



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!

Dr. Raúl Rodríguez meets and greets College employees via Zoom on July 16

With great pleasure, and gratitude for my introduction by Hartnell Governing Board President Aurelio Salazar Jr., I had the chance to visit with many college employees on July 16.



I appreciated the warm welcome and good wishes from the faculty, staff and administrators who took part in the Zoom call, which is posted on the [president's website](#).

Especially because of COVID-19, communication is very important, and I expect to find ways to reach out and communicate with all of you on a regular basis. I also will hold a second meet-and-greet forum with our many friends and community partners on July 28, and I look forward to that very much.

During the one-hour call last week, I shared my mission statement in this role: to leave the college in better shape than I found it and to set up my successor for more success than I had. If you accomplish that in any presidency, you've done what you're supposed to do.

Among several weighty subjects raised by participants were the future of online education following the COVID-19 pandemic, the strategic importance of how we launch our new Soledad Education Center and newly expanded center in King City, the essential contributions of arts education and the powerful connection between educational equity and the work of guided pathways in college redesign.

If you weren't able to join us, I hope you'll take time to get to know me better by viewing the session online. Meanwhile, I look forward to working with all of you and appreciate everything you do for our students. I feel honored and privileged to be selected for this role. Hartnell is a great college, and I look forward to learning a lot this year.

Soledad, KC centers taking shape as Building D nears completion

The new Soledad Education Center and expanded King City center (pictured) are looming large these days, and on the Main Campus, the second- and third-story classrooms in Building D are down to a "punch list" of final details.

Another Measure T project, renovation of Building E's restrooms and interior elevator has begun ahead of schedule thanks to the lack of people on campus, and the Building D elevator has reached its full height as work continues. Once the elevator is completed, final landscaping will be installed on the central plaza.



Work on the new nursing and health sciences building on Main Campus is about to get up to speed as structural steel elements, fabricated off-site, are prepared for assembly beginning around Aug. 1, once grade-level beams have cured.

In King City, scaffolding is up for installation of weather barrier before the exterior walls are applied, and at the Soledad site, interior walls are taking shape and defining the interior spaces. The Castroville Education Center remains on track for a fall groundbreaking, with a date still to be determined.

'Fortuitous timing' offers advantage in second sale of Measure T bonds

A fortunate confluence of market timing, strong credit ratings and professional expertise yielded Hartnell an unexpectedly low interest rate of 2.55 percent in its July 14 sale of \$70 million in general obligation bonds for further construction projects under Measure T.



That rate, far below the good faith estimate of 3.43 percent provided to the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board, means taxpayers incur much lower interest costs than originally expected, said Linda Wilczewski, Vice President of Administrative Services. The first set of Measure T bonds, \$70 million sold in August 2017, had an interest rate of about 3.5 percent.

District staff worked closely with their financing team and received new bond ratings of AAA/AA from the Fitch credit ratings firm (in addition to affirming its existing Aa2 rating from Moody's). The high-grade credit ratings strengthened the bonds' market appeal and brought significant investor demand, which further contributed to the low borrowing cost.

Another factor benefiting the sale was downward pressure on interest rates as investors sought "safe haven" opportunities because of COVID-19 – and also some "really fortuitous timing" amid volatile market swings, Wilczewski said.

"It was the work of a good team," she said. "When COVID hit we did not know how it would impact our bond sale prospects."

The bond funds will pay for construction of phase II projects within Measure T, which voters approved in 2016. Among them are completion of the nursing and health sciences building, a new building on the Alisal Campus and renovation of buildings J and K (visual and performing arts).

Mi CASA and UFW Foundation to offer DACA session on July 29

Following last month's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that restored the federal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program, the Mi CASA program at Hartnell will present a free DACA information session on July 29 in collaboration with the UFW Foundation.

The online session, offered via Zoom from 5 to 6 p.m., will be led by licensed immigration attorneys. It will provide participants with the latest information on DACA renewal and initial application requirements and processes.

The Supreme Court ruling was welcome news for many Hartnell students and their loved ones. Both initial and renewal applications should now be accepted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, but students and families still have many questions about eligibility and process, said Bronwyn Moreno, director of student affairs and equity programs.

