



A message of hope, resilience and determination from Vice President Jackie Cruz and Foundation President Judith Sulsona



Jackie Cruz



Judith Sulsona

Dear partners & friends,

We begin this mid-year edition of E-Focus with an appreciation for the resiliency of our Salinas Valley community during this challenging time. We grieve alongside our community for the loss of Salinas Mayor Joe Gunter and send our love and support to his family. We continue to stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and

sisters and with other marginalized communities and acknowledge the tragic and senseless loss of many Black lives. We believe each person has the ability to create change, both by supporting the transformation of policies and systems and by engaging in practices that address the social and economic inequities that disproportionately impact our youth, the elderly, women and all people of color. These inequities have been particularly exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hartnell College and the Hartnell College Foundation champion student success, and we know our students are talented and resilient. We focus on partnerships with individuals, foundations and corporations who believe in the power of philanthropy to lift up our students' innate talents through high-quality education. We strive to eliminate institutional, economic and social barriers that prevent our students from succeeding in academia or workforce preparedness. The injustices faced by many in our community propel us to continually pursue equity for the people of the Salinas Valley. We thank you for your support through it all. We have quite a bit of news to share with all of you, our close friends, donors and partners. In this newsletter, you will read about leadership in trying times, extraordinary philanthropy and the amazing response of students in the midst of so much change.

The first of these stories I want to share with you concerns our community's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The foundation and its Board of Directors are tremendously grateful to all who have joined to help make sure our students can continue their studies with



all-online classes, a switch that Hartnell made in late March and will continue into the Fall 2020 semester. On March 18, the foundation board established an emergency fund known as the **"Keep Our Students Learning COVID-19 Student Emergency Response Fund"** with an initial \$150,000 to expedite the purchase of 500 laptops for students in need.

The COVID-19 fund has continued to grow, with an additional \$252,000 in

donations and grant support from more than 80 individuals and organizations, for a total of \$402,000. Your generosity as donors has enabled us to provide 311 Chromebooks (pictured) and 257 mobile wireless hotspots to students, as well as provide laptops to 700 new Salinas Valley Promise students this summer. The COVID-19 Fund has also gone toward increased crisis counseling services and \$500 in emergency assistance to 126 students not eligible for federal CARES Act support. Information Technology Resources staff have also distributed 51 Chromebooks or laptops and 85 hotspots to employees who needed them to work from home.

Our foundation has worked with the Five Cities Workforce Partnership, wireless-service companies and school districts to promote the availability of free or low-cost wireless service, including in Hartnell's campus parking lots.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 and continued online education, our students remain determined. In fact, our enrollment numbers for the coming year are up overall!

We continue to join with all of our non-profit, community and education partners responding to diverse needs at this time. Please click [here](#) to support the **COVID-19 Student Emergency Response Fund**.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you directly about the work we are doing to support the Salinas Valley community.

Sincerely,

Jackie Cruz

Vice President of Advancement & Development
Executive Director, Hartnell College Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Cruz".

Jackie Cruz

Vice President of Advancement & Development
Executive Director, Hartnell College Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Sulsona".

Judith Sulsona

President
Hartnell College Foundation

Support the COVID-19 Student Emergency Response Fund

A tribute to Mayor Joe Gunter



Acting Superintendent President Dr. Romero Jalomo reflected on Mayor Joe Gunter's life and legacy in recent comments to our community that provide fitting tribute upon the passing of our dear friend:

"We share in the loss felt by the entire city of Salinas, the communities of the Salinas Valley and beyond. Our hearts go out to Joe's wife, Lisa, and their entire family, as well as his colleagues in City Hall and the Salinas Police Department.

"Joe's legacy as a public servant and city leader is enriched by his many contributions to Hartnell and its students. A key advocate of our Measure T bonds for new construction, he joined us in February for a public forum to help envision the community dividends of our expanded offerings. Likewise, in December, Joe was among speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Center for Nursing and Health Sciences. He described the building as a 'job center' that would benefit not only our graduates but the entire community, and he spoke with pride of how Hartnell's 'fingers reach up and down the valley.' As a Marine Corps veteran, Joe took a special interest in our veteran students. He also was an active participant in the Salinas Valley Five Cities network and a regular speaker at the Hartnell Athletics Hall of Fame.

"We are deeply and forever grateful for Mayor Gunter's support of Hartnell College and its students. His contributions will be felt here and throughout our city for many years to come."

