



# HARTNELL COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 2023, Issue 1



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Early College High School in Gonzales

During the second annual College and Career Fair on October 14, 2023, at the Gonzales High School (GHS) campus, Gonzales Unified School District (GUSD) officials presented Hartnell College with an award recognizing Hartnell's commitment and support to students. GUSD and Hartnell are working to create an Early College High School (ECHS) at GHS.

Early College High Schools (ECHS) are unique partnerships between public secondary schools and local community colleges or universities like CSUs or UCs. These schools offer students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit in just four years or less. ECHS operates as a small, independent institution that seamlessly integrates high school and college education into a comprehensive program.

One of the key benefits of ECHS is that it provides greater access to college-level courses for at-risk students, those from low-income backgrounds, and students of color. By participating in ECHS, students have the chance to earn college credits and a higher likelihood of staying in school and pursuing post-secondary education. Additionally, hardworking students are rewarded with the opportunity to accelerate their academic progress at minimal cost.

We are committed to continuing the valuable work in South County, aiming to provide equitable opportunities for our communities. We eagerly anticipate the future and the positive impact it will bring.

**Michael Gutierrez**  
Superintendent/President

# Transfer Day and College Night Fair

Transfer Day and College Night fairs a success



The 38th annual Transfer Day and College Night fairs took place on Wednesday, Nov. 1, in the Student Center. Transfer Day and College Night are free fairs for Hartnell students and Salinas Valley area high schoolers and their families to meet with a variety of college representatives

and post secondary programs to receive valuable information about the admission/ transfer process, and much more. We look forward to the next opportunity to interact with aspiring students.

## Music Concert

Music Department wows audience with collaborative concert



From classics by Franz Schubert and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to modern pieces from composer Alan Menken and lyricist Tim Rice, the Hartnell Music Department hosted an eclectic performance on Oct. 23. Featuring students from classes in piano, guitar and applied voice, along with members of Chamber

Singers Ensemble, Hartnell College Choir and former/current instrumentalists associated with the music program, the concert captivated a receptive audience. Hartnell is proud to introduce performance opportunities for students in a wide range of vocal and instrumental ensembles. Stay tuned for the next performance date!



# Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead comes to life

The third annual Dia de los Muertos celebration was held on November 2nd at the Plaza on the main campus. Organized by Hospice Giving Foundation, Hartnell College, and Hijos del Sol, this free community gathering brought together hundreds of attendees to honor and celebrate their loved ones who have passed away. The event featured ofrendas (altars) live music, traditional food, arts and crafts by Hijos Del Sol Arts Productions, a procession, and a resource



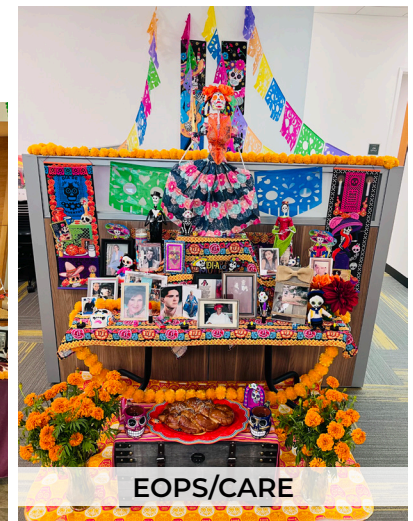
## A Community Affair

### Honoring Loved Ones with Ofrendas

The Hartnell Community College District transformed into a hub of vibrant colors and lively celebrations as students, faculty, and staff came together to commemorate Dia de los Muertos and pay homage to their ancestors and loved ones. What better way to honor them than by creating beautiful ofrendas (altars)?

Colorful and elaborate altars adorned with flowers, candles, photos, and other personal items were displayed throughout October, each unique and having a special meaning.

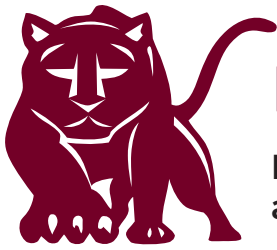
It was a beautiful display of culture, tradition, and togetherness that genuinely highlights the diverse community of Hartnell.



