



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: August 17, 2023

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the August 28, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

BestColleges.com Lists IVC as #1 Community College in California



[BestColleges.com](https://www.bestcolleges.com) listed IVC as #1 in its list of [Top 10 Community Colleges in California](#). The methodology behind the rankings is based on statistical data to objectively assess academic outcomes, using factors such as admission, enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and affordability. The rankings reflect the most recent provisional data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and College Navigator, both hosted by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Professional Development Week Kicks Off the Fall Semester



The [Fall 2023 Professional Development Week](#) commenced with the President's Opening Session, State of the College where President Hernandez featured college-wide accomplishments, previewed highlights for the coming year, and emphasized future areas of opportunities. The assembly began with a slideshow featuring images shared by faculty and staff capturing how they spent their summers. The weeklong programming provided over 90 scheduled events offering an array of opportunities for engagement to staff, faculty, and administrators. Sessions focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility; enhancing pedagogical approaches; mental health resources; and equipping faculty with the latest technological tools tailored to enrich their teaching experiences across diverse learning environments.

Laser Day Prepares New Students for Their First Semester of College



The college's new student welcome event, [Laser Day](#), occurred on August 16. A total of 900 students and parents connected with fellow incoming IVC students and met with faculty, staff, and current students before the start of the 2023-2024 school year. This year's Laser Day kicked off with a welcome message from college administrators, followed by a panel of current students answering questions from the incoming class. New students and parents attended one-hour presentations from their choice of each academic school. Following the educational presentations were seven sessions on student success, including topics such as IVC's communities of color, undecided majors, and transferring in two years. Lunch was provided to attendees, and the event wrapped up with a resource fair offering an opportunity to speak with representatives and staff from student services and co-curricular departments.

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

Four IVC Students Participate in Paid Undergraduate Research Experience



On August 10, IVC students Sheila Abdolmanafi, Alyssa Agarie, Areeba Islam, and Aidan Villegas presented their research posters during the 10th annual California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) summer research symposium. The students participated in Project RAISE (Regional Alliance in STEM Education), as part of the Undergraduate Research Experience (URE) at CSUF. IVC was one of nine area community colleges to have students with an interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) conduct paid research at CSUF. This year's cohort included 39 participants who each received a \$5,000 stipend for their research and participation in the 8-week summer program.

Expansion and Impact: Enhancements to the Basic Needs Program



The Basic Needs Program underwent significant enhancements during the 2022-2023 academic year, including the expansion of the Food Resource Center (FRC). The FRC more than doubled in size, and the team grew to include staff members, College Corps volunteers, Master of Social Work (MSW) interns, a Basic Needs-identified counselor, and CCC CalFresh Student Ambassadors who aid with daily operations, assisting students with pantry access, appointments, and resources. Last year, the FRC served 160 students per day on average, totaling 24,683 visits and 3,115 unique students. Additionally, two new partnerships were formed. The first, a collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank, provided for the distribution of more than 42,000 pounds of food. The second, a partnership with California State University, Fullerton's MSW program, helped provide case management services for students facing housing insecurity. The MSWs conducted comprehensive needs assessments for students and connected them to community resources, including mental health, housing, and medical services. In an ongoing effort to support the holistic well-being of students, the Basic Needs Program is pursuing partnerships with a diaper bank, PantrySoft, Bracken's Kitchen, and Working Wardrobes.

IVC Leadership Welcomes the City of Irvine and Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) to Campus



On July 19, IVC hosted community partners from the City of Irvine and Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) for a campus visit. IVC is working on a partnership with the City of Irvine to provide housing assistance to IVC students through a new program entitled Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP).

This program provides support to expand or develop capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges. Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald and IVC leaders offered a broad overview of the college, the Basic Needs Program, and IVC Student Housing Grant Application. Guests included City of Irvine Assistant Manager Brian King, City of Irvine Housing Manager Lisa Varon, City of Irvine Management Analyst Valeria Ramos, City of Irvine Health and Wellness Administrator Debbie Brunn, City of Irvine Community Services Superintendent Sandra L. Salcedo, IUSD Programs Coordinator Mona Montgomery, and CEO of Principle Strategic Advisors Heather Stratman.

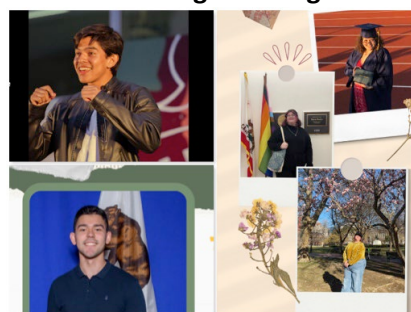
IVC and Saddleback Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Students Tour Colleges



IVC's EOPS/NextUp team partnered with Saddleback College's EOPS Program to organize a college tour of California State University, San Marcos, University of California, San Diego, California State University, San Diego and the University of San Diego. Students engaged in several activities, including an escape room, where they showcased team-building,

communication, and problem-solving skills. The group event combined educational tours and skill-building activities that contribute to students' holistic development.

EOPS Peer Navigator Program Launched During the Summer



EOPS started a Peer Navigator program to guide and mentor new students through their first year of college and increase retention rates of underrepresented students. The program will assist students with finding the support to connect, engage, thrive, and succeed at IVC. Peer Navigators help students through mentoring, monthly contacts, workshops, and events throughout the academic year. Peer Navigators will also benefit through building leadership skills, developing professionally, and gaining unique engagement opportunities on campus.

