



IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

5500 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, CA 92618 | T: 949-451-5100 | www.ivc.edu

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

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

DATE: May 11, 2023

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the May 22, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

First Employee Recognition Ceremony Celebrates Distinguished Faculty and Staff Achievement



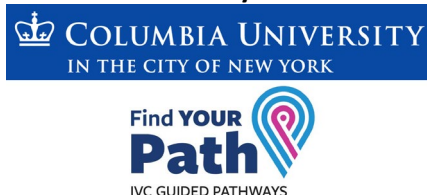
On May 8, the inaugural Employee Recognition Ceremony took place in the Performing Arts Center. Colleagues gathered to celebrate distinguished faculty and staff's remarkable achievements and dedicated service. The ceremony recognized various categories of employees, including service pin recipients, classified staff of the year, manager of the year, teachers of the year, and faculty members recently approved as tenured starting in Fall 2023. The event also acknowledged tenure track faculty who have shown promising performance and dedication to their work. View photo [here](#).

IVC Foundation Awards Over \$730,00 During 38th Scholarship Award Ceremony



The 38th Scholarship Award Ceremony of the IVC Foundation was celebrated on May 19. The IVC Foundation granted 667 scholarships, amounting to more than \$527,000, which is \$50,000 more than last year. In addition, \$34,850 in emergency funds, \$16,000 in bookstore vouchers, and \$153,887 from outside agencies were awarded to students. Overall, IVC students were supported with over \$733,537. The ceremony was attended by scholarship recipients, representatives, trustees, leadership, faculty, staff, and administrators of the SOCCCD. The ceremony featured inspiring speeches from distinguished individuals, including two accomplished IVC students and award recipients, Randy Ramon Suarez and Justine Gotico, and the remarkable Fumiko Ishii, whose generous scholarships have helped numerous students achieve their dreams. The ceremony reflects the strong community support for the Foundation's mission, emphasizing the value of education and the importance of investing in students' academic success.

Columbia University Studies IVC as Model of Excellence for Guided Pathways



IVC and Santa Barbara City College are being studied by Columbia University's Community College Research Center as a model of excellence for successfully implementing the Guided Pathways Completion Team inquiry and action process. This model has shown to be effective in improving student outcomes and helping students achieve their academic goals. Several Completion Team leads were interviewed by the research team. Columbia is looking to create a best practice guide for other community colleges wanting to develop similar teams. IVC's contribution has the potential to help many other institutions improve their student success rates and create more equitable pathways to higher education.

Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Community During Sexual Assault Awareness Week



From April 24-28, the campus commemorated [Sexual Assault Awareness Week \(SAAW\)](#) to increase awareness among its campus community. The college hosted various workshops, including a Mental Health Resource Fair that provided a safe space for attendees to explore on- and off-campus resources. The week-long program covered pertinent topics, such as understanding situational awareness, linking oppression to sexual assault and harassment, and supporting gender inclusivity for queer and trans students. View photos [here](#).

Office of Student Equity Hosts Spring Meal Distribution



On May 4, the college hosted a grab-and-go event with 500 meals distributed to students. Each student received a meal and had the opportunity to pack a grocery bag with additional pantry and produce items. Over 3,000 pantry items were provided to students. IVC Cares meal distributions occur throughout the academic year to assist in providing food and information on the Basic Needs program at the college. The theme was "May the 4th Be With You," a wordplay referencing the popular movie franchise "Star Wars." Meal

distributions support students, address non-academic barriers, and provide a safe, welcoming environment for the campus community. Over 40 faculty, staff, and administrators volunteered to make this event successful. Photos are available [here](#).

IVC Administrators Team Up with the City of Irvine on Health and Wellness



Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald, Director for Health and Wellness Center Ruby Villavisencio, Manager for Student Equity Erin Pollard, and Basic Needs Program Coordinator Juanita Vasquez are participating in the City of Irvine's Health and Wellness Community Engagement Steering Committee. The committee brings together talent, knowledge, and expertise as various community sectors work

collaboratively to identify gaps and develop innovative solutions for current health and wellness programs and services. The group's goal is to use their collective input to create a lasting and meaningful impact on our community's health and wellness needs. IVC's participation in this committee demonstrates a commitment to being an active participant in the community and contribute to the community's overall well-being, which can significantly impact the lives of individuals living in Irvine.