Hartnell welcomes Dr. Raul Rodriguez as interim Superintendent/President

Longtime California Community College senior executive



Dr. Raul Rodriguez

Dr. Raul Rodriguez will lead Hartnell College as interim superintendent/president starting July 13, following his selection by the Hartnell Community College District Governing Board on July 7.

Dr. Rodriguez served as interim president at East Los Angeles College this past year, and for nine years before that he was chancellor of the Rancho Santiago Community College District in Orange County, one of the largest in California, with annual enrollment of 80,000 students. Previously, he was superintendent/president of San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton for eight years.

Board President Aurelio Salazar, Jr. said the board's priority is to support the Office of the Superintendent/President and sound management of the college.

"We want to make sure that our students, faculty, staff and administrators have a superintendent/president with the leadership skills and vision to keep our institution moving forward," Salazar said.

Trustee Candi DePauw, who served with fellow trustees Erica Padilla-Chavez and Manuel Osorio on an ad hoc committee to review applications, said she looked forward to welcoming Dr. Rodriguez to campus.

"His leadership skills will be a great asset as the fall semester approaches with its wide variety of challenges," DePauw said.

Dr. Rodriguez takes over for Dr. Romero Jalomo, acting superintendent/president since June 16, when the board accepted the resignation of Dr. Patricia Hsieh, who held the position since September. Dr. Jalomo will continue his duties as vice president of student affairs.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked the board for its trust in him, adding, "I look forward to working closely with the faculty, students, staff and administration and being of service."

He further said he is "delighted to join Hartnell," where his two sons both attended. One of them recently transferred to the University of California, Santa Cruz.

His previous administrative experience includes: president of Los Medanos College in the Contra Costa Community College District (six years), interim president of San Jose City College; vice president of instruction at San Jose City College and dean of instruction at Cabrillo College, among others.

Dr. Rodriguez earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in school and applied psychology from Fairfield University and a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies from Bowling Green State University. He taught psychology at Cabrillo and UC-Santa Cruz and is a graduate of the Harvard Institute for Educational Management.

Welcoming new Foundation Board members

The Hartnell College Foundation welcomes its newest members as of January 2020:



Scott Brubaker
Hayashi and Wayland



Ricky Cabrera
Cabrera Contracting, Inc.



Alfred Diaz-Infante
CHISPA



Brian Holaday
Holaday Seed Company



Nick Pasculli
TMD Creative



Joanne Taylor
Community Leader

Centennial Celebration will bring community and alumni together in 2021

With in-person events disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartnell will extend the observance of its 100th anniversary through the 2020-21 academic year.

Public health concerns forced postponement of alumni and community celebrations originally scheduled for June 20-21. Centennial planners are now eyeing opportunities to reschedule those events for early next year, with more information to be shared as soon as it's available.

Information about other centennial-related activities will be communicated following continued planning work this summer and fall. We encourage all past graduates to share their Hartnell stories on the Hartnell College Foundation [website!](#)



Measure T projects move forward and promise new opportunities for Monterey County students



Beautiful Salinas Valley weather has enabled steady progress on several Measure T construction projects on the Main Campus in Salinas and also in Soledad and King City. All are funded by Measure T bonds, which voters approved in 2016. The Hartnell College Board of Trustees passed an emergency declaration for work to be designated as essential. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our partnership with local construction companies to move this important work forward.

A new 16,750-square-foot education center in Soledad is rapidly taking shape, as is the 12,500-square-foot expansion of the education center in downtown King City. Both are on pace to open as scheduled in January 2021, greatly expanding the college's offerings in south Monterey County.

The heart of the Main Campus has been transformed by a new central plaza with tiered walkways and landscaping. Final concrete work and planting is underway, along with construction of a new outdoor elevator to the second-floor catwalk that connects buildings D and E.

Modernization of Building D classrooms is nearly complete, with larger and more flexible spaces, including a "super" classroom that will hold up to 60 students. A nearly identical renovation will occur in Building E in 2022.

The capstone for all of these Main Campus projects is the new Center for Nursing and Health Sciences, to be named for the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. Foundational work continues on that 24,000-square-foot structure, which will provide expanded, state-of-the-art facilities for Hartnell's health care programs. It is scheduled to open in fall 2021.

Groundbreaking is anticipated this fall on Hartnell's third education center, in Castroville. Plans for the 13,750-square-foot center on Merritt Street near Highway 1 are under review by the Division of State Architects.

