



# IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

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**TO:** Julianna M. Barnes, Ed.D., Chancellor, and Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** John C. Hernandez, Ph.D., President

**DATE:** April 13, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **President's Report for the April 24, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

## IVC Awards Teachers of the Year During Surprise Classroom Visits



IVC has announced its three Teacher of the Year recognition recipients for the 2022-23 academic year. English as a Second Language (ESL) Assistant Professor Winnie Dinh was named Outstanding Full-Time Teacher of the Year. Associate Faculty of Psychology Hartrisha Dhindsa was named Outstanding Part-Time Teacher of the Year. Health and Fitness for Mature Adults Instructor Rosa Turi was named Outstanding Emeritus Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program identifies and honors exemplary teachers and highlights educational innovation, student learning, and the rewards of teaching. IVC will formally recognize this year's honorees at the college's Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 8.

## Dr. Martha McDonald Selected for the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship



The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) announced Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald as one of 35 leaders selected for the 2023-24 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship. This intensive executive leadership program, delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, prepares the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success. Over 10 months, the fellows will work closely with highly accomplished

community college presidents, Aspen leaders, and Stanford University faculty to learn from field-leading research, define and assess student success at their college, and clarify their vision for excellent and equitable outcomes for students while in college and after they graduate. Read the full story [here](#).

## IVC Recognizes Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Month



[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(DEIA\) Awareness Month](#) is an opportunity to learn about diverse human experiences and connect in the community with one another. During April, students, faculty, and staff celebrated the breadth of people who make up the campus community with special events, including the return of Black Student Success Week and DEIA Day on April 14 featuring conversations with Asian American Pacific Islander scholar Dr. Robert Teranishi, Native American Studies Professor Dr. Heather Daly, Humanities Professors Dr. Kristen Skjonsby and Kurt Meyer, and a student panel. IVC's website provides resources about DEIA Awareness Month, campus-wide events, classes related to DEIA, and information on activities happening in the local area.

### **President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Impacts Hiring Practices**



Team Hire Learning, a workgroup of the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (PAC-DEIA), has been addressing DEIA improvements with our district hiring practices.

Team Hire Learning brought recommendations to the District Equal Employment Opportunity DEI Advisory Committee that were well received and adopted. These included improving recruitment accessibility to be more welcoming to applicants with disabilities by providing more affirming statements in our job announcements and physical demands sections, having the DEIA supplemental questions be visible to candidates earlier in the application process, and District collecting data on exit points during recruitment and hiring with a DEIA lens for analysis.

### **Dr. Joseph Latham Invited to Speak with Congressional Representatives About Veterans' Challenges**



Interim Director of the Veterans Services Center Dr. Joseph Latham was selected by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, along with 15 veterans from across the county, to travel to Washington, D.C. and speak with Congressional Representatives about veterans' challenges. Dr. Latham discussed these challenges with Congressional Representatives from Arizona, Tennessee, Alaska, Texas, Pennsylvania, and the staff of Representative Mike Levin (D-CA 49th district). As a mental health provider and a veteran, Dr. Latham discussed innovative ways to improve access to mental health care, reinforcement of the importance of the GI Bill, supportive measures to decrease homelessness in veteran communities, and the

importance of the Major Richard Star Act which allows veterans with combat-related disabilities who served less than 20 years to receive retirement and disability pay concurrently without reduction.

### **Twelve IVC Students Visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on the East Coast**



Student Equity and Black Student Success Scholars took 12 students on a five-day Historically Black Colleges and University Tour. Participants visited five Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including Howard University, Bowie State University, Morgan State University, Delaware State University, and Lincoln University. Through these visits, students gained insight into

African American higher education's rich culture and history and a sense of belonging at institutions that reflect their Black lived experience. One student was accepted into Bowie State University for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester. Students and faculty also visited the National Museum of African American History & Culture Museum, The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, and the African American Museum in Philadelphia. This trip is a powerful testament to the IVC's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The students' immersion in African American culture and history will enrich their academic and personal growth, preparing them to become more culturally and globally aware leaders.

