



HARTNELL COLLEGE

President's Weekly Report

May 22, 2020

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 is temporarily moving to a twice-monthly publication schedule while the volume of news is slower due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for reading!

Special feature below: Employee & family grad news

Virtual Commencement attracts more than 6,000 online viewers

After COVID-19 forced our reluctant decision in early April to cancel Hartnell's in-person Commencement ceremony, preparation began in earnest for a "virtual" online ceremony that would come as close as possible to the traditional experience. That online ceremony was presented at 5:30 p.m. on May 29, the same day and time as the event originally scheduled for Rabobank Stadium in Salinas.

Thanks to the determination, creativity and sheer effort of Augustine Nevarez, director of student affairs for student life, along with a team of helpers and the inspired work of video vendor Mag One Productions, the one-hour online ceremony went live at the appointed time and is still viewable on [Hartnell's official YouTube channel](#).

Five separate video versions allowed students and their families and friends to watch the reading of graduates' names from their grouping of academic majors, rather for all 1,323 graduates in the Centennial Class of 2020. (Pictured: Nevarez, right, and Alex Garcia of Mag One Productions work on the ceremony videos.)



The presentation opened with historic and current photos and video clips of Hartnell, making the historic connection to celebration of our 100th year. I opened with brief remarks and was followed by fellow speakers Governing Board President Aurelio Salazar Jr., outgoing Academic Senate President Dr. Lisa Storm, 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Marilyn Long and one of 22 valedictorians, Trinidad Morales-Garza.

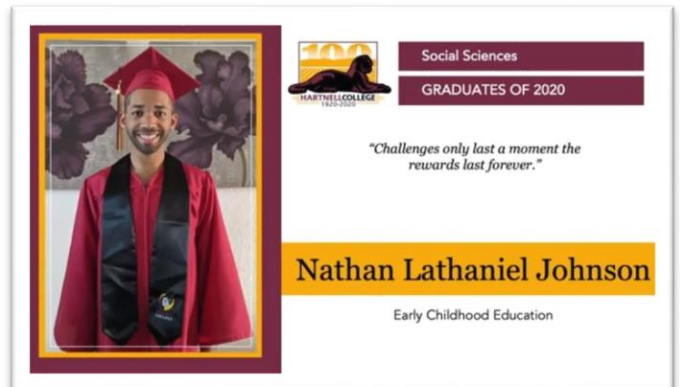


Long (pictured from her speech), a philanthropist and 1972 alumna, is one of seven siblings who graduated from Hartnell. She is now president and executive director of the Long Family Foundation, which she established in 1992 with her husband, John Long, to support a variety of projects and endeavors in the United States, as well as in China. In 2016, the couple donated the stunning “Jaipur” sculpture located in front of the Willard Lewallen STEM Center.

One of the ceremony’s many thoughtful touches was the invitation for graduates to submit a photo and quote that appeared on a slide (pictured) as their name was read by announcer Moises Almendariz, director of Hispanic Serving Institution initiatives. About half of them took advantage of this, with others represented by a photo of our iconic panther sculpture.

As I watched the videos, I was filled with pride in our graduates, thankful for their families and other supporters and sincerely grateful to Nevarez and his team, which included Program Assistant Selso Ruiz, HEP Director Laura Zavala (Spanish translations) and Admissions & Records degree evaluators.

The YouTube videos received a total of 6,200 views that evening (plus thousands on Facebook) and were seen by many more people celebrating in living rooms across our district. That far exceeds the 5,000-person seating capacity of Rabobank Stadium. Congratulations to our graduates and everyone who made their success possible!



Please check out short [profile articles](#) on a cross-section of our graduates published on the Hartnell website. These students reflect the confidence, humility and aspiration that inspires us as we continue to put them first in everything we do.