## Monterey County Jail Resource Fair

Rising Scholars Program visits Monterey County Jail Resource Fair





# Employee Highlight

First generation college graduate Samuel Valdez makes his mark at South County Education Centers



Growing up in King City, Samuel Valdez never gave college a second thought. After all, no one in his family (originally from Zacatecas, Mexico) had ever reached that level of education, and Samuel kept busy working various jobs just to make ends meet. Today, Samuel stands tall as a first-generation college graduate, employed as a Program Assistant at Hartnell's South County Education Centers in both Soledad and King City. His role? To help and support our centers with enrollment and retention, and conduct outreach within those communities to connect with students and make sure they are aware of what Hartnell offers.

For Samuel, the program is a revelation, something he wishes he had access to as an aspiring student at Hartnell.

"I wasn't the most studious person, and I didn't even think of college after high school," he said. "I worked really odd jobs that ultimately led me to enroll here at Hartnell. I took classes in the evenings, but before the expansion of our new Education Centers, classes were taken pretty much anywhere I could find them."

He eventually landed on Computer Science as his major, and graduated from both Hartnell and CSU Monterey Bay. While earning his Bachelor's, he worked part time on weekends at Hartnell, teaching students how to code in a program called CoderDojo.

"This allowed me to grow out of my shell and I began developing passion in working with students and teaching," Samuel said. "I liked the program so much that after I graduated I worked part time running the same program that gave me the opportunity to refine my skills."

Samuel also ran a makerspace that allowed him to create workshops for students to make things such as 3D-printed keychains to create their own shirts on vinyl machines.

"I liked working with these machines so much that I now have a 3D printer and a cricket here at King City and hope to roll out some fun workshops for our students in the area," he said.



# Respiratory Care Week

Every breath counts!

The Hartnell College Respiratory Care Program celebrated Respiratory Care Week (Oct. 23–29) and all the people who help us breathe easier. Thank you to our Respiratory Care students and faculty for their commitment to respiratory health!

## UC Davis STEM Transfer Day

13 students attend UC Davis STEM Transfer Day

Hartnell's MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program took 13 students to the UC Davis STEM Transfer Day Event on Friday, Nov. 3. The students received information on transferring to UC Davis, and toured various STEM Research Labs during the event.



## Expanding your horizons

Hartnell hosts 11th annual Expanding Your Horizons STEM Conference

On Nov. 4 Hartnell hosted the 11th annual Expanding Your Horizons STEM Conference and Career Fair for girls in grades 5-10. Approximately 300 girls from Monterey County attended the conference, where they listened to keynote speakers and also participated in two activities around Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The girls choose the various activities from a list of 16 available, including three hosted by Hartnell STEM faculty and staff: "All About the Planets," offered by Dr. Pimol Moth, Astronomy Faculty; "All About Physics," offered by Tito Polo, Planetarium Coordinator; "In a Heartbeat," offered by Drs. Rosser Panggat and Ver Marie Panggat.

Current students Britney Vera Cortes and Ana Trujillo Anaya and Hartnell alum Nicole Polo talked about their STEM path. At the event's Career Fair, the MESA Program, Astronomy Club and K-12 Program, NASA MUREP had tables and interacted with students.



# Melissa Chin-Parker

Meet the managing artistic director of The Western Stage



Melissa Chin-Parker believes telling and listening to stories represent the most human of acts. As the new managing artistic director for The Western Stage —

poised to celebrate its 50th year as a professional community-based theater on our campus — Chin-Parker will work hard to protect that legacy.

For many years Chin-Parker believed that her affinity and penchant for the creative/performing arts was a mere side pursuit. She spent time working as a recreational therapist, recreation programmer and even a K-8 teacher before her path led her to the stage. She joined TWS back in 1995 in a variety of roles before spending a few decades as artistic program director. Following 2½ years as interim artistic director (during the

heart of the pandemic), she was given the full reins in June of this year.