Participants in the Zoom session may remain anonymous, but they are asked to pre-register [here](#) to ensure their safety and privacy. They will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The session will also be streamed live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HartnellCollegeDreamers/>.

Students, faculty, and staff at Hartnell College who would like to complete an initial DACA application, or who would like to renew their DACA, should plan to participate in the information session, and may also schedule a free private appointment with an immigration attorney through this UFW Legal Services [portal](#).

"We hope you will please join us on July 29," Moreno said, "and help us spread the word by sharing this information with students."

K-12 STEM reaches hundreds of students over the summer

Applying lessons from its adaptation to COVID-19 in the spring, Hartnell's K-12 STEM Programs are continuing to offer a wide array of opportunities for Salinas-area students and their families to learn at home this summer.

Offerings are focused in four areas: weekly STEM Family Nights that let parents and children enjoy hands-on learning, Coder Dojo for at-home coding lessons, a K-5 STEAM program through the NASA-MUREP program and Cyber Camp 2020, a series of computing classes for grades 7-12 offered in partnership with the Bay Area Community Colleges Consortium (BACCC).

"We have worked diligently since about April trying to move different pieces of our program online so we were able to still support the community in what we needed to do," said Julie Stephens-Carrillo, director of K-12 STEM Programs.



Coder Dojo, for grades 3-12 (and its partner program Girls Who Code), have just completed summer classes for about 130 students, divided into beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, with students working on family or loaned computers with online instruction from computer science students at Hartnell and Cal State Monterey Bay.

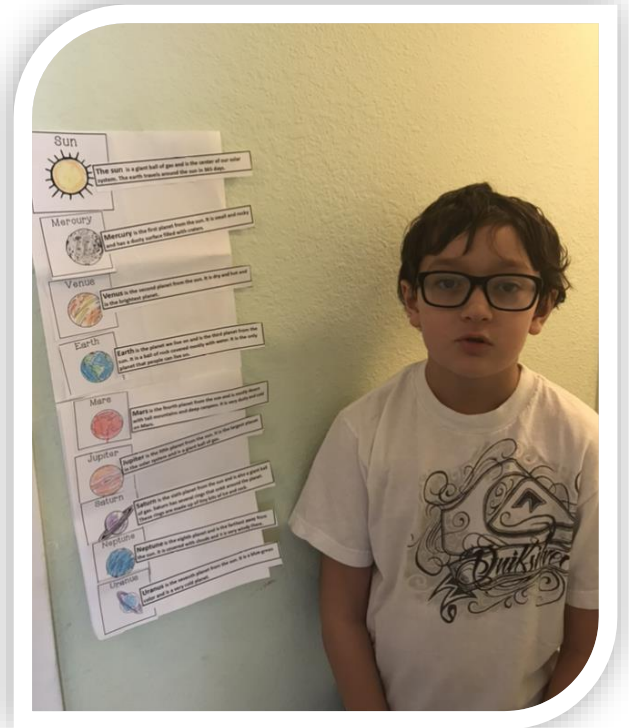
The STEM Family Night program, developed to promote family learning during COVID-19, has featured weekly themes built on online, bilingual resources such as a book or a video, exploring everything from clouds and constellations to bugs and bubbles and using items found at home. An estimated 200 families from around the Hartnell Community College District have taken part. The series began June 22 and will continue through the first week of August.

The 13-week K-5 STEAM program, now serving 430 students in the Salinas City Elementary School District, has engaged students in do-it-yourself activities, ranging from creating a Mars rover to making a NASA uniform out of foil and cardboard.

Stephens-Carrillo said staff were determined to pull students away from their screens.

“Because these children had been on computers the entire time” during late spring, she said, “We created hands-on activity bags and supplies and we met families to pass them out to be ready to go for the program.”

(Pictured: Nicholas Westfall, son of Cristina Westfall, athletics program assistant, shows off a NASA STEAM activity on the solar system.)



Website tools improve access for Spanish-speaking visitors

Carla Johnson, dean of student success, celebrated “great progress” on Hartnell’s Spanish-language onboarding tools with a congratulatory email to her team on July 22.

