



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: December 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the December 12, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting**

Native American Heritage Month Honored at IVC



During November, IVC honored [Native American Heritage Month](#), a time dedicated to celebrating Native Americans and their diverse cultures, histories, and traditions. On November 29, IVC hosted the WildHorse Native American Association to celebrate traditional values such as drumming,

singing, and dancing. The association teaches northern traditional songs, dance styles, regalia making, arts and crafts, and ceremonial activities. The event focused on cultural preservation and healing practices that are important to the resilience of local Native American communities. The campus community learned about the unique challenges Native peoples have faced both historically and in the present and how tribal citizens work to conquer these challenges and continue to thrive with each passing generation.

Campus Community Raises Awareness During Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week



IVC commemorated [Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week \(HHAW\)](#) from November 14 to 18. This annual program brings people together to inform on the issues of hunger and homelessness. Statewide, thousands of college students struggle with housing and food insecurities. During the week IVC held food donation drives for the IVC Food Resource Center and Miracles for Kid. A Homelessness and Housing Advocacy 101: Ally Training session was held virtually, providing information on the homelessness crisis, and identifying misinformation and myths contributing to this growing problem. Students were

provided the opportunity to learn about the basic needs resources available to them, such as food and housing assistance. IVC strives to make sure that each student's journey is looked at individually and holistically by providing multiple resources that go above and beyond a student's academic needs.

IVC Student Yair Rivera Featured in Local News Coverage of the College Corps Program



Business major Yair Rivera was featured in a news story about the California Volunteers College Corps Program. The Chief Executive Officer, within the office of the Governor, Josh Fryday visited South County Outreach (SCO) during his tour of Southern California. SCO is a nonprofit organization in Orange County that helps residents with housing, rental, utility, and food assistance programs. The tour of the facility included a roundtable discussion with IVC leaders and students regarding their recent volunteer experiences. College Corps Fellows Rivera, Emal Ahmadzai, and Calvin Lau represented IVC and shared their stories of volunteering at the nonprofit organization. Full

story available on [NBC](#), [Telemundo](#), and [Los Angeles Times](#).

Annual Veteran's Day Celebration Held at IVC



The annual IVC Veterans Day Commemoration was held on Thursday, November 10. The celebration began with a welcome message from Interim Director for Veterans Services Center Dr. Joseph Latham. The University of California, Irvine Army ROTC presented the colors at the ceremony, followed by President Dr. John Hernandez's greeting. IVC alumni veterans Rachel Ballew and Mohamad Omar Diab spoke about their active-duty military service, returning to civilian life, their student journeys, resilience, serving the community, and giving back. Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald

performed a cake-cutting ceremony using a Marine Noncommissioned Officers' sword and presented a piece of cake to the oldest veteran present, Ted Weatherford, and the youngest veteran present, Daniel Quervo. McDonald closed out the event with a heartfelt description of the prisoner of war/missing in action table which is set to honor those who are no longer with us. Photos are available [here](#).

IVC Celebrates International Day During International Education Week



The International Student Program (ISP) and International Student Club hosted International Day on November 16 in recognition of International Education Week (IEW). IEW is an annual event co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Department of Education, highlighting the benefits of international exchange on U.S. college campuses. International Day included a cultural museum of student-hosted tables highlighting different aspects of their home countries and sharing their cultural traditions, food, and activities with visitors. The event also showcased (Korean)

KPOP dance lessons and performances from HanYu dance group, a West African drum performance from Djembe Fusion, and Japanese Hikari Taiko drummers. ISP hosted a [Cultural Photo Contest](#) where students submitted original photos in three categories. Photos of International Day are available [here](#).

IVC Prepares to Implement MESA Program Spring 2023



The implementation of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program is under development at IVC, estimated to launch in spring 2023. MESA is a college and career prep program, created to increase the number of economically and educationally disadvantaged students that

achieve academic and career success in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). A vital element of the MESA program is "student clustering": grouping students into the same science, technology, engineering, and math classes, and encouraging the use of study groups, critical thinking, conceptual understanding, and reasoning skills. The program aims to produce a diverse population of transfer-ready students, having prepared their STEM educational journeys for 4-year universities. Students in the program will benefit from professional development and internships, academic and transfer counseling, industry mentor pairing, and local industry connections fostering career opportunities. In spring 2023, while a permanent center is in the making, a temporary space will serve as a dedicated, multipurpose study center to house MESA workshops, community events, and support.

Honors Program Student Published in Academic Journal



IVC sociology major Allyson Najera was recently published in the fall 2022 edition of the “Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities,” the official undergraduate journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Najera’s paper, [“A Disorder in Disguise: How TikTok Exploits Dependence on Social Groupings in Teen Female Weightlifters through Glamorizing Eating Disorders,”](#) was written for her Introduction to Physical Anthropology Honors (ANTH 1H) class in spring 2022, under the guidance of IVC Professor Chris Loeffler.

IVC Students Participate in Community Workshop on Sustainability and Urban Agriculture



Adult English as a Second Language Professor Gail Schwartz and 29 students participated in a workshop on sustainable gardening at the Great Park’s [Food and Farm Lab](#) in Irvine. Participants learned about topics such as growing food and grafting. Students visited a butterfly garden, learned about the composting process, and received seeds to plant at home.

