

40 YEARS OF

# COMMUNITY

# IMPACT



Irvine Valley  
College

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For the past 40 years, Irvine Valley College (IVC) has represented opportunity, hope, and progress for countless students who have earned their degrees, pursued fulfilling careers, and transferred to top universities across the nation. This journey has shown us that IVC's success stems from a collective effort, rooted in the strong partnership between our college and the community. Our history is not only about community impact but about building a collaborative environment where regional businesses, community organizations, IVC, and our students come together with the shared goal of fostering economic prosperity and growth for all.

From all of us at IVC, thank you for your ongoing support,

**John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.**

**President, Irvine Valley College**

1985

IVC, initially known as the Saddleback Community College District North Campus Satellite, becomes the **105th California Community College**.

1987

District purchases the final 20 acres of land, completing the **100-acre Irvine Valley College site**.

1991

IVC Student Services Center completed; **8,400 students enrolled**; IVC's athletic teams join the Orange Empire Conference.

2009

Since 2009, IVC has been recognized as a **Military Friendly Schools<sup>®</sup>** institution. Additionally, IVC proudly holds the **Military Spouse Friendly School** designation.

2018

IVC welcomed its inaugural **Irvine Valley Promise** cohort of 117 students in Fall 2018.

2022

2023

2024

**IVC receives Great Colleges to Work For<sup>®</sup> Recognition + Honor Roll**

# IMPACT AND INNOVATION

IVC is proud to be one of California's leading community colleges and a key driver of economic prosperity and growth in the region.

## \$611.8M TOTAL ANNUAL IMPACT

### \$482.1M ALUMNI IMPACT

The increased earnings of IVC alumni and the businesses they work for

### \$73.2M OPERATIONS IMPACT

Includes annual payroll and other spending

### \$51.1M STUDENT IMPACT

Amount spent by IVC students attracted to or retained in the region by IVC

### \$5.3M CONSTRUCTION IMPACT

Funds reinvested in ongoing construction

## For every \$1 invested in an IVC education...

### STUDENTS GAIN

**\$4.40** in lifetime earnings, with an annual return of **14.7%**

### TAXPAYERS GAIN

**\$1.90** in added tax revenue and public sector savings

### SOCIETY GAINS

**\$12.40** in added income and social savings

Source: [https://www.ivc.edu/files/news/ivc\\_2023\\_mainreport\\_final.pdf](https://www.ivc.edu/files/news/ivc_2023_mainreport_final.pdf)

IVC dedicates its \$61 million **Arts Village**, comprising three buildings with studios, rehearsal spaces, a multifunctional 150-seat auditorium/classroom, and more.

U.S. Department of Education recognizes IVC as the California Community College with the **highest transfer-out rate** for Title IV students.

The Aspen Institute Names Irvine Valley College **One of 150 U.S. Community Colleges Eligible for the 2025 Aspen Prize.**

IVC achieves **Record-Breaking Enrollment** with a Fall census count of 15,848 students with numbers continuing to climb.

IVC's new **Student Union, Student Services buildings**, and **Arts Promenade** projects will break ground.

2023

2023

2024

2024

2025

# EMPOWERING CHANGE

*“IVC’s transfer programs gave me hope.”*



## Mohammad Homayoon Entrepreneurship Student

**B**efore arriving in the United States from Afghanistan in 2016, Mohammad Homayoon was a top-of-the-class student, but his move to the U.S. forced him to learn English and start over. “I came here and was placed in remedial classes,” he recalls. “It was tough going from top of my class to the bottom, but I worked hard, learned English, and began to navigate the American education system.”

By the time Mohammad graduated high school, his SAT scores, coupled with the daunting U.S. college application process, left him feeling uncertain. However, when representatives from Irvine Valley College (IVC) visited his high school, he found his path. “IVC’s transfer programs gave me hope,” he says. “It was a second chance for me, and I didn’t take it for granted.”

At IVC, Mohammad explored his diverse interests and eventually found his home in the entrepreneurship program. “I took courses in business and met Professor John Russo, who introduced me to resources and opportunities I never imagined.”

Through IVC’s connections, Mohammad participated in events hosted by the Tech Coast Venture Network (TCVN), where he interacted with venture capitalists and successful entrepreneurs.

Inspired by these experiences, Mohammad became a campus ambassador and mentor, and later founded the Afghan Economic Development Association (AEDA), a club that supports Afghan families and promotes education for girls banned from school by the Taliban.

Mohammad’s entrepreneurial spirit didn’t stop there. Eager to expand his business skills, he participated in pitch competitions, winning \$2,000 in prize money for AEDA, and later \$10,000 for a renewable energy start-up called PZ Nanopore at UCI’s New Venture Competition.

“IVC gave me the chance to pivot when I needed to, without being stuck in one path,” he says. “The mentors, the supportive community, and the resources available helped me realize my goals.”

Now, as a student at UCI’s prestigious business school, Mohammad continues to pursue his dreams of making a difference both in the U.S. and in Afghanistan. “My goal is to create jobs and support families in Afghanistan,” he says. “IVC has given me the tools to make that vision a reality.”