**President's Task Force identifies
five-year funding priorities**



A new President's Task Force composed of community leaders from across Monterey County came together at the end of 2019 to address the future of Hartnell College.

The task force reviewed and ranked needs identified by students, faculty and staff to determine which were most likely to receive community support over the next several years. Such support could come from businesses, individuals and foundations, as well as competitive grants.

1 FUND FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS & ACCELERATED COMPLETION:

Accelerate student completion and prepare students for transfer and/or employment through on-the-job training and skills-building.

2 FUND FOR STUDENT SUCCESS:

Develop and expand educated citizenry in the Salinas Valley.

3 FUND FOR SALINAS VALLEY STEM PROGRAMS:

Provide learning opportunities to develop analytical and problem-solving skills that prepare students for current and future careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

4 FUND FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS:

Provide advanced training for lifelong success; build healthy hearts, minds, character and bodies through athletic competition and academics.

5 FUND FOR THE ARTS:

Teach and develop creative skills for the modern workforce and a thriving community.

6 FUND FOR EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION & DIGITAL EQUITY:

Advance the educational growth and development of vulnerable student populations through the expansion of the centers and by addressing the digital divide.



During three meetings this spring, projects were prioritized and organized into a plan for external funding support that will guide the Hartnell College Foundation's work and fundraising efforts. Next steps include sharing it with foundation and college leadership over the course of the summer, with the goal of releasing it to the broader community this fall.

Employee giving campaign aims to involve more employees and serve more students

The Centennial Hartnell Employees for Student Success campaign continued through February 28, encouraging new donors and, if possible, an increase in employees' one-time or monthly contribution.

The Employee Giving Committee's 2020 goals were to include 225 donors in Employee Giving and reach \$125,000 in total giving. We celebrate the 187 donors whose giving this year totaled \$138,223, and we thank the 26 employees who gave to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Response Fund for a total of \$4,211.

"I could not be more proud to have such generous colleagues who care so much about students and about giving back to the community as a whole," said Dora Sanchez-Mosqueda, payroll supervisor in Administrative Services.

She also thanked Luz Garcia, sister of Jackie Cruz, vice president of advancement and development and foundation executive director. Garcia spoke on Jan. 16 at the Hartnell Student Success Conference in the Mainstage Theater, sharing her journey from childhood hardship to Hartnell graduation and her work today as a certified physician assistant at the Soledad Medical Clinic.

Hartnell is grateful to all its generous employee donors. The funds support scholarships, basic assistance for textbooks, food and transportation, and college areas of greatest need.

We deeply appreciate the efforts of the Employee Giving Committee, in particular Sanchez-Mosqueda and her co-chairs, Joy Cowden, Dr. Debra Kaczmar and Lucy Serrano.

Salinas Valley Promise inspires Monterey County's cities and philanthropists



The Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted in June to continue funding the Salinas Valley Promise for a second year, with \$200,000, showing their commitment to education and belief in the county's future. We are grateful for that significant support, as well as to the cities of Gonzales, Greenfield, King and Soledad, the Hartnell College Foundation, Bud



and Rebecca Colligan, Chevron, Bank of America, D'Arrigo Consulting and our Salinas Valley Promise advisory committee members.

The outstanding Salinas Valley Promise has completed its first year as a fully fledged program, going beyond tuition coverage to provide incomparable support to first-time, full-time college students at Hartnell. Now strengthened by a full-time coordinator, the Promise combines instructional excellence with professional guidance, leadership development, life-skills training and a scholarship to ensure student success.

Promise students pay zero in-state tuition for two full years, regardless of family income. They also receive a free computer or support for books, participate in a summer leadership institute and quarterly professional development workshops and receive mentoring from a local professional.

This year, Hartnell served 627 Promise students on its Salinas and King City campuses. After just one semester, they showed impressive outcomes in course completion and success: 71.2 percent of Promise students were successful in their courses, compared with a 59.3 percent success rate among first-time students not participating in the program. We are excited to announce that more than 1,100 students have signed up to participate in the 2020-21 Promise program.

Hartnell enrollment data from 2015-2019 show a 37 percent increase in students who enrolled full-time from local high schools. Especially considering that the Promise program didn't start until fall 2018, this is a dramatic gain. The increase in full-time enrollment is particularly important because full-time students complete their certificate or degree and transfer to a university at a higher rate than part-time students.