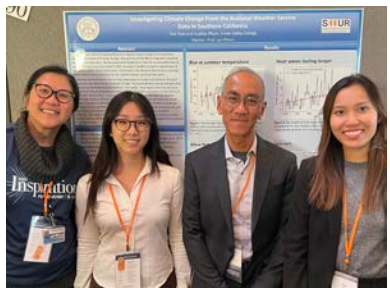
Model United Nations Wins Top Award



After a 3-year hiatus, IVC’s Model United Nations (MUN) team returned to the National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C.. While having one of the smallest delegations in the college’s MUN history, IVC won the top team award “Outstanding Delegation,” three position paper awards, and one best delegate award. The team consisted of six students who represented Turkey on five different committees. Students discussed challenges and solutions to issues such as the global housing crisis, vaccine inequities, and marine pollution.

The team was given the opportunity to be briefed on U.S.-Turkey relations by the Congressional Research Service. The visit was organized by an IVC MUN alum, Taylor Fairless, currently serving as the National Security Advisor for Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-Carmel Valley).

IVC Students Present at 2022 Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research



On November 19, 2022, the IVC Honors Program sponsored student participation at the [Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research \(SCCUR\)](#), a competitive annual conference for undergraduates at California two- and four-year colleges, hosted this year by Pepperdine University. IVC student researchers Ryan Cabagnet, Ruth Castillo, Nassib Chaya, Justine Jamie Gotico, Shireen Mohamdjavad, Jahan Mohazab-Hosseinian, Allyson Najera, Kathleen Pan, Audrey Pham, Joshua Tellez, and Tien Tran presented three oral presentations and three posters on topics ranging from tiger parenting of Orange County college students and various treatments chronic GI diseases. IVC Professors Hartrisha Dhindsa of Psychology, Emily Liu of English, Chris Loeffler of Anthropology, and Lan Pham of Math mentored students’ work. Liu also moderated a breakout session of oral presentations.

Career Launch Recognized IVC as a Leader of the Program



On November 17, IVC was recognized as a leader at the Career Launch Inaugural Impact Report webinar for implementing the [Career Launch program](#). Career Counselor Amanda Romero presented on her experience with the program. The Program is a regional Strong Workforce program implemented at community colleges statewide and aims to equitably scale students' ability to strategically increase social capital, accelerate career readiness, and enhance professional communication skills. IVC has 24 certified trainers, made up of faculty and staff. The first cohort was offered in collaboration with Saddleback College, providing an opportunity to pilot and learn best practices for implementing the program. IVC has had 148 students participate in the program since its inception in fall 2021.

IVC Professor Massimo Mitolo Named in Top Two Percent of Most-Cited Scientists



School of Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation Professor Massimo Mitolo is named on a [list published by Stanford University](#) that represents the top two percent of the most-cited scientists in the world. The updated list was compiled using Scopus citation information from millions of scientists classified into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields. The updated version is based on the September 1, 2022, snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of the citation year 2021. The database provides standardized information on citations, h-index,

co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions, and a composite indicator.

IVC Team Creates English as a Second Language Self-Placement Tool for Students



English as a Second Language (ESL) Professors Rebecca Beck, Jeff Wilson, and Research Analyst Dr. Marcela Reyes presented at the 2022 California Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages conference. Their presentation focused on a self-placement tool that the ESL department developed for students to decide which level of English proficiency is most appropriate for them. The self-placement tool is available in multiple languages to help support the diverse group of students served by the ESL department. After two years of using this tool, data shows that ESL students can successfully

decide what level is most appropriate for their English proficiency, as learned from a normal distribution in placement and pass rates in ESL and AESL courses.

IVC Professor and SC Counselor Team Up With Local Adult Schools for Biannual Mini-Conference



On November 4, IVC English as a Second Language Professor Susan Akhavan and Saddleback Counselor Kristina Lengyel-Leahu hosted the sixth biannual Adult English as a Second Language Mini-Conference. The conference was attended by

38 participants from IVC, Saddleback, Irvine Adult School, and Tustin Adult School. This unique collaboration allowed all to share [ideas developed in the classroom](#) on topics such as listening, culture, classroom climate, and pronunciation.

Annual STEM Transfer Talk Hosted at the Advanced Technology & Education Park



The Applied Science and Engineering Club (ASEC) at IVC held its annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Transfer talk at IVC's School of Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation. The event featured ASEC alums who shared about their experiences with the transfer process. Students had the opportunity to meet and discuss transferring with representatives from University of California, California State University, and private schools, as well as IVC counselors.

Nick Wilkening Named IVC's 2022 Manager of The Year



On November 9, Nick Wilkening was honored with the Manager of The Year award after recently returning from deployment with the US Air Force Reserve. Wilkening provided leadership and went above and beyond with technology needs during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wilkening's leadership of the Technology Services team played a vital role in meeting the virtual needs of IVC, despite having only been working on campus for one month before its closure in 2020.

IVC Professor Serving and Presenting Nationally



Professor of English Dr. Bill Etter is currently serving as head of the Saul Bellow Society, one of the American Literature Association (ALA) member societies, and is responsible for organizing the society's panel at the 2023 ALA annual conference. He recently presented at the 2022 annual African American Intellectual History Society conference, and chaired three sessions at the 2021 Association for the Study of African American Life and History annual conference. His accomplishments also include a presentation at the October 2022 American Literature Association's symposium on "The Historical Imagination in American Literature."

Upcoming Events

Dynamic Play Dance Concert
December 16-20

Final Examinations
December 14-20

The Elephant Man
December 15-18

Music Scholarship Benefit Concert
January 27

Music 59 Concert
December 13

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez".

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President