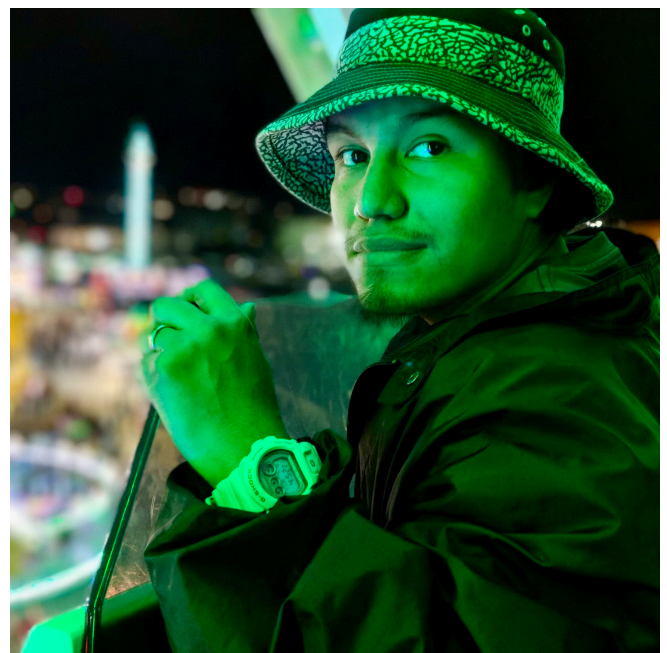
“It was when I joined TWS that I found a place where all of my artistic talents and interests were valued and put to full use,” said the Salinas native. “Theater is the great convening artform, and it was here that I got to try and learn the many different areas of theater performance and production.”

The field of theater arts is experiencing huge changes, and in a state that Chin-Parker calls vulnerable. “Many companies and programs have or are in danger of closing, and there are recurring obstacles being experienced nationwide by big and small companies alike,” she said. “I am grateful to have been able to re-open the program after the long Covid shutdown and to be able to say, ‘we’re still here.’ ”

## Teacher Pathway Program

### TPP student featured in Teach for the Bay Conference

Hartnell’s Teacher Pathway Program’s staff facilitated an online workshop for the Teach for the Bay 2023 conference in collaboration with Cabrillo College and MPC. TPP Cohort 8 participant Daniel Larr-Martinez represented Hartnell and shared insightful information on the consistent support TPP has given so far on his academic journey. Daniel is a returning student who plans to become an elementary teacher to help empower and engage future generations. He will graduate from Hartnell in 2025 and hopes to continue his education at CSU Monterey Bay.



# A RECAP IN PHOTOS



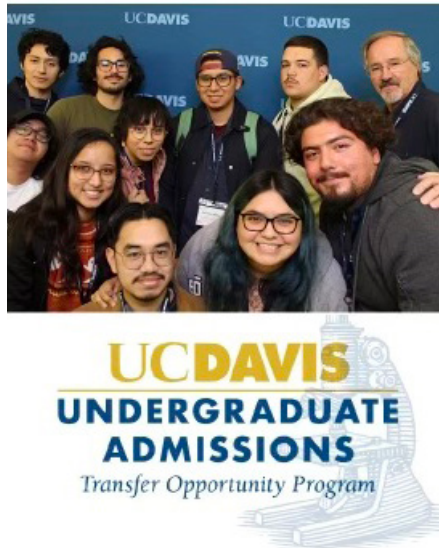
Gonzales Unified School District Career Day



