



# IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

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**TO:** Kathleen F. Burke, EdD, Chancellor, and Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** John C. Hernandez, PhD, President

**DATE:** June 15, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **President's Report for the June 28, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting**

## **IVC Celebrates Record-Breaking 37<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony**



On May 26, 2022, IVC celebrated its 37<sup>th</sup> annual Commencement Ceremony on the Performing Arts Center lawn. The event saw a record-breaking 463 graduates in attendance, with more than 2,600 guests. A total of **2,094** students received degrees, and **1,807** students received certificates of achievement. IVC conferred **2,456** Associate in Arts degrees, **371** Associate in Arts for Transfer degrees, **738** Associate in Science degrees, and **543** Associate in Science for Transfer degrees. A total of **1,807** students received Certificates of Achievement. Of all graduates, **815** were cum laude with a grade point average of 3.5-3.74; **713** students graduated magna cum laude (3.74-3.99 GPA); and **294** students graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA. The Commencement Ceremony's success was due to the tremendous amount of planning and effort from many individuals across the campus coming together to achieve a common goal. IVC's 2022 graduates have been accepted at each of the nine University of California campuses, including UCI and UCLA. IVC students also will transfer to a range of Cal State universities, including San Diego State, Cal State Fullerton, and Cal State Long Beach, as well as private universities such as USC, Chapman, Princeton, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Howard, and Cornell. The ceremony video can be viewed [here](#), and photos are available [here](#).

## **IVC Foundation Raises Record \$180,000 at Awards Dinner**



On May 5, 2022, the IVC Foundation hosted their annual [Celebrating Excellence Awards Dinner](#) at Fête the Venue. More than \$180,000 was raised during the event, setting a new record. The following award recipients were honored at the event: IVC's Outstanding Alumnus, Alexander J. Merton; Community Partner of Excellence, Cox Communications; Outstanding Administrator, former Vice President for Instruction Chris McDonald; Outstanding Classified Staff Member, Senior Research and Planning Analyst Vinh Nguyen; Outstanding Student, Business Administration Major Niloofar Jamasebnejad; Outstanding Student Veteran, Business Management Major Raymond Garcia; and Outstanding Faculty Member, former Honors Program Director Kay Ferguson Ryals. Attendees had an opportunity to hear from former IVC student LaMaiyah Lyles Reed, who shared her story about facing housing and food insecurities while earning her associate degree. In Reed's own words, "If it were not for your support and the love that I received from my IVC family, I would not be where I am today." Reed has since earned a bachelor's degree and is now in a master's program. To make a life-changing donation for one of our IVC students, or to learn more about the IVC Foundation, click [here](#).

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*An Equal Opportunity Institution*

### IVC Celebrates Record-Setting Scholarship Ceremony



On May 20, the IVC Foundation celebrated its 37<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship award ceremony. The IVC Foundation awarded 496 scholarships totaling more than \$475,000, which is \$50,000 more than ever awarded. IVC students received an additional \$130,000 in scholarships from outside agencies. In total, IVC students received more than \$600,000 in support. The ceremony was attended by scholarship recipients, scholarship representatives, SOCCCD Trustees and leadership, faculty, staff, and administrators. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from IVC students and award recipients Alicia Hu and Brittany Kester, as well as, donor Graham Everett on behalf of the Everett family. The Everett family has two endowed scholarships at IVC. Photos from the event are available [here](#).

### Early College Graduates Honored at Annual Breakfast



IVC President Dr. John Hernandez offered his congratulations to the Early College Graduating Class of 2022. On May 26, IVC recognized 28 Early College graduates from Beckman High School. Twenty-seven students earned their Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) and California State University General Education (CSU-GE) Certificates of Achievement, and 21 students earned an associate degree in liberal studies and an associate degree in social and behavioral sciences, all while simultaneously graduating from high school. The Class of 2022 joins a group of over 250 IVC alumni who have completed their degree requirements while in high school since IVC and Beckman High School joined together in 2007. View photos of the event [here](#).