Online students publish genomics paper in scholarly journal on mitochondrial DNA

For the eighth time, students of Hartnell biology instructor Dr. Jeffrey Hughey have joined with him and other researchers to jointly publish a genomics paper, this time an examination of the chromosomal content of an invasive seaweed species in Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing. The paper on the marine red alga *Caulacanthus okamurae* appears in the journal *Mitochondrial DNA Part B Resources*, Vol. 5, No. 3.

About 55 students in Dr. Hughey's two spring sections of General Botany worked independently and remotely during online instruction to perform advanced genomic functions and analysis, which, as he said, "was challenging to say the least." That contrasts with previous projects with face-to-face instruction, where students could ask questions in real time and work in small teams.



Each student received a set of detailed instructions, access to genomic software called Genius, four scientific papers to read, and genetic data on the alga. Over two weeks, they then assembled a chromosome from the alga using 23 million fragments of DNA. Their final assignment – over 10 days – was to follow a template and write up their findings in a scientific paper, which Dr. Hughey drew on to write the published paper. The experience counted for about 15 percent of their coursework and also constituted a 25-hour mini-internship.

"I think probably from a learning standpoint they learned more this semester than they would have probably learned as a group," Dr. Hughey said. "They had some good productive struggles."

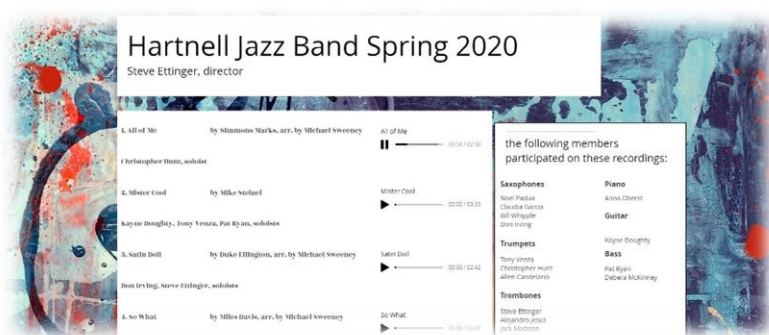
Spring shows did indeed go on for vocal and instrumental music

Unable to present their spring concert series as usual, instructors and students in Hartnell's vocal and instrumental music programs last month found different avenues to share their learning and gain performance experience.

Choral and vocal music instructor Sandy Rudo and the Hartnell Choir and Hartnell Chamber Singers have received more than 1,000 views of a 30-minute Zoom performance shared on [YouTube](#) on the evening of May 20. The presentation, which included spoken testimonials by several ensemble members, drew a large real-time audience and many rave reviews. Viewers also were invited to visit a [GoFundMe](#) page for choral fundraising.



“What a great way to break the COVID gloom!” wrote crisis-counseling lead Carol Kimbrough in an email to Rudo. “Great job, Sandy, and all the participants.”



Instrumental music instructor Steve Ettinger took a different approach with his students. Meeting remotely via Zoom since Spring Break, the Hartnell Orchestra and Jazz Band rehearsed and recorded the variety of music they began the semester with. Students recorded themselves, and Ettinger assembled the sound files into a composite recording. The pieces were then shared with students’ invited guests via a website Ettinger created.

Because of the limitations of the technology, students were not able to play together and hear everyone else in real time. However, they could hear one person in the ensemble or a recording and were able to play along with what they heard. They were also able to record themselves playing together with a pre-existing track of music.

“The result was the creation of a website (pictured) with a full concert’s worth of music for each ensemble,” said Ettinger, who shared the link with students’ invited guests.

Monterey Peninsula Foundation grants \$96,222 to COVID-19 student fund

The Monterey Peninsula Foundation on May 28 awarded a \$96,222 grant to the Hartnell College Foundation to help students cope with the impacts of COVID-19.

The funding for the foundation’s COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund can go to purchase Chromebook laptops, mobile hotspots or provide cash assistance to students experiencing a critical financial need not met through other resources. Earlier, the Community Foundation of Monterey County contributed \$30,000 to the COVID fund, in addition to \$150,000 in seed funding from the foundation.

