



# 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:** October 12, 2023

**SUBJECT:** President's Report for the October 23, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting

## IVC Ranked Third in EDsmart's 2024 List of Best Community Colleges in California



EDsmart.org, a nationally recognized publisher of college resources and rankings, has released the [2024 edition of the Best Community Colleges in California](#), with IVC ranked #3. The ranking includes only fully accredited schools. Rankings are based on affordability, academic quality, student satisfaction, and median earnings, according to data gathered from the U.S. Department of Education. All evaluated data was gathered from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, the U.S. Department of Higher Education, school websites, and other sources. This recognition is in addition to two recent rankings by independent college ranking and higher education research outlets [BestColleges, which ranked IVC #1](#), and [Intelligent.com, which ranked IVC #2](#) out of the Top 40 Community Colleges, scoring 97.8 with Best Transfer Rate as a noted recognition.

## Building a Path to the Center for Teaching Excellence



On September 26, IVC welcomed the Partnership Resource Team ([PRT](#)) from the California Community Colleges Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative ([IEPI](#)). IVC is collaborating with IEPI to support a unified vision of professional development that aligns with the college's vision, mission, and strategic plan and establish a Center for Teaching Excellence. The PRT engaged in comprehensive discussions with diverse stakeholders comprised of faculty, staff, students, and administrators. A highlight of the day was the commendation from the visiting team chair. They appreciated IVC's tailored approach to creating professional development opportunities, noting, "Your approach makes good sense to provide the flexibility required for success." The positive feedback and the promise of continued collaboration with the PRT are indicative of the fruitful paths the college is paving to foster a cohesive vision for the future.

## IVC Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month



[Latinx Heritage Month](#) was honored from September 15 to October 15, during which the college recognized and celebrated the many achievements and