In February, Hartnell hosted a successful second quarterly workshop for Salinas Valley Promise participants, at which students received leadership guidance from presenters Margaret D'Arrigo Martin (Margaret, Inc. and Salinas Valley Memorial Health Care) and Karen Fanoie, a community leader and long-time Hartnell College Foundation supporter. Promise students also shared a meal with their mentors, connecting with community leaders from the Salinas Valley.

Hartnell was surprised and honored to be recognized by the Monterey County Children's Council as a recipient of the Champion for Children Award 2020 for the Salinas Valley Promise, and by Bright Futures for Courageous Leadership for the Salinas Valley Promise on March 5. None of this would have been possible without the support of everyone who stepped up to make the Promise such a success.

The tremendous support and generosity of our community has helped us keep our promise to Salinas Valley Promise students. For program details and eligibility information, visit www.hartnell.edu/promise.

Please contact the Hartnell College Foundation at (831) 755-6810 or visit our [giving page](#) and designate your gift to the Salinas Valley Promise.

Scholarships open doors to students' continued studies

Graduates earn national scholarships to continue at UCLA

Among the many outstanding 2020 Hartnell graduates



Jenel Fraij

who received scholarships toward their continuing studies at a four-year college or university this fall, two stand out – for their overall excellence, the prestige of their awards and the level of their support:

Jenel Fraij of Salinas is one of only 50 students nationwide to receive a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This is the second year in a row that a Hartnell student has been chosen.

Fraij, whose family emigrated from Syria, will receive up to \$40,000 per year for her educational expenses at the University of California, Los Angeles. The 2018 Everett Alvarez High School graduate will also be eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 of funding toward graduate school.

“None of this would have been possible without Hartnell College and everything that this amazing community has offered me,” Fraij said.



Estefania Villicana

A second student whose scholarship selection is particularly noteworthy is **Estefania Villicana** of Salinas. A 2018 graduate of North Salinas High School, she was one of only six students selected for the 2020 AHSIE Seed to Tree Scholarship – and one of just two community college students to receive the honor.

In addition to that \$1,000 scholarship, Villicana has received a \$10,000-a-year Peggy and Jack Baskin Transfer Scholarship, which goes to high-achieving first-generation women UC students from low-income families, and a \$5,000 scholarship from the CA Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation. She also will attend UCLA, where she plans to major in sociology, with a minor in education.

A first-generation student who participated in the WELI (Women’s Education and Leadership Institute) program at Hartnell, Villicana said she is grateful for all the support and encouragement she has received during her years at the college.

Heidi Correa Ramirez Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2012, the Heidi Correa Ramirez Memorial Scholarship provides a scholarship to deserving students who transfer to a four-year institution to study English or music. Heidi was a beloved English faculty member at Hartnell, who is remembered on campus by a cherry blossom tree planted in her memory. We are grateful to this day for Heidi’s investment in Hartnell students and this community.

Trinidad Gomez Memorial Fund

The foundation would like to highlight the support of the Nunes Company, which in 2013 established a scholarship fund to honor the late Trinidad Gomez. His impact was such that his family has also established the Trinidad and Lupe Gomez Family Fund through the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The Gomezes grew up in migrant farmworker families and settled in Gonzales, where they embraced a strong work ethic, a love of agriculture and the critical importance of family. The Trinidad Gomez Memorial Fund provides a scholarship through Hartnell to support Gonzales High School graduates who are taking nine or more units and have earned a 2.7 GPA or higher. We are grateful to the Gomez

family for their inspiring philanthropy and legacy of support for Gonzales students at Hartnell.

California Rodeo Fiesta Day Scholarship

The California Rodeo Scholarship was established in 1987 with donations from the California Rodeo Fiesta Day Committee to assist Salinas Valley graduates who demonstrate both academic promise and financial need. Since its establishment, over \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded to deserving students.



Thank you, California Rodeo Association for supporting the success of Hartnell students and our Salinas Valley!

Monterey County Sheriff's Posse: Charles Atwood Memorial Scholarship

The Monterey County Sheriff's Posse, established in 1939 and incorporated in 1946, maintains a 50-acre ranch on the outskirts of Salinas, where they host numerous events including the BIG HAT BBQ and Junior Rodeo. The organization also offers team roping, team penning/sorting and barrel racing at its arena during the summer. The posse awards annual scholarships through Hartnell in memory of former member Charles Atwood, thanks to a generous donation from the Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation.



Enza Zaden Scholarship for CSin3

The Hartnell College Foundation is excited to announce the establishment of a new scholarship by Enza Zaden North America, Inc. to support two scholarships this year to students in Hartnell's CSin3 computer science program. Enza Zaden are innovators in agricultural technology, seeking to breed new vegetable varieties.