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



## Randy Mees Edwards Lifesciences

Growing up in Southern California in the early 1980s, Mees enrolled at a local community college without a clear path in mind. It was there that Mees took a drafting course and became part of an experimental program involving one of the first computer-aided design (CAD) systems. His college's partnership with local industries led him to his first full-time position at Robertshaw Controls.

That early experience taught him the important role that community colleges play as critical bridges between education and industry. Today, as a leader at Edwards Lifesciences, Mees is deeply involved with IVC's Engineering Program, serving on its Technical Advisory Committee and helping to guide the curriculum to ensure students are ready to work when they graduate.

"It really is a reciprocal benefit," he explains. "We see trends in the industry, and we go to the colleges to steer the education in that direction. In return, we get students ready to enter the workforce with relevant skills." He emphasized how these partnerships help shape the curriculum and create pathways for industry internships, providing students with opportunities they might not have otherwise.

Edwards Lifesciences, known for its innovative medical devices, particularly benefits from this collaboration. The

company's need for specialized skills in areas like plastics and tool design has led to direct conversations with IVC faculty, ensuring that students receive training in these critical areas. "We don't expect them to be experts coming out of the program," Mees said, "but having that foundational knowledge is key."

Mees envisions a future where internships and hands-on learning become even more integral to the IVC experience. He notes that community colleges, with their ability to offer focused, hands-on programs, can often go deeper into technical subjects than many four-year institutions. "The community college system can drill down into subjects that sometimes don't get as much attention at the university level," Mees explained.

*"It really is a reciprocal benefit."*

As IVC celebrates 40 years of community impact, it's clear that partnerships like the one with Edwards Lifesciences not only prepare students for success but also drive innovation in local industries. Randy Mees' journey from student to industry leader exemplifies the power of these collaborations, reinforcing the vital role that community colleges play in shaping the workforce of tomorrow.



# IMPACT AND OPPORTUNITY



## Julissa Maupin Neuroscience Student

**A**s a first-generation student double majoring in neuroscience and biochemistry, Julissa Maupin's drive to understand the complexities of the brain was inspired by her grandmother's battle with frontotemporal dementia (FTD).

"I've always been fascinated with how the brain works—how it controls who we are as individuals," she explains.

Watching her grandmother's illness progress sparked a desire to learn more about neurological diseases, and IVC provided the foundation for her to explore this passion. The small class sizes and personalized attention from professors have been crucial to her academic success.

*"I want to advocate for minority communities who don't always get the healthcare attention they need..."*

"The professors here really know you," Julissa shared, noting how their support helped her feel confident in asking questions and seeking help.

Despite her success, navigating the educational system as a first-generation student presented challenges. "At first, I thought perfection was the only way to succeed, but I learned that asking for help and embracing challenges was part of the

process," she said. Through IVC's close-knit academic environment, Julissa gained confidence and a sense of belonging, thanks to professors who were deeply invested in their students' success.

Her involvement in programs like MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), Neuro Alliance, Diversified Doctors, and Stanford's Biomedical Data Science Mentorship Program opened her up new opportunities for growth and exploration.

Julissa is also committed to giving back to the community. Her volunteer work at UCI Health Hospital allowed her to learn from patients, many of whom inspired her to continue her pursuit of a healthcare career. "I want to advocate for minority communities who don't always get the healthcare attention they need, especially when it comes to neurological issues like dementia," she said.

Looking ahead, Julissa plans to take a gap year to focus on research before applying to medical school, with a particular interest in advocating for underserved communities.

"I want to make an impact before I go to med school. There's so much that can be done, especially for minority communities where neurological conditions are often overlooked."

# FUTURE IMPACT

In alignment with our mission to support regional workforce needs and our students, IVC is delighted to announce the development of these new facilities and career education programs.

## IVC Arts Promenade and Coffee Structure



This exciting new project will feature a coffee shop with outdoor seating areas and shade structure. A beautifully designed promenade will lead students to dedicated working spaces for sculpting, drawing, painting, meditation, and collaborative study.

## New Student Services / Student Union



IVC will be break ground in Spring 2025 on two new construction projects: a 50,000 square foot Student Services Center and a 25,000 square foot Student Union. These projects will consolidate many Student Services departments into one central location on campus.

## New Health Care Programs

Based on regional labor market analysis and input from local industry leaders, these proposed programs will address critical health care workforce needs in our region and the state, while providing accessible career pathways for adult and low-income learners. These health care programs will join our robust portfolio of over 21 Career Education programs, furthering our mission to meet workforce demands and increase access to high-growth career fields.

### Programs Being Considered Include:

- Biomedical Equipment Technology
- Community Health Worker
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Home Health Aide
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Psychiatric Technician
- Respiratory Technician

# 160+

## CERTIFICATE & DEGREE PROGRAMS

# #1

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA AND **#6 IN THE NATION**

ACCORDING TO WALLETHUB

# #1

## IN TRANSFERS TO THE UC SYSTEM IN ORANGE COUNTY



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Ryan Dack, Carolyn Inmon, Timothy Jemal, Marcia Milchiker, T.J. Prendergast III, Terri Rydell, Ed.D.

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