### IVC Professor Named Orange County Department of Education Teacher of The Year Finalist



IVC Professor Emily Liu has been named a Teacher of the Year finalist by the Orange County Office of Education (OCDE). The announcement was made on May 9 with a [surprise visit to Professor Liu's classroom](#) by OCDE Superintendent Al Mijares, South Orange County Community College Chancellor Kathleen Burke, IVC President John Hernandez, Dean of Liberal Arts Brooke Bui, colleagues of Liu, and representatives from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, which sponsors the annual award. There are six Orange County Teacher of the Year finalists. In the fall, the educators will be formally honored at a dinner gala at the Disneyland Hotel, where they will receive cash awards from the Orange County Teachers of the Year Award Foundation. Dr. Liu has taught English at IVC for ten years, joining the college full-time in 2016 after lecturing since 2012. She has also served as IVC's Honors Program Director since 2020. [See photos of the surprise announcement.](#)

### IVC Veterans Receive Donations from Exchange Club of Tustin



On May 6, more than 75 veterans received gifts and interacted with our local Exchange Club of Tustin and IVC's Veterans Services Center staff. The Exchange Club of Tustin donated gift cards redeemable for a set of two swim pieces, one t-shirt, and one pair of sandals from the Volcom clothing store in the Irvine Spectrum. The veterans also received Albertsons food cards and hygiene kits.

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### Honors Ceremony Recognizes 2022 Honors Graduates



On May 6, the IVC Honors Program hosted its Awards Ceremony to recognize 231 graduating students who completed program requirements. The 71 graduating Honors students in attendance announced their intended transfer institutions, shared something that they've gained out of their time at IVC, and received an Honors medallion from President John Hernandez. Students were happy to come together to celebrate their accomplishments, and were cheered on by family, friends, and IVC faculty and staff including Dean of Liberal Arts

Brooke Bui, Honors Director and English Professor Emily Liu, English Professor Virginia Shank, Humanities Professor Stephen Felder, English Professor Lisa Alvarez, ESL Professor Rebecca Beck, Accounting Professor Donald Bradshaw, Math Professor Lan Pham, and Honors Program Administrative Assistant Shakeh Mehrabian. View photos of the event [here](#).

### IVC and UCI Finalize New Master of Professional Accountancy Program Partnership



[UC Irvine Paul Merage School of Business Master of Professional Accountancy Program \(MPAc\) and IVC finalized their student referral agreement](#) whereby IVC students can use selected accounting courses to meet accounting course prerequisites for the MPAC. There are five lower division IVC courses that articulate to MPAC. This key feature is helpful for students that are admitted to the graduate program. Students referred to the program may be considered "early conditionally admitted" to MPAC before earning their bachelor's

degrees. This status allows them to access early mentoring and career guidance support directly from the UCI Paul Merage School of Business. Such support can assist students in maintaining their pathways to MPAC through their undergraduate years, starting while they are still IVC students. Candidates with a 3.3 GPA and strong verbal and quantitative skills may be admitted to MPAC without the GMAT or GRE exam. Additionally, as California residents, IVC's students will automatically receive a \$10,000 tuition discount with \$5,000 to \$10,000 of additional scholarships potentially available.

### IVC Invites Students to Participate in Pipeline to UCI's Henry Samueli School of Engineering



Eighty-two prospective IVC students were invited to participate in a prestigious partnership between IVC and the UC Irvine Henry Samueli School of Engineering. The Engineering Academy at IVC offers an advanced transfer pathway that leads to admission into the UCI School of Engineering. This unique program is exclusively available to engineering students. As part of the program, students are provided orientation sessions with both UCI and IVC, access to a dedicated UCI Samueli School counselor, invitations to Samueli events, priority

enrollment for courses during the first year, notification of scholarship, internship, and research opportunities, and access to NSF S-STEM scholarships.

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### City of Anaheim Sponsors Angel Game for IVC Veterans



IVC Assistant Dean of Health, Wellness & Veterans Nancy Montgomery contacted the City of Anaheim, asking to use the city's Angels baseball game suite for IVC's veterans. The city responded in less than one day with a resounding approval of the request. IVC's veteran students were invited to attend an Angel baseball game on May 20 in the city's suite. IVC's Veterans Services Center used this opportunity as a mental health check-in that was much needed after a long time apart during the pandemic.

### IVC Named a 2022 Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement



[The Campaign for College Opportunity](#) has named IVC a 2022 Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement in Black Transfer-Level English Enrollment. IVC successfully supported 100% of its Black students who enrolled directly into transfer level English coursework.

IVC was recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity, along with California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, at their [inaugural award installation ceremony](#). Community colleges were honored for implementing landmark placement policy AB 705. Campaign for College Opportunity President Michele Siqueiros said this about the colleges honored at the event: "We applaud the over 40 community colleges being recognized for their achievement in supporting students to access and succeed in transfer-level coursework...We urge our state and college leaders to continue removing barriers for students and further close racial/ethnic equity gaps." Read more [here](#).

### EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and Guardian Scholars Host Annual Recognition Ceremony



On May 13, EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and Guardian Scholars held their annual recognition ceremony. President John Hernandez and Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald opened with remarks congratulating the 112 students and acknowledging the 60 guests in attendance. The recognition ceremony celebrates students who earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher; received certificates or degrees; and are transferring to a four-year university. The programs served a total of 619 students for the 2021-2022 academic year. Of

those students served, 338 earned a 3.00-3.99 GPA, 15 earned a 4.0 GPA, 312 received associate degrees, 127 received general studies certificates, 39 received CSU GE certificates, 59 received vocational certificates, 72 received IGETC certificates, and 111 are transferring to four-year universities. Event photos are available [here](#).

### IVC Student Named 2022 Guistwhite Scholar



IVC student Anna Nahm is one of 15 Phi Theta Kappa nationwide members selected as a 2022 Guistwhite Scholar. She will receive a \$5,000 scholarship for baccalaureate studies. Anna was chosen from among 2,700 applicants nationwide. The selection was based on academic excellence, leadership accomplishments, and engagement in Phi Theta Kappa programs. In addition to the scholarship, Anna will also receive a commemorative medallion. This is the second highest scholarship offered by Phi Theta Kappa. It is named in honor of the late Margaret and Dr. Jack Guistwhite, who established the first transfer scholarship designated exclusively for Phi Theta Kappa members to Florida Atlantic University in 1975.

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### IVC Beach Volleyball Wins State Title



Irvine Valley, the first California Community College Athletic Association State Champion in 2015, came back to defeat Cabrillo on May 12 to win its pool and then out-last-ed Feather River in a final match that went down to the wire to claim the State Championship on the Laser beach courts at IVC. Read the full story [here](#).

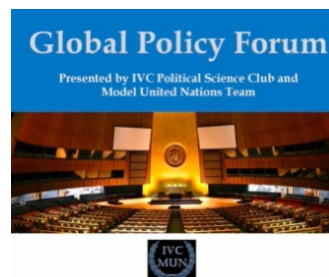
### IVC Student Receives Cook Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship



IVC student Brittany Kester has been named a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. As a recipient of the award, she will receive up to \$55,000 annually for up to three years to complete her bachelor's degree at the college or university of her choice. Kester is a first-generation re-entry student, a member of the [IVC Honors Program](#), president of [Psi Beta](#), and an [ASIVC](#) senator. This year, more than 1,200 students from 332 community colleges applied to receive the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer

Scholarship. The Foundation evaluated each submission based on students' academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, and leadership. Read more [here](#).

### IVC's Model United Nations Hosts Virtual Global Policy Forum



IVC's award-winning Model United Nations (MUN) team held a virtual Global Policy Forum on May 12 debating the topic "Are Sanctions Effective?" The event was attended by 50 participants. The team arguing that sanctions are effective was selected by the audience as the winner of the debate. The Global Policy Forum is hosted every semester by IVC MUN students and the Political Science club as a service-learning event to raise awareness of global challenges and opportunities as well as to promote global citizenship. A captioned recording of the event is available [here](#).

### IVC Presents on Mental Health at Community College League of California Trustees Conference



IVC Assistant Dean of Health, Wellness & Veterans Nancy Montgomery was invited to present alongside CCCCCO Vice Chancellor of Student Services Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy on mental health in the California community colleges. The presentation took place during the Community College League of California Trustees Conference. IVC veteran student and engineering major Raysa Guerrero joined Montgomery for the presentation. Guerrero spoke about her difficulty with acclimation from military to civilian life, along with adjustments to college life, and how her mental health played an intricate part in her success. The team presented on new state funding for mental

health, with Montgomery concentrating on sharing state and IVC data about the needs of our students, and how this data can be used to formulate programs, goals, and interventions on campuses to support students.

### IVC Career Center Hosts Hiring Panel



IVC's Career Center hosted a Spring Hiring Panel on May 11, with a panel of employers that included representatives from Activision/Blizzard, Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, Nordstrom, Wells Fargo, Gallo Wine Co., the Irvine Company, Orange County Transportation Authority, Target, Hoag Hospital, OC Fair & Event Center, and the City of Irvine. More than 200 attendees from Irvine Valley College, Saddleback College, and the local community gathered on Zoom to hear about job and internship openings, as well as to get tips about the hiring process. The panel was moderated by Amanda Romero, IVC's Career Education Counselor and Counseling Department Chair.

### Puente Program Students Participate in End-of-Year Celebration



IVC's Puente Program cohort completed their inaugural year with an end-of-year celebration, where they recognized, honored, and celebrated all their achievements over the past year. Current Puentistas, their family and friends, Puente mentors, faculty and staff, community members, and Board of Trustees President Marcia Milchiker were in attendance. The event featured guest speakers including retired IVC faculty member and community activist, Frank Marmolejo, and current Puentista, Frieda Sophia Lopez. The celebration recognized the program's first transferring Puentista, Omar

Rojas, who is receiving a full academic scholarship to the University of California, Santa Cruz for Fall 2022 where he will study business management and economics. Four Puentistas were selected out of hundreds of statewide Puente students to participate in the UC Riverside STEM Conference and Puente Writing Conference taking place this summer. IVC's Puente Program is currently recruiting for Cohort Two. View event photos [here](#).

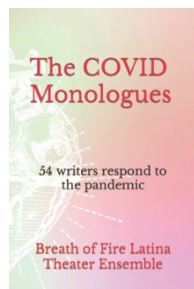
### IVC Psi Beta Students Selected to Present at Western Psychological Association Conference



IVC Psi Beta psychology honor society members attended the Western Psychological Association Conference in Portland, Oregon. Thirteen IVC students presented independent research they conducted over the 2021-2022 academic year. All 13 students were selected to present in their field's general session, alongside professional research psychologists and graduate students. In all sessions, IVC Psi Beta members' posters drew large crowds around them, displaying excitement for the students' research. Some students were asked to work on projects with professors from other institutions. Two faculty members, Jerry Rudmann and Hartrisha Dhindsa, gave talks on their current research, which gave students insight into what the next steps of research dissemination look like. Each student expressed extreme gratitude for the opportunity to present their findings at the conference. Read the full story [here](#).



### Professor Lisa Alvarez Publishes in Coronavirus Anthology



IVC Professor Lisa Alvarez has been included in a recently published anthology, *The COVID Monologues: 54 Writers Respond to the Pandemic*. The collection documents the COVID Monologues, a video project curated and presented by Santa Ana's Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble which honors people who died from COVID-19. Alvarez's monologue, "Joe, also known as Mossayeb," is a tribute to her brother-in-law. Performed by actress Janet Song, it debuted last year during Chapman University's virtual Heartbeat of Mexico festival and is archived [online](#). The book is available for purchase [here](#). A portion of the proceeds benefits Doctors Without Borders.

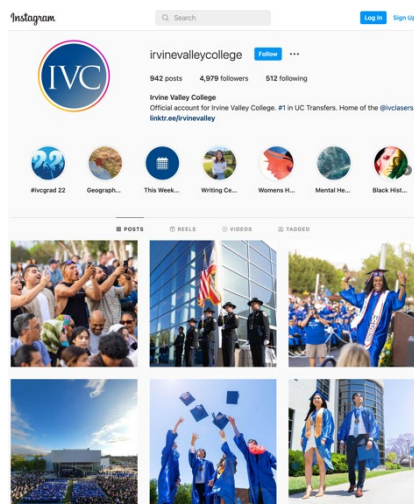
### IVC Entrepreneurs Competition Winners Announced



The final round of the IVC Idea Pitch Competition took place virtually on May 11. The competition was open to all majors and dual enrolled high school students. Finalists consisted of students majoring in computer science, economics, science, communications, and business administration. The top three winners were Anna Nahm from IVC with One Dress Suits All, (a customizable business and dress attire for women) who took 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Shuba Senthikumar from University High

School, with Safety Straws (a date drug detector straw) in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and Amisha Chandra from Legacy Magnet Academy with Carbogone, (an automotive carbon monoxide filter system), who took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Each winner took home a cash prize and more than \$2,000 in business start-up services. The event was coordinated and hosted by IVC Professor John Russo in the Business and Entrepreneurship department, and enabled partnerships with student entrepreneurs, industry partners, and local high schools. Read the full story [here](#).

### IVC Instagram Account Showcased as Model of Good Social Media Practices



Interact Communications, Inc., a marketing firm specializing in two-year colleges that has worked with more than 700 community and technical colleges in the past 25 years, cited [IVC's Instagram](#) account in their article "[Strengthening Your Social Media Strategy: Easy Instagram Ideas to Empower Your College's Identity](#)" as a clear example of good social media practices and brand identity. Interact gave IVC kudos for our high-quality photos and videos, clear messaging, easily accessible highlights of past content, and active use of the Instagram Stories feature. The success of IVC's Instagram account is largely due to IVC's own social media wizard Abner "Ace" Caguioa. Ace started managing the account in October 2019 and since has grown the follower count by 40% to nearly 5,000 followers. In addition to Instagram, Ace also manages IVC's [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) presences.

### IVC Literary Journal, The Ear, Hosts Launch Party



[The Ear](#), IVC's literary journal, hosted its launch party A Night Under the Stars on May 13 in the Liberal Arts Courtyard. The Ear published their latest issue, 25, back-to-back with issue 24. [Both issues are available through the Ear's Foundation page](#). The launch party featured art from both publications with local artists and writers in attendance. Attendees were invited to the Liberal Arts Courtyard for free food and drinks during the social hour and stayed to hear from the artists and writers about their works. Click [here](#) for photos of the event.

### The Office of Student Equity Hosts Pride Celebration at IVC



The Office of Student Equity held a Pride celebration on May 16 in preparation of Pride Month. The event hosted activities and information booths that promoted the Pride Scholars Program and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club at IVC. In addition to the in-person event, the [IVC Pride Month page](#) includes a list of gender and sexuality related courses available to students at IVC as well as information about Orange County Pride Events. Pride Month is celebrated nationwide annually in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots and works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for the LGBTQIA+ community. Photos from the event are available [here](#).

### CSU, Fullerton Offers Paid Undergraduate Research Experience to IVC Students



Four IVC students, Luiz Landa Agundez, Melissa Herrera, Nikolas Reyesm and Crystal Enciso, will participate in an [8-week summer program](#) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). As part of [Project RAISE](#), the [Undergraduate Research Experience](#) provides students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from 10 community colleges an opportunity to conduct paid research at CSUF. Participants will receive a \$5,000 stipend for their research. Selected students will be partnered with CSUF faculty who will provide training, support, and first-hand experience in scientific investigation, in a dynamic collaborative research environment. Project RAISE aims to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income STEM students and increase persistence, retention, and graduation rates among participants. Project RAISE was initially funded in October 2016 and later funded through *Project RAISER, a regional alliance in STEM education refined*, a U.S. Department of Education Title III HSI-STEM grant awarded to CSUF beginning October 2021.

### The IVC Outreach Team Serves Information at the Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off



The IVC Outreach team served information to the local community during the Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off. The Outreach team offered information to the community on [steps to becoming an IVC student](#), [Irvine Valley Promise](#), [#CaliforniansForAll College Corps](#), [Summer Bridge](#), [Extended Opportunity Programs and Services](#), [Emeritus/Community Education](#), [free English as a Second Language courses](#), and [Disabled Students Programs & Services](#) available at IVC. The [38th annual Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off](#) had several thousand local residents in attendance, this flagship community event returned in-person on Sunday June 5 and is still recognized as the largest one day chili cook-off in the country. The fair featured live music, a variety of exhibitors featuring crafters, community organizations, food and chili booths, craft beer, and wine.



### **Reg To Go Initiative Increases Freshman Advantage Registration by 20%**



Historically, approximately 60% of Freshman Advantage students register for classes on their assigned priority registration date. Through the Reg to Go initiative this year, the Freshman Advantage registration rate increased to 80%. IVC Student Services faculty and staff (Matriculation, Financial Aid, and Counseling) collaborated to visit local high schools in a joint effort to help incoming IVC students, who have qualified for Freshman Advantage priority registration, register for their classes, assist with the vaccination requirement, and/or providing financial aid/payment options. Through the Reg to Go initiative, seven

of the local high schools were visited with nearly 200 total students served through this collaborative registration campaign. High school faculty and staff were appreciative of IVC's presence and commitment to assisting their students as they transition to IVC.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Summer Start up Series**

June 15 – August 11

#### **Summer Session Ends**

August 14

#### **Fall 2022 Professional Development Week**

August 15-19

#### **President's Opening Session**

August 15 @ 2pm

#### **IVC Laser Day**

August 17

#### **Instruction Begins**

August 22

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "H" and a trailing "z".

John C. Hernandez, PhD  
President