Johnson cited three important new capabilities for Spanish speakers:

- The Online Orientation (accessible in PAWS) is now available in Spanish. Students are given a choice to select either English or Spanish upon logging in. Videos remain in English, but the closed captioning is in Spanish, and all the text has been translated.
- The “Steps to Success” videos are being recorded in Spanish. So far, three videos have been completed, and the College Pathways Team is working on the last two. Plans call for a Spanish Resources section within the Panther Prep site (or on the prospective student landing page), but for now they can be found on the [College Pathways YouTube Channel](#).
- The Hartnell.edu website can be translated into any language. Simply click on the small globe icon to the far right of the menu header and select the language. This will shift all text to the new language.



Johnson thanked the following members of the College Pathways Team for their efforts: Ariana Rodriguez, coordinator, and Ernesto Rodriguez, program assistant II; Maria Jerezano, program assistant II; Isaura Arreguin, program assistant II; and Alejandra Carrillo, program assistant II. She also thanked Laura Zavala, director of the High School Equivalency Program, for her translation work and Web Administrator James Fitch for his support.

Giannini Fund awards \$148,733 to Teacher Pathway/MAESTROS

The Claire Giannini Fund has continued its support for the Teacher Pathways Program (TPP), a partnership between Hartnell and Cal State Monterey Bay, with a \$148,733 grant to the Hartnell College Foundation. This is the fund’s fifth annual award for teacher education.

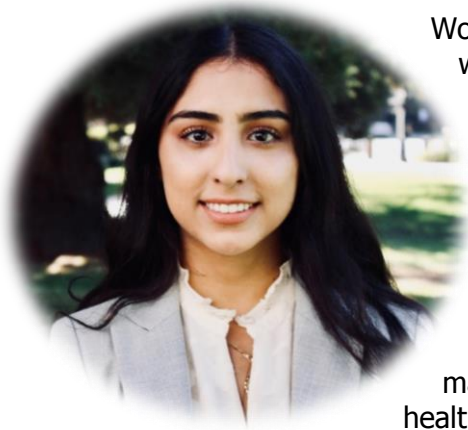
The TPP and its companion program MAESTROs have enrolled a combined total of 46 students in the 2020-21 cohort, with recruitment still underway. (Pictured: TPP/MAESTROs who graduated from Hartnell in May.)



This summer, 37 TPP students and 15 MAESTROs students in the programs’ first cohort completed their B.S. in Liberal Studies at CSUMB and will now enter their credential year to conclude the program. Incoming students will complete both their degree and licensure in four years.

Foundation internship furthers grad's interest in public health

Jennifer Pantoja, a 2017 Hartnell graduate, is completing an internship this summer with the Hartnell College Foundation in a dual role, supporting the Department of Nursing & Allied Health (NAH), parent outreach and local government partnerships.



Working remotely, she has assisted Rosie Armstrong, director of workforce development, with support of the Salinas Valley Five Cities network and the new Parent Orientation program. For NAH, she has prepared informational videos for incoming students and assisted with curriculum development for an associate for transfer degree in public health.

Pantoja, who graduated in 2015 from Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas and completed her bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2019, plans to seek a master's degree in public health on her way to a career in community health, ideally in the Salinas area.

She found the internship at her alma mater through Health Career Connection, a national nonprofit that connects undergraduates and recent graduates, particularly those from under-represented groups, with opportunities in the health professions.

Pantoja said it feels good to be at Hartnell, helping further the "opportunities it gives to people who are underserved, and especially first-generation students whose parents don't have degrees and who really want to make them proud and get a job in the U.S. with a good living and a good career."

Western Stage launches 'Welcome Home' presentations by theater company alums

From July 29 through Aug. 19, The Western Stage at Hartnell will present four interactive online forums featuring expert guidance and inside information from alumni of the theater company now working throughout the entertainment industry.

These initial presentations in the "Welcome Home Series," part of the company's 2020-21 theme of "Home," will be presented through Zoom. They are especially designed for high school and college students, as well as others interested in learning about stage and screen careers.

The first presentation is "A Day in the Life of a Voice Actor" with Colin Jennings and Kristen Egermeier at 6 p.m. on July 29. This session will cover what it takes to pursue a career in acting with a focus on voiceover. Jennings and Egermeier are SAG/AFTRA and Actor's Equity Association members, working in Los Angeles in theatre, film, television and voiceover.