More than 100 individual donors have joined the campaign, which has so far awarded \$500 to 126 students for such basic needs as rent, health care and utilities. An additional 14 students are awaiting help, and more requests are expected in coming months.

To contribute to the fund, visit this [GoFundMe](#) page or the [Hartnell College Foundation website](#).

Survey finds more faculty than students report being challenged by online learning

Hartnell students and faculty were surveyed this spring about their adaptation to and support received for the swift transition to mostly online classes in late March. The research was conducted by the Office of Institutional Planning, Research and Effectiveness under the direction of its dean, Dr. Brian Lofman.

Three-quarters of 1,274 student respondents indicated that it has been “easy” or “not bad” to adapt to online-only classes, whereas one-quarter stated that it has been “difficult” or “very difficult.” Students are mostly satisfied with support provided by the college, with satisfaction rates on specific supports ranging from three-quarters to over four-fifths of respondents.



Among 131 faculty respondents, one-third reported having problems transitioning their lessons online, but most were able to adapt without any major issue as they specifically identified. However, nearly two-thirds of 108 respondents indicated they have faced one or more significant challenges while conducting their classes this semester, such as not having had time to develop online teaching materials (46%), and not having had adequate opportunities to experiment with online teaching technology before the semester began (42%).

Well over four-fifths of faculty said they have received adequate technical support to effectively use online course-development tools in Canvas.

Summaries of key findings and supporting tables of survey results for both faculty and students are available via this Google Drive [link](#).

Trustee Osorio and Hartnell student make video pitch for Census count

Hartnell Governing Board Trustee Manuel Osorio and Hartnell student Maria Cuentas both appear in a new [video](#) created by the North Monterey County Unified School District to encourage participation in the 2020 U.S. Census.



As Osorio and Cuentas point out, their message is highly relevant to Hartnell College and to residents of the North Monterey County district.

“Millions of dollars a year in federal support and our representation in Washington depends on information obtained through the Census,” Osorio says in the nearly two-minute video. “If our students are undercounted, then we won’t receive the support and resources we need.”

Cuentas, a recent graduate of North Monterey County High School notes that such things as federal student loan funds, campus funding and health and social services for students and their families are all at stake.

“By filling out your census, you are ensuring funding for affordable higher education for first-generation farmworker children like me,” she says.

Hartnell joins with school districts and community colleges across California to strongly encourage all of our students and employees to make sure their households are counted in the Census. To do so, complete and return the Census form mailed to your home, visit www.my2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020 for assistance.

2020-21 Student Trustee Castro will introduce himself on June 2

Mike Castro, elected in April as the Hartnell Governing Board’s student trustee for 2020-21, will introduce himself to fellow trustees and the community at the board’s June 2 development meeting.

Castro, who happens to be the husband of outgoing student trustee Samantha Saldaña, resumed his Hartnell studies this spring, 11 years after he first attended Hartnell as a graduate of Everett Alvarez High School. He enrolled full-time as an online student studying business administration, with plans to transfer to a university next spring.



While representing all students on the board, Castro will lend the perspective of a non-traditional student who is gaining expertise after being in the workforce for a number of years. He works full-time as a sales manager in business development for Luttrell Staffing in Salinas.

“I’m trying to put a good effort in my education,” he said, “and I can be a representative for other people as the board tries to get engagement from the community and get more returning students back.”

Main Campus plaza nearing completion, and South County centers keep rising

As construction work funded by Measure T bonds continues across the Hartnell Community College District, final pours are underway on concrete flatwork for the Main Campus plaza, where most guardrails are now installed and furnishings such as outdoor tables are placed for anchoring.

Also on Main Campus, renovation of second- and third- floor classrooms in Building D is nearly done, with classroom furniture being installed and assembled. Work is progressing on the shaft of an outdoor elevator to the catwalk for buildings D and E. Staff designated to work on campus will continue to access Building E via Building D through June 12.

Trenches for grade beams that connect column foundations are now visible on the site of the Center for Nursing and Health Sciences, also located on Main Campus.