### Accomplished English Instructor and Poet Jax Pham: A Look Into Their Diverse Literary Contributions



IVC English instructor Jax Pham is an accomplished poet and serves as the poetry editor for "Indicia Lit," a journal curating literary arts which features marginalized voices. Pham was awarded semi-finalist of the Crab Creek Review Poetry Prize (2021) and served as the fiction editor for "The Offing" (2017–2021). In 2020, their work was published in "Poethead" (Ireland), "Queen Mob's Teahouse," "Befrois," and "Sinister Wisdom Journal." Currently, Pham is working on two poetry manuscripts: "In Bones & Tentacles: Forgetting as Commodity" and "How to Pivot When You're Paralyzed." Their words have additionally been featured in: "Berkeley Poetry Review," "Hobart Literary Magazine," "Apogee Journal," "Cordite Poetry Review," and elsewhere.

### IVC Hosts Guided Pathways Virtual Summit: Building Belonging



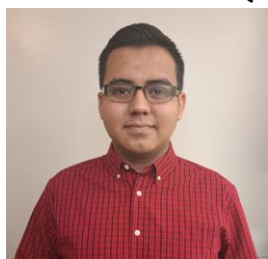
All faculty, students, and staff were invited to collaboratively discover activities and support resources that will turn academic and career interest areas into dynamic learning communities. The Summit kicked off with a welcome message from President Hernandez that was followed by remarks from Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald, Vice President for Administrative Services Davit Khachatryan, and Vice President for Instruction Rick Miranda. The summit allowed for reimagining how we connect students to classes and learning in a way that inspires them to remain on their education pathway.

### IVC Student Named 2023 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar



Allyson Najera will receive a \$1,500 scholarship for being named a 2023 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Academic Team Program by awarding 200 stipends annually to 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars, totaling over \$200,000 in scholarships. Selection as a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar is based on students' scores in the All-USA Academic Team competition, for which more than 2,400 applications were received this year. Read the full story [here](#).

### IVC Student Erwin Quiroz Wins Real College California Logo Design Contest



Real  
College  
California

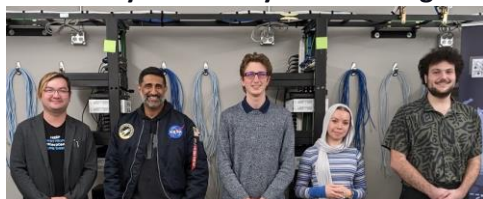
#RealCollegeCalifornia held a logo redesign contest for California Community College students, including a \$1,000 scholarship prize. Congratulations to Erwin Quiroz for creating the winning design, beating out 18 other submissions. The CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce felt Quiroz's design captured the essence of the Coalition and its mission to provide systemwide recommendations addressing students' housing, food, and basic needs insecurities. The task force will incorporate the logo into its upcoming publications, taskforce webpages, the Basic Needs Summit webpage, emails, and more. Special thanks to Digital Media Arts Instructor Gokce Kasikci for introducing the logo competition to her DMA 175 Brand Identity class. Read more [here](#).

### IVC Model United Nations Adds Another Award to Their Collection



The IVC Model United Nations (MUN) team won the Best Delegate award at the Inland Empire Model United Nations Conference at Riverside City College. The team of five students represented Ghana and China on Security Council, and Denmark, Saudi Arabia, and Uganda on the Commission on Population and Development. The conference was attended by 100 students from two and four-year colleges in Southern California. Delegates debated strategies to mitigate sexual violence in conflict as well as enhance food security in a post-pandemic world. The team is headed to the Los Angeles MUN conference next, hosted by University of California, Los Angeles.