The fee is \$15 per individual forum or \$45 for a pass to attend the entire series. The cost for Hartnell students is just \$5 per session. To learn more, visit www.westernstage.com.

Employee-relative graduation

Dr. Yoshiko Matsushita-Arao, Psychology Instructor

Name: Bruce Arao

Relation: Son

Graduation: June 13, 2020

School: University of California, Santa Barbara

Degrees: B.A. in Economics and B.A. in Sociology



In the News

College Updates in Response to COVID-19: <https://mailchi.mp/mbep.biz/monterey-bay-career-connect-quarterly-newsletter-fall-1249138?e=a6cde44dcc>

Zoom University: Students, professors find new challenges in online class environments: <https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2020/06/26/zoom-university/>

Upcoming Events

Note: All in-person campus events are cancelled until further notice in compliance with a statewide shelter-in-place order.

Summer 2020 Classes End

Saturday, July 25

CBEST Prep Workshop – Reading/Writing

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Thursday, July 31

Register: tinyurl.com/y87bunhw

Spring 2021 Transfer Application Workshop

8:30-11:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 4

[Register](#)

Western Stage Welcome Home Series: "12 Steps to Get a Casting Director to Love You: Tried and True Ways to Help Your Audition Experience"

6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

[Information](#)

CBEST Prep Workshop – Math

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 7

Register: tinyurl.com/y87bunhw

Spring 2021 Transfer Application Workshop

8:30-11:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

[Register](#)

Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting

5 p.m.

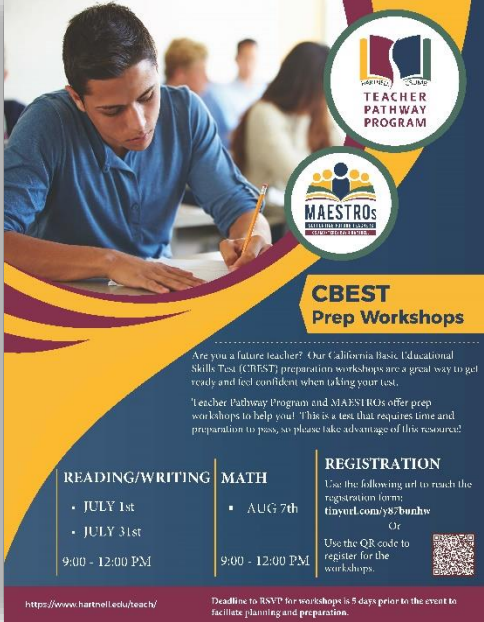
Tuesday, Aug. 11

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Western Stage Welcome Home Series: "One Singular Sensation: Learn the Original Choreography for the Iconic Dance Number from 'A Chorus Line'"

5 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 12



The graphic features a student writing in a notebook. It includes logos for the Teacher Pathway Program and MAESTROS. Text describes the workshops as preparation for the CBEST test, with registration details for Reading/Writing (July 31) and Math (August 7) workshops. A QR code is provided for registration.

TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM

MAESTROS

CBEST Prep Workshops

Are you a future teacher? Our California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) preparation workshops are a great way to get ready and feel confident when taking your test.

Teacher Pathway Program and MAESTROS offer prep workshops to help you! This is a test that requires time and preparation to pass, so please take advantage of this resource!

READING/WRITING	MATH	REGISTRATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JULY 31st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AUG 7th	Use the following url to reach the registration form: tinyurl.com/y87bunhw
9:00 - 12:00 PM	9:00 - 12:00 PM	Or Use the QR code to register for the workshops.

<https://www.hartnell.edu/teach/>

Deadline to RSVP for workshops is 5 days prior to the event to facilitate planning and preparation.

[Information](#)

Spring 2021 Transfer Application Workshop

8:30-11:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

[Register](#)

Western Stage Welcome Home Series: "Put Your Best Face Forward: Headshots That Work"

10 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 19

[Information](#)

Fall 2020 Convocation

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 21

Employee email Zoom invitation after Aug. 17

Spring 2021 Transfer Application Workshop

8:30-11:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

[Register](#)

Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting

5 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Steinbeck Hall (Building C)