[Learn more...](#)

The CSin3 program is a collaborative program between Hartnell and Cal State Monterey Bay that enables students to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science in just three years. Students take classes at both schools and commit to year-round participation. This program continues to grow future leaders in technology, and we are grateful that Enza Zaden is seeking to support the next generation of technology innovators.

Party in the Library achieves milestone in donors' support of students

On Saturday, May 9, the Hartnell College Foundation hosted its 14th annual Party in the Library. Every year, thanks to our generous supporters, the foundation has been able to leverage every \$1 raised at the Party into \$10 for Hartnell students. Though the theme for Party began as "enVision 2020" chosen in honor of Hartnell's Centennial Celebration, it was fittingly updated to "Re-enVision 2020".



This year, the foundation raised almost \$399,623 through an 80-minute online “party” that was inspired when COVID-19 forced cancellation of this important fundraiser. That net income from auction purchases, drawing tickets, donations, pledges and sponsorships was presented on May 20 to the foundation’s board of directors. This is the second highest total since Party in the Library began 14 years ago. The in-person celebration typically draws about 400 supporters who enjoy gourmet food, wines, live music and more. This year’s online event, with much lower expenses, attracted 100 viewers — many of whom were dressed up and enjoying a glass of wine or cocktail.

Each year, we look forward to the presentation of the Hartnell College Foundation's Leadership Award honoring exceptional leaders who have exhibited significant effort and leadership on behalf of the foundation, college, students and alumni. This year's award was presented to local leader and Hartnell alumnus, Anne Secker, an attorney with Noland, Hammerly, Etienne & Hoss. Anne is an incredible community leader who has given the college and its students her momentous support and commitment. She has twice served as foundation board president and remains a board member, currently co-chairing its Planned Giving Committee.



Anne Secker

When it came time to recognize honoree Anne at the event, she quickly turned the spotlight to Hartnell students, introducing Jenel Fraij, who is one of just 50 community college students in the country to receive the \$40,000-a-year Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship (see article above).

Another graduate, 2019-20 student body president and student trustee Samantha Saldana, also spoke, sharing her own video reflection on the experience of being a student amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It’s just such a hard time for us right now because everything in our lives is telling us that pursuing an education is going to be the least easy thing to do,” Saldana said. “I’m grateful for Hartnell because of their response to this crisis. They worked so quickly to make sure that every single student is equipped with everything they need to succeed. And as the student body president, on behalf of all our Hartnell students, I’d like to say thank you!”

Hartnell College Foundation recognizes beloved and visionary co-chairs Kurt Gollnick, Susan Gill and Alfred Diaz-Infante for their vision and dedication. Special appreciation goes to the Party in the Library Committee for their leadership and to the community at large for continued support of Party in the Library in the next 100 years.

In comments at the May 20 board meeting, event co-chair Susan Gill underscored the significance of such success under daunting circumstances. Her co-chairs were fellow board members Alfred Diaz-Infante and Kurt Gollnick.

"Our sponsors, donors and committee members stuck by us and continued to support us with their dollars, leadership, time and a range of resources so that others would be inspired to support students at this time of transition," Gill said. Thank you to our generous sponsors for the event:

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Better Careers initiative supports a stronger pathway from education to workforce

Connecting low-income Californians to good jobs with family-sustaining wages and advancement opportunities

[Our Approach](#)[Initiative Grants](#)[Our Team](#)

In 2019, the Hartnell College Foundation was selected as a planning grantee for the James Irvine Foundation's Better Careers initiative, with our goals being to:

1. Develop and strengthen Hartnell's employer steering committees by fostering employer engagement and investment.
2. Assess the job placement and earn-as-you-learn (i.e. apprenticeship models) landscape in the Salinas Valley in order to identify gaps and current best practices.
3. Design a user-focused system that will strengthen direct job placements and expand employer co-investments in internships and work-based learning.

Given the needs of the Salinas Valley workforce, the college decided to focus on three cornerstone industries for enhanced career pathways: agriculture, education and health.

We had the great privilege of partnering with consultants from Career Ladders Project to meet these goals by convening these three sectors in November, January and February, respectively, to prepare a blueprint for strengthening job placements, apprenticeships, internships and all work-based learning. Our convenings engaged faculty, industry partners, students and staff through employer roundtables, student and employer panels and generative discussions about career pathways, guiding a scalable response for each sector and breaking down barriers to students' economic success.