### Student Cybersecurity Team Emerges as Top-Performer at Regional Competition



IVC's Collegiate Cybersecurity team, Cyber Optics, recently excelled in the Western Region Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (WRCCDC). The virtual competition brought together teams from universities and colleges in the western region of the United States to test their skills in cybersecurity defense. The Cyber Optics team, comprised of four students, competed against 20 teams in a simulated high-stress cybersecurity environment including real-world scenarios designed to test their abilities to protect against cyber-attacks, manage critical infrastructure, and maintain information systems' availability, integrity, and confidentiality. After an entire day of intense competition, the Cyber Optics team emerged as a top-performing team. Read the full story [here](#).

### IVC Research Team Wins 2023 RP Group Outstanding Project of the Year Award



The RP Group recognizes colleagues and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to student and institutional success through community college research, planning, and institutional effectiveness efforts. Congratulations to Senior

Research and Planning Analyst Vinh Nguyen; Director for Research, Planning, and Accreditation Loris Fagioli; Research and Planning Analyst Kevin Hsu; and Career Center and Adult Re-Entry Program Coordinator/Counselor Amanda Romero. The team of IVC professionals received the Outstanding Project of the Year Award for their contribution "Crossing the Finish Line: On the Power of Information and Monetary Incentives to Motivate Action." The project results show that personalized, action-specific messaging combined with monetary incentives helps re-engage stopped-out students and guides them to enroll in courses that lead to degree completion. The team was formerly recognized at the RP Group conference on April 12.

### IVC Partners with Orange County United Way to Host Community E-Waste Recycling Event



Orange County United Way

Orange County United Way held an e-waste recycling event at IVC in March in which over 450 cars drove through to drop off items. The event allowed community residents and businesses to donate used technology devices at a convenient local e-waste drop-off. Proceeds from recycled items support Orange County United Way's work to ensure local underserved students have the support they need to succeed, help struggling Orange County families gain financial security, and find our unhoused neighbors a place to call home.

### IVC's Performing Arts Center Features Collaborative Performances and Diverse Lineup



IVC's acclaimed Performing Arts Center (PAC) is preparing for the busy spring season, and patrons of the arts have been warmed by several wintertime performances produced by the talented Music Department. January and February featured several small ensemble and piano concerts, a Faculty Harp Recital, and several large performances in early March. The debut for "9 to 5 the Musical" opened on April 6 and ran through April 16. Scheduled in May, the Dance Department is producing its next show, "Emergence," and the

Theater Department will entertain audiences with a well-known movie adaptation of "Clue on Stage!" Read more about recent PAC performances [here](#). For additional information on upcoming performances and ticket sales, visit [ivc.edu/pac](http://ivc.edu/pac).

### IVC Reinventing Outdoor and Indoor Spaces

The campus recently completed several construction projects, including:



– Outdoor Learning Labs were recently completed creating two outdoor learning spaces available for organized events throughout the year and a green respite from the busy streets beyond the campus doors. The space features a Land Acknowledgement Monument built on the green belt between the PAC and BSTIC buildings. View photos [here](#).



– Zoom stations in the library are now available for students. In line with providing continued open access to online and hybrid classes, 55 new "Zoom stations" provide students with a semi-private ergonomically designed state-of-the-art environment with powered sit-stand desks, desktop computers, Zoom-ready cameras, and multiple electrical outlets for additional device charging.

– Live Oak Terraces Sound and Stage upgrades were completed in March, and the second phase will include the installation of shade structures and new stairs-on-grade.

– Entrance Marquees Project's illuminated monument sign was installed on the Laser Way median as part of the project. The design of the final marquees at Laser Way and Jeffrey Road is underway and estimated to be completed in December 2023.

### Upcoming Events

**Denim Day, Sexual Assault Awareness Week**

April 26

**Employee Recognition Ceremony**

May 8

**Chancellor Barnes Investiture Ceremony**

April 27

**Clue: On Stage**

May 12-14

**IVC Cares Spring Meal Distribution Event**

May 4

**IVC Pride Celebration**

May 16

**GAP4+1 Business Leader Speaker Series: Dr. Travis**

**Michael Hearne**

May 5

**Scholarship Ceremony**

May 19

**Emergence Dance Performance**

May 5-6

**Commencement**

May 25

**Jazz Picnic**

May 6

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President