In south Monterey County, framing continues on both the expansion of the King City Education Center and the new Soledad Education Center, whose distinctive design is clearly taking shape (pictured).

Plans for the North Monterey County Education Center in Castroville is still undergoing review by the Division of the State Architect, with completion scheduled for 2021.

Innovation & Effectiveness plan to be launched in 2020-21

At its meeting on May 6, the College Planning Council approved a bold [Innovation and Effectiveness \(I&E\) Plan](#) for Hartnell that comes on the heels of two visits in Fall 2019 from the Chancellor's Office's assigned Partnership Resource Team and seven meetings of the I&E Plan Group comprised of faculty, staff and administrators.

Plan implementation will focus on enhancing employee engagement through development of an onboarding and orientation program, design of additional professional development and leadership training opportunities, and a renewed emphasis on institutional priorities.

Implementation will also involve consideration of a restructuring of the governance system and otherwise ensuring meaningful stakeholder participation in the governance process. Hartnell stands to be awarded \$200,000 as seed money to implement the plan in fiscal year 2020-21.

Student-athlete transfer announcements accelerate as spring semester concludes



Sophomore and co-valedictorian **Isabelle Torres** has committed to Santa Clara University in NCAA Division I to compete in cross country and track & field. A Salinas High School product, she will major in psychology while competing for the Broncos.

Her final track & field season was cut short by COVID-19, but Torres did run a lifetime best 3000-meter in 10:59.05 at the Wildcat Cup in the final meet of the shortened season.

Another Panthers runner, sophomore **Juan Gutierrez III** will return to the NCAA level of competition this fall after signing his National Letter of Intent to attend Minot State University in Minot, N.D., where he will study communications.

Gutierrez attended San Jose State and competed for one year for the Spartans before enrolling at Hartnell. This spring, in track, he was the overall winner of the 1500 meters at the Wildcat cup in 4:07.25 and in the 800 meters (2:00.16).

A former San Benito High School standout, he will become the third Hartnell athlete to attend Minot State, joining runners Nick Merillana and Nina Arias. Juan will major in communications at Minot State.

Hartnell Baseball announced that sophomore pitcher **Nolan Maldonado** (pictured) has committed to continue his academic and athletic career at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kan., where he will study business management.



The lefthander from Rancho Cucamonga immediately contributed during his freshman season, and he was second on the squad in innings pitched when the season was cut short.

"I will always remember what a great competitor Nolan was on the mound for us," said Head Coach Travis Babin. "We wish him the best at KWU and look forward to following his career."

Another pitcher, **Garrett Poblick**, has committed to attend and compete for Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis. The sophomore from Lake Arrowhead led his team with 13 appearances on the mound this spring.

"A team guy all the way, Garrett was always reliable and worked hard every day," Babin said. "We preach in our program about how important it is to be the 'same guy' every day, and he embodied that to the fullest."

Employees and their families share graduation milestones

Lucy Serrano, Executive Assistant & Ramon Serrano, Enrollment Specialist

Name: Angela Mercy Serrano

Relation: Daughter/Sister

Graduation: May 22, 2020

School: San Jose State University

Degree: Master's, Counselor Education and Student Personnel



Dr. Lisa Storm, Academic Senate President/Faculty

Name: Trent Michael Storm

Relation: Son

School: University of California at Berkeley

Degree: Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering



Nonita Fortman, Administrative Assistant II

Name: Kari Fortman
Relation: Daughter
Graduation: June 4, 2020
School: Salinas High School
Attending Hartnell as student-athlete, playing volleyball and studying nursing.