Upon completing our planning grant, the James Irvine Foundation awarded us a \$300,000 grant to implement this new job placement system. Planning is underway to launch the initial phases of implementation by the end of the summer.

We would also like to give a very special thank you to the James Irvine Foundation for its incredible generosity toward our students in the form of a \$25,000 grant to our COVID-19 student fund.

Learn more about [Better Careers](#).

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

The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, host of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, on May 28 awarded a \$96,222



grant to the Hartnell College Foundation to help students cope with the impacts of COVID-19. "We are pleased to contribute to the coordinated effort to ensure all students have the technology they need to achieve their educational goals. In this, we have a remarkable opportunity to address the digital divide broadly in our community" said Steve John, CEO and Tournament Director of Monterey Peninsula Foundation. "The efforts of Hartnell College to ensure everyone has access to quality education and career pathways has never been more

important."

The funding for the Hartnell College Foundation's COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund can go to purchase Chromebook laptops or mobile hotspots and provide cash assistance to students experiencing a critical financial need not met through other resources.

In addition to the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, we have received wonderful gifts from the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation, Marilyn Long Foundation and the Jack and Peggy Baskin Foundation. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all of their generosity and support for our students.

National Endowment for the Humanities awards Hartnell exclusive teaching grant



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES

Hartnell College is among just 300 educational and cultural institutions across the United States to share in \$40.3 million awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities from federal CARES Act funding for COVID-19.

Hartnell is the only community college in all of California to receive the award.

The college will use its \$263,000 grant, announced June 22, over the next six months to strengthen online teaching in its humanities programs, which include languages, the arts, ethnic studies and philosophy, as well as social sciences such as psychology and political science. The college also offers a liberal arts degree with 12 different areas of emphasis.

The only other California higher education institution to receive one of the grants was the California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and Hartnell was one of only a handful of community colleges selected, among such well-known recipients as Cornell University and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The award is Hartnell's first-ever grant from the NEH, whose funding is always highly competitive and "extremely prestigious, considering that only 14 percent of applicants received an award," said Michele Peregrin, director of grants development in the college's Office of Institutional Advancement.



The Hartnell College Foundation is deeply grateful that the late Dr. James R. Fassett, Hartnell College alumnus, former trustee, founding foundation director and dear friend has remembered the college with a bequest.

Prior to his death, Dr. Fassett created a charitable remainder trust with a life estate for a longtime friend, and the Hartnell College Foundation was named as one of its beneficiaries.

Dr. Fassett was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and grew up in Gonzales. He attended Gonzales High School and later attended and graduated from Salinas High School. He was a graduate of Hartnell, subsequently transferring to Stanford University, where he also completed medical school. After serving in the Army for three years as a captain, he finished his family practice residency at Monterey County Hospital, now known as Natividad Medical Center. He then returned to Gonzales, where he was a family practitioner from 1948 until his retirement in 1988.

In 1980, Dr. Fassett received the California Medical Association's first Plessner Award as the finest family practitioner in California. Subsequently, he was runner-up for Family Practitioner of the Year in the United States.

As a leader within the Hartnell College Foundation, Dr. Fassett was instrumental in convincing his friend, the late Villeroy Gleason, also a trustee of the college, to bequeath the Gleason Center in King City to the foundation for use by Hartnell.

Dr. Fassett served as a Hartnell trustee for more than 24 years and was extremely proud of his involvement in establishing Hartnell's Registered Nursing Program and the cooperative Physician's Assistant Program between Hartnell and Stanford. In 1983, Dr. Fassett received the Hartnell College Foundation Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his accomplishments and service to the foundation, the college and the community.

Throughout his 40 years of service, Dr. Fassett always dedicated himself to helping others. Hartnell and its foundation are deeply grateful to him for his lifetime of service and his most generous bequest.

Dr. Fassett's is just one example of a true legacy gift that will continue to support students and transform lives for generations. As we look toward our next 100 years in this centennial year, we hope many of our community members will consider the legacy they will leave and join our Legacy Society. Please also be looking out for more information on our Centennial Legacy Campaign, where we will be seeking to reach 100 estate gift commitments as we launch our second century. For more information, please contact Jackie Cruz at jcruz@hartnell.edu.

Lastly, we are here for you! While you may not be able to see us in person at our office, our staff is happy to assist you through email or over the phone. [Click here to see all our staff.](#)