Erin Pollard presents on Gender-Affirming Mental Health Care in connection with California's AB 132



On May 2, Manager of Student Equity Programs Erin Pollard was invited to present for the California Community Colleges Foundation office as part of the LGBTQ+ programming in connection with AB 132. The presentation focused on Gender-Affirming Mental Health Care. Research has shown that individuals who receive gender-affirming mental health care have better mental health outcomes and overall quality of life. By actively participating in initiatives such as AB 132 and providing resources and training on topics related to LGBTQ+ health and well-

being, IVC is working to create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Center for Teaching Excellence Selected to Receive Funding



The college was selected to receive technical assistance from a full Partnership Resource Team through the California Community Colleges Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) for Fall 2023. The support and funding will be used to establish a Center for Teaching Excellence (CTX). The CTX will be a physical hub for professional development, and a place for instructors to learn and exchange disciplinary and cross-disciplinary best practices. The proposed CTX will enhance teaching effectiveness to support student success; encourage collaboration and community to build a shared vision around professional development; provide a centralized location of faculty resources; promote the use of data, inquiry, and evidence to enable action and thoughtful innovation; and support faculty to adapt to changing needs. The CTX will be valuable to IVC as it aligns with the college's and state's goals for improving equity and student outcomes.

IVC Honored for Excellence in Equitable Course Placement and Implementation of AB 705 Legislation



On April 26, IVC was recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity as one of 56 California community colleges excelling in equitable course placement. The college was honored for being a leading campus in implementing AB 705, legislation to improve student access and success with transfer-level English and math coursework. IVC was specifically recognized for its campuswide English enrollment, having successfully supported 100% of students to enroll directly in transfer-level English coursework. Equitable course placement is crucial to ensure that students have equal access to educational opportunities and academic success, and this recognition reflects the campus' commitment to providing students with the support they need to succeed.

IVC Students Participate in the 23rd Annual UCI Community College Honors Research Conference



Fifty-six IVC students, supported by the IVC Honors Program, participated in the 23rd Annual [UCI Community College Honors Research Conference](#). IVC students delivered 23 oral and 19 poster presentations, comprising 42 of the 224 research projects presented—the greatest number out of the 29 participating colleges statewide. Under the guidance of IVC faculty mentors, students worked hard to conduct research, write proposal abstracts, and prepare their posters or oral presentations. Anna Dupree and Dee Bao's project, "Seven Billion Alaskan Snow Crabs Vanished: What Happened?", completed under the mentorship of Math Professor Lan Pham, won 1st place for STEM posters. Another IVC group project won an Outstanding Abstract Award for "Utilizing Machine Learning Algorithms Trained on Recent Music-Listening Activity in Predicting Big Five Personality Traits: A Novel Ongoing Investigation." Fourteen additional IVC students participated in the conference by volunteering to moderate Q&A during oral presentation sessions, and IVC Honors Director Emily Liu served as the conference's program chair on behalf of the Honors Transfer Council of California.

IVC Honors Program Celebrates Achievements of Graduating Students at Awards Ceremony



The IVC Honors Program held its Awards Ceremony on May 12, where 246 graduating students who fulfilled program requirements were recognized. At the event, graduating Honors students announced their transfer institutions, shared what they gained from their time at IVC, and received an Honors medallion from President Hernandez. The students were delighted to gather and celebrate their achievements while their families, friends, and IVC faculty and staff cheered them on.

Students Make History at Honors Symposium Hosted by Stanford University



On May 6, 17 students presented their research at the [Bay Honors Symposium](#) hosted by the Bay Honors Consortium at Stanford University. Ria Singh Thakur's project, "The Unhinged Woman: An Intersectional Feminist Evaluation of Postfeminist Antiheroine Fiction and Online Gender Performance," was named a finalist for both awards by the symposium, the Katharine Award and the Heslet Scholar Award. Jason Au and Ethan Lee's project "Winning a Losing Game: Using Machine Learning with Stochastic Gradient Descent to Beat the Sports Betting Market" was named a finalist for the Heslet Scholar Award. It was the first time in the symposium's history that a single college had two Heslet finalists. IVC students presented twice as many projects as other community colleges across the state on topics ranging from AI racial bias in predictive policing algorithms, academic pressure on South Korean students, and mathematical modeling of California condor and gray wolf populations.