EOPS Students Win Scholarships During Legacy Youth Leadership Summit



EOPS Peer Navigators Diego Victoria and Sarah Smeltzer attended the Legacy Youth Leadership Summit on July 29-30. The summit featured several keynote speakers and engaging leadership workshops. Victoria and Smeltzer participated in a Speed-Pitching Workshop, where they pitched solutions to significant global issues to a panel of professionals. Victoria's pitch was among the top five highest-graded, earning him a \$250 scholarship. Smeltzer was selected to compete in the Speaker Incubator competition, where she presented on "The Impact of Educational Disadvantages due to Homelessness." Her presentation won first place among six contestants, leading her to win \$2,000 for her chosen organization and an opportunity to speak at a Google Conference in October.

Puente Students Participated in Statewide Summer Conferences



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Puente's Inaugural Math and Science Summer Academy at the University of California, Berkeley.

Puentistas Dave Mendoza, Summer Sanchez-Cornejo, and Brenda Rodriguez applied and were accepted to participate in the Puente statewide summer conference at the University of California, Riverside. The five-day conference focused on exploring social justice issues and college transfer paths. Additionally, Puentista Allyson Garcia attended

Puente Program Launches Student Ambassador Program



On July 13, the Puente Program welcomed and trained their 2023-2024 Puente Student Ambassadors (PSAs): Omar Gonzales, Marisol Morales, Jaquelin Salgado, Summer Sanchez-Cornejo, and Brenda Rodriguez. The PSAs are Puentistas that displayed dedication, leadership, and knowledge toward advancing their educational goals. The PSAs, alongside the Puente faculty,

welcomed the incoming cohort on July 26. The afternoon orientation involved an overview of program requirements, insight into campus student services, faculty and student introductions, and a campus tour. The program has met its recruitment goal and currently has a waitlist. The team is excited to welcome new students and faculty for Puente's third year at IVC.

Performing Arts Center Welcomes the Community to Campus During the Summer



Following the busy string of shows and performances during Spring 2023, the Performing Arts Center (PAC) hosted a series of events during the summer. The PAC welcomed the University of California, Irvine's Ballet Folklorico, by hosting their end-of-year performance, featuring music, dance, and costumes from regions of Mexico. UCI provided IVC students with free access to the performance that was so popular it sold out. The PAC supported the performance by providing lighting and sound designers, stage crew, ushers, and an operations team. The PAC also hosted the SoCal Dance Academy, which performed six shows over two days and welcomed several thousand prospective students and

families to the campus. Additionally, 50 high school students from the Irvine Unified School District visited the campus to participate in High School Day, an event providing a tour, hands-on learning, and activities to teach backstage crafts and provide insight into what the campus offers students interested in technical theater.

English as a Second Language Professor Rebecca Beck Presents on the Use of ChatGPT in NYC



On June 22, English as a Second Language Professor Rebecca Beck delivered an insightful presentation titled "Partnering with the Bot: Implications for Using ChatGPT in Teaching and Learning" at the National Higher Education Teaching Conference in New York City. Professor Beck's session focused on the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, emphasizing the importance of responsible AI integration, ensuring that students understand the limitations and strengths of AI and can use it as a reliable resource without substituting their critical thinking capabilities. Her work highlighted how students in her College Writing WR 1 course engaged

ChatGPT in dynamic conversations to delve into complex problem-solving scenarios, received personalized feedback, and explored diverse viewpoints. This interactive experience enhanced students' analytical and reasoning abilities and encouraged them to think critically and consider multiple perspectives before arriving at a draft.

IVC Hosts Association of California Community Colleges Administrators' (ACCCA's) Admin 101 Program



IVC hosted the ACCCA's Admin 101 Program summer leadership training course from July 23-27. President John Hernandez provided a welcome presentation to the 72 candidates enrolled in the program. The leadership training also included a presentation conducted by Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Cindy Vyskocil. Topics covered throughout the week included governance, budget/finance, human resources, DEIA, change management, and a group project presentation. Congratulations to Director of Health and Wellness Center Ruby Villavisencio, Interim Director of Veterans Services Center Joseph Latham, Title IX Investigator Manager Ezra Omar, Mathematics Instructor RJ Dolbin, and Senior Research and Planning Analyst Vinh Nguyen for completing the training this summer. The event organizers stated that meeting on the college's campus was wonderful and expressed gratitude to everyone who assisted with providing access to facilities and services.

IVC Alum Presents at World-Famous Anime Expo



IVC alum and current Department of English Embedded Tutor Peggy Wood presented at the world-famous Anime Expo, a prestigious annual event held in Downtown Los Angeles, celebrating Japanese pop culture and recognized as the largest anime convention in North America. Wood's project, "Manga & Comics: A Different Cultural Base," was first developed under the guidance of her professors in the Japanese program, particularly Introduction to Japanese Culture JA21 and Japanese Anime and Manga JA23, at IVC. Wood engaged a diverse and enthusiastic audience by sharing her project at the convention with over 350,000 attendees, validating the hard work she put into her portfolio. Wood stated, "I hope my experience can bring visibility and credibility to the opportunities IVC can provide, and continues to provide, for both current and former students."

Student Services Participate in Teambuilding Beach Volleyball Match



The Health and Wellness Center (HWC) and Veterans Services Center (VSC) participated in a teambuilding beach volleyball match. The goal of the activity was to strengthen the connection between the two departments. The HWC and VSC rely heavily on each other to provide support services to vulnerable student populations. Director of Health and Wellness Center Ruby Villavisencio and Interim Director of Veterans Services Center Dr. Joseph Latham organized the friendly game. Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald weighed in on the match as the referee, while spectators from other departments cheered the competitors on. The teams worked closely together developing new strategies for each round.

Upcoming Events

IVC Cares Fall Meal Distribution Event

August 30

Club Day

September 13

Season Opening Concert: Svetlana Semolina

September 10

Walk of Hope for Suicide Awareness

September 19

IVC Cars: 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive

September 11

A Choral Kaleidoscope

September 29

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President