Vanessa Meldahl, Executive Assistant

Name: Jazmyn Cornejo
Relation: Daughter
Graduation: May 26, 2020
School: Gavilan View Middle School – Valedictorian



**Maria N. Guerrero Perez,
Administrative Assistant**

Graduation: April 26, 2020
Degree: B.S., Applied Management
School: Grand Canyon University

**Melissa Chin-Parker,
Western Stage Artistic Program Director**

Name: Skylar J. Chin
Relation: Mini-Me Niece
Graduation: June 4, 2020
School: Knight High School

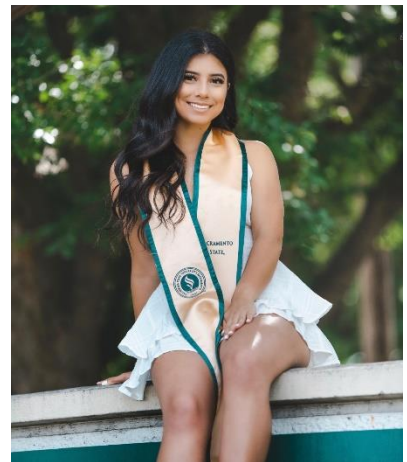


**Gemma Uribe-Cruz, Veterans Program
Counselor**

Graduation: May 1, 2020
Degree: M.S., Mental Health and Wellness with an
emphasis in Prevention
School: Grand Canyon University

Berta Carbajal, Counselor

Name: Caitlin Tonantzin Politron
Relation: Daughter
Graduation: May 2020
Degree: B.A., Psychology
School: California State University, Sacramento





Delia S. Edeza, Administrative Assistant III

Name: Michael Edeza-Salvant
Relation: Son
Graduation: May 24, 2020
Degree: M.A., Education with Preliminary
Multiple Subject Credential
School: St. Mary's College

Alicia Steinhardt, Biology Instructor

Name: Haley Hougardy
Relation: Daughter
Graduation: Spring 2020
Degree: B.A., Psychology and Asian Studies
School: University of Puget Sound



Dr. Debra Kaczmar, Dean of Academic Affairs, Nursing and Allied Health

Name: Lauren Kaczmar Phillips
Relation: Daughter
Graduation: December 2019
Degree: EdD. Higher Education Administration
School: George Washington University



Janeen Whitmore, Nursing Instructor

Name: Kathleen Elizabeth Branan
Relation: Daughter
Graduation: May 15, 2020
Degree: Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
School: Louisiana State University (LSU)



Sandra Gonzalez, FA Specialist

Name: Emily B. Gonzalez

Relation: Daughter

Graduation: May 29, 2020

Degree: A.A., Liberal Arts with emphasis in Sociology and Psychology

School: Hartnell College

Travis Williams, Business Instructor

Name: Akim Williams

Relation: Son

Graduation: June 2019

Degree: B.S., Cognitive Science

School: University of California, Santa Cruz

In the News

Hartnell College graduate becomes first to be accepted into NYU screenwriting program: <https://www.ksbw.com/article/hartnell-college-graduate-becomes-first-to-be-accepted-into-nyu-screenwriting-program/32711700>

Hartnell College Virtual Graduation (KION-TV):

<https://www.facebook.com/MadlyMagnificent/videos/10222680486424521/?id=100008892935999>

Hartnell Honors Centennial Class of 2020: <https://www.pageturnpro.com/NORCAL-Community-Newspaper-Group/95293-Graduation-Tab-2020/sdefault.html#page/6>

Tara Reade: A timeline of her Monterey County connections:

http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/tara-reade-a-timeline-of-her-monterey-county-connections/article_60a9982e-9b89-11ea-8a17-2ba2ed0d79d0.html

Upcoming Events

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

Spring 2020 Semester Ends

Saturday, May 30

Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting

5 p.m.
Tuesday, June 2
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)
[Access via Zoom](#)

Artists Unmasked

7-9 p.m.
Friday, June 5
Broadcast live on Zoom, YouTube, Facebook and Twitch

Summer 2020 Classes Start

Monday, June 15

Hartnell Governing Board – Development Meeting

5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 16
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Hartnell Governing Board – Regular Meeting

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

Summer 2020 Classes End

Saturday, July 25

Fall 2020 Convocation

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 21
Employee email Zoom invitation after Aug. 17