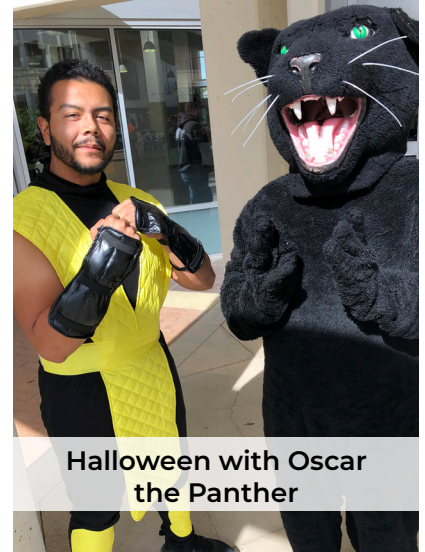
Expanding Your Horizons STEM Conference



Expanding Your Horizons STEM Conference



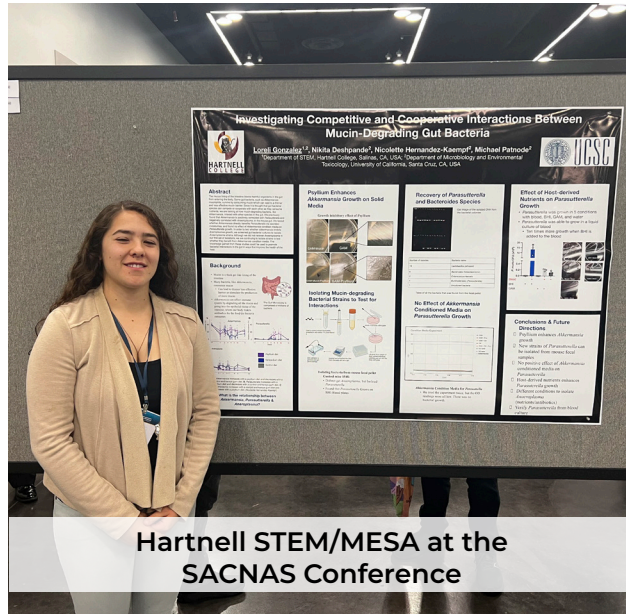
UC DAVIS  
UNDERGRADUATE  
ADMISSIONS  
Transfer Opportunity Program



Halloween with Oscar the Panther



Respiratory Care Week!



Hartnell STEM/MESA at the SACNAS Conference



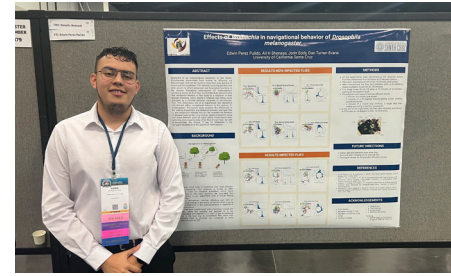
Halloween with Oscar the Panther



# STEM

## STEM celebrates national diversity at conference

Hartnell's STEM faculty, staff and students attended the SACNAS Conference in Portland, the largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM diversity event in the country. Nine MESA students were on hand at the event in late October, with three of them presenting research posters. Hartnell STEM faculty and staff also held a session on the Micro-internship Program at Hartnell.



## Cal Fire

### CAL FIRE brings heavy equipment, expertise to Alisal campus

CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit visited the Auto-Heavy Duty Diesel students at Hartnell's Alisal campus. The students received valuable recruitment information from Heavy Fire Equipment Operators, Fire Captains and Chiefs. Two engines, a dozer transport and CAL FIRE vehicles were displayed for the students to ask questions and get an idea of the day-to-day operations as a mechanic in the fire service. This was a great opportunity for interaction and learning!

## Starbucks

### Now serving your holiday favorites!

In late October, the Hartnell College Starbucks hosted its annual Holiday Launch Party, changing its menu signage, decor and beverage cups to reflect the upcoming holiday.

Starbucks employees opened and sampled new menu items, played games, enjoyed dinner, and decorated the store! What's more, kids from the Child Development Center stopped by for hot chocolate! The Grille is located in the College Center (Building C), and is open Mon.-Thurs. from 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



# FFA New Member Field Day

## Field Day celebrates Future Farmers of America

Hartnell's CTE Department hosted its first-ever FFA New Member Field Day on Nov. 4 at the Alisal campus. This was an effort to support our local FFA Chapters in their pursuit of leadership development, personal growth, and career success.

CTE hosted 47 students from Salinas, Everett Alvarez, Rancho San Juan, Gonzales and Hollister high schools.

Future Farmers of America is the largest secondary Career Technical Student Organization for Secondary Education students in the nation, focusing on agricultural education. Part of the FFA is career development where students participate and compete in career development events. The competition events occur at Field Days.

Hartnell's New Member Field Day targeted mostly high school freshmen in agriculture, but was open to any new students interested in ag.

The event gave students a sample of some of the Career Development Events offered in the FFA: Ag Mechanics, Ag Welding, Agronomy, Farm Power, Soil and Land Evaluation, Vegetable Crop Judging, and Best Informed Greenhand (test on the procedures of the FFA and Parliamentary Procedure).

The students participated in a sample round of each event. Scores were tabulated, and some schools and students won awards. Rancho San Juan FFA placed first overall, Everett Alvarez second, and Hollister third.



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

The President's Report highlights accomplishment, engagement, progress, and success for and within the Hartnell College community. Please send information and photos to [vagonzalez@hartnell.edu](mailto:vagonzalez@hartnell.edu).