell Orchestra and Jazz Band (pictured in February 2020) will perform under the direction of instructor Steve Ettinger, who will also serve as emcee.

Vocal instructor Sandy Rudo will lead video performances of the Hartnell College Choir and Chamber Singers, and piano instructor Galina Vinokurov will introduce students in her piano classes, who will play a variety of short pieces.

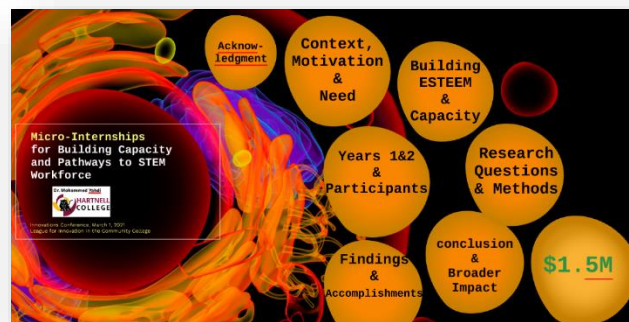


"Even though students know that this concert is being presented in an online format, they are still excited about doing their best," Ettinger said. "There is something about the pressure of putting yourself out in front of the public, whether it be as part of a concert situation or as a pre-recorded event, that challenges students to rise to a higher level in their performances."

# Dr. Yahdi shares micro-internship outcomes at Innovations Conference

Dr. Mohammed Yahdi, interim dean of math, science and engineering, presented on Hartnell's successful micro-internship program during the [2021 Innovations Conference](#) of the League for Innovation in the Community College, held online March 1-4.

His presentation, titled "Micro-Internships for Building Capacity and Pathways to STEM Workforce," was based upon work at Hartnell supported by a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation under Grant No 1832446, which has just completed its second of five years.



More than 443 Hartnell students have so far participated in the short and flexible internships, which are designed to provide key benefits of full-length internship and research experiences in an abbreviated and sustainable format, including access, success, degree completion, transfer and the recruitment and retention of more underrepresented students into the STEM workforce.

## Regional college reps convene to discuss STEM teacher pathways

Faculty and staff from Hartnell, Monterey Peninsula and Cabrillo colleges, the University of California, Santa Cruz, Cal State Monterey Bay and area school districts held a Networked Improvement Community (NIC) meeting on March 4 to discuss strategies for improving STEM teacher pathways. Attending from were Interim Dean Dr. Mohammed Yahdi, Dr. Mary Rayappan, Dr. Joel Thompson, Laura Fatuzzo and Jihan Ejan.

Topics of discussion included 1) Pathways into Teaching/Teacher Recruitment, 2) Classroom Opportunities/Interventions, and 3) Teacher Needs/Support for Teacher Interns. Collaborative meetings such as the NIC meeting help schools develop collaborative programming and strategize where resources can be leveraged to support the common goal of increasing more locally trained STEM teachers.



"It was an important meeting for people to come together, brainstorm and discuss best practices at each institution," said Ejan, who leads the Teacher Pathway Program at Hartnell.

## In the News

### Ramos a demon on defense at Southeastern Louisiana:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2021/03/11/ramos-a-demon-on-defense-at-southeastern-louisiana/>

**Community college students help spread vaccine education to farmworkers:**  
<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/02/28/hartnell-students-help-spread-vaccine-education-to-farmworkers/>

**Hartnell nursing students educate hundreds of Gonzales ag workers about COVID-19 vaccine:**

<https://salinasvalleytribune.com/hartnell-nursing-students-educate-hundreds-of-gonzales-ag-workers-about-covid-19-vaccine/>

**Guest Column | Vaccines: Every day matters:** <https://kingcityrustler.com/guest-column-vaccines-every-day-matters/>

## Upcoming Events

### **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

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

### **Spring Break**

March 22-26

### **Hartnell College Governing Board – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

### **Hartnell College Governing Board – Regular**

5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

### **Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)**

6 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

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

### **Musical Extravaganza: Instrumental and vocal groups**

6 p.m.

Friday, April 2

YouTube: Link to come



**Educator in Residence: Ben Percy – “Super-Powered Storytelling”**

10 a.m.

Friday, April 16

Info: [www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html](http://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html)

**Educator in Residence: Diego Navarro – “Constructs for Building an Equity-Minded Culture”**

10 a.m.

Friday, April 30

Info: [www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html](http://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html)

**Virtual ESL Orientation Workshop (bilingual)**

6 p.m.

Thursday, May 6

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

 **HARTNELL COLLEGE**  
**EDUCATOR IN RESIDENCE SERIES**



**Ben Percy**

Novelist, comics writer, and screenwriter.  
Guest Author at Student Success Conference 2021

**Friday, April 16, 2021 from 10 to 11 am**

**Super-Powered Storytelling**

Join me in this SMACK - BLAM - POW discussion which addresses how working in comics has challenged me to be a better writer and person.



**Diego Navarro**

Founder of Academy for College Excellence (ACE)  
Emeritus Professor at Cabrillo College

**Friday, April 30, 2021 from 10 to 11 am**

**Constructs for Building an Equity-Minded Culture**

This talk will be about how Hartnell College can improve student success by understanding and establishing an equity-minded culture.

This free, virtual event is open to all students, faculty, staff, and Hartnell community members.

The Zoom link will be provided to employees. Students and community members are welcome to join the Hartnell YouTube livestream, which will be sent via email and posted on the Hartnell website.

For more information about the Educator in Residence program, please visit the Professional Development Committee webpage:

<https://www.hartnell.edu/hr/pdp/index.html>