IMA Students Win Big at Orange County International GameSiG Competition



In an impressive display of talent and creativity, Abiel Montes and 10 other students from the Interactive Media Arts (IMA) program recently dominated at the Orange County International GameSiG Competition. Montes secured the highly coveted first-place trophy, while the other IMA students

clinched a special award in the Best Cinematics category for their outstanding work on a comical virtual film. The remarkable achievements the students earned at the competition have set them apart as rising stars in the gaming industry. Last year's third-place winner, Alex Puh, attended the event to support his alma mater and current IMA students.

English as a Second Language Department Celebrates the Achievements of Adult ESL Students



On May 5, IVC's English as a Second Language (ESL) Department held an end-of-year celebration for Adult ESL (AESL) students to build community and welcome them to IDEA at ATEP, where the AESL program will be expanding in the fall. This was also an occasion to recognize the accomplishment of 80 students who earned an AESL Certificate of Competency in Fall 2022. Many students brought family members and friends to celebrate with them, and some applied on-site

to become IVC students. It was a lively and celebratory event that attracted the local community. View photos [here](#).

The Model United Nations (MUN) Team Stands Out at Los Angeles MUN



The MUN team attended Los Angeles MUN from April 13-16, competing against several prestigious four-year universities, including Harvard, Georgetown, University of Chicago, Claremont McKenna College, University of Southern California, and the University of

California, Berkeley. The team consisted of nine students who discussed challenges and solutions to issues such as autonomous lethal weapons and the developing country commodity trap. The team won Diplomatic Commendation awards in two of the three committees. IVC was one of only six colleges to win an award at the event, making it the only community college to receive this honor.

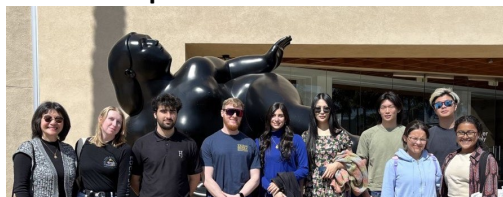
Students Attend CSU Long Beach & UC Irvine Campus Tour and Presentation



The Transfer Center organized a campus tour and presentation at California State University, Long Beach, and the University of California, Irvine, for students involved in several programs, including Puente, EOPS,

Guardian Scholars, Honors, and Black Student Success Scholars. Thirty-eight students attended the event on April 14, and 33 completed a survey reporting they better understand transfer requirements and resources available at these universities. This activity helps students explore potential transfer options and gain valuable insights into the transfer process.

Students Explore Latin American Art and Culture During Museum Visit



Professor Beatrice Tseng and her Spanish 1 Honors students visited the Long Beach Museum of Latin American Art. The tour detailed the meaning and historical background behind several works of art. In the exhibit, were paintings and sculptures by two renowned artists: Yolanda Gonzalez, a Chicana artist whose art is a fusion of Latina culture and

Japanese aesthetics, and Fernando Botero, an artist from Colombia whose artwork exalts volume and beauty in exhibits all over the world. The visit to the museum exposed students to new cultures, ideas, and forms of expression, a great example of experiential learning as a valuable supplement to classroom instruction.

Puente Students Explore California State University, Visit Art Museum, and Volunteer at Food Bank



Puente students recently took part in a campus tour of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), visited The Cheech Riverside Art Museum, and volunteered at the OC Food Bank. One morning, the students were able to explore CSUF and learn more about the university's programs and resources. Later at the Cheech Riverside Art Museum, they had the chance to admire the artwork and learn more about the history and culture behind a wide variety of art from Chicano and Latino artists. Another day the group then volunteered at the OC Food Bank, a non-profit organization that provides food assistance to individuals and families in need. The

Puente students worked together to sort, and pack donated food items, which would later be distributed to local food banks and pantries.

Puente Program Students Participate in End-of-Year Celebration



The Puente Program at IVC concluded its year with a ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of its members over the past year, celebrating Puente transfer students, and recognizing the current cohort's completion of Phase One. Attendees included current Puentistas, their loved ones, Puente mentors, faculty and staff, department deans, community members, and President Hernandez. The event included speeches by guest speakers such as IVC alumni, award-winning author, and literary arts advocate Sarah Rafael García, and transfer Puentista Frieda Sophia Lopez. During the

celebration, the program's transferring Puentistas, Frieda Sophia Lopez and Zayra Lopez, were acknowledged for their acceptance into multiple four-year universities. Sophia Lopez will be a Communications major attending the University of California, Berkeley, and Zayra Lopez will be a Sociology major attending the California State University, Long Beach. Additionally, 13 Puentistas from cohorts one and two have been identified as IVC 2023 Scholarship Recipients. Cohort Three recruitment is currently underway for IVC's Puente Program. View photos [here](#).

Dr. Travis Hearne Shares Insights on Leadership and Re-Humanizing Work Culture at GAP4+1 Event



On May 5, Dr. Travis Hearne presented at IVC's GAP4+1 speaker event. He is a combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps, a former intelligence officer, and a cybersecurity specialist for Cisco. Dr. Hearne founded Titanium Leadership Consulting and is the author of "Hybrid: A Guide for Successfully Leading On-Site and Remote Teams." He spoke about leadership, challenges of organizational change, and how to successfully re-humanize a de-humanized work culture.

The event's proceeds support the GAP4+1 Pathway Program, a partnership between IVC and California State University, Fullerton that enables students to graduate with a bachelor's degree in four years and a master's degree in one additional year. View photos [here](#).

20th Annual IVC Jazz Picnic: A Celebration of Music, Food, and Community at Live Oak Terraces



The recently upgraded Live Oak Terraces hosted the 20th Annual IVC Jazz Picnic on May 6. The event showcased the IVC Jazz Ensemble and guest artist Anibal Seminario, who performed a variety of jazz pieces by Kubis, Shorter, Nestico, Gershwin, Ellis, and others. Additionally, the event gave attendees the opportunity to witness IVC's new jumbotron video screen and experience the venue's upgraded sound system, which provided a

dynamic listening experience. The Jazz Picnic was a successful event that brought together jazz enthusiasts, community members, faculty, staff, and students to enjoy a beautiful day of music, food, and camaraderie.

IVC Supports and Participates in Esteemed Community Events



On April 22, IVC hosted a table at the 2023 Estrella Awards at the Disneyland Hotel, sponsored by the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The evening showcased and recognized the contributions in business, civic engagement, and education supporting the Hispanic community. Additionally, on April 29, IVC supported our educational partner Concordia University Irvine at their 21st annual Gala of Stars dinner. Attendees of these events included Chancellor Julianna Barnes, Board Vice President Terri Rydell, Board Clerk Trustee Carolyn Inmon, Trustee Barbara J. Jay, Trustee T.J. Prendergast III, President Hernandez, Vice President for Instruction Rick Miranda, Vice President for Student Services Marth McDonald, Professor Rebecca Beck, Counselor Ruby Pastrana, Director of Annual Giving and Development Services Karen Orlando, Director of Marketing and Creative Services Diane Oaks, Interim Grant Project Manager for College Corps Program David Mendoza, and Concordia Alumni Alisha Miranda.

IVC Welcomes Community Partner Octane Foundation for Innovation to Campus



Linda DiMario, the director of community engagement from the Octane Foundation for Innovation (OFI), was recently welcomed by President Hernandez and the IVC leadership team for a campus visit. In turn, IVC leaders had an opportunity to learn about OFI's portfolio of community initiatives, including Women Leaders of Octane; women-owned startups going through the Octane Launchpad incubator; STEAM Fellows – encouraging and coaching STEM education and career paths in underserved and underrepresented communities; Non-Profit

Accelerator – building sustainable and effective non-profit social enterprises; and Next WAVE – identifying and cultivating the next generation of purpose-driven industry and ecosystem leadership. IVC highly regards the significance of maintaining strong alliances with community organizations and continues collaborating within the local area to raise awareness about the educational prospects offered to students.

Upcoming Events

Choreographic Showcase

May 24

Early College Graduation Breakfast

May 25

Party of Twelve

May 24

Commencement

May 25

Respectfully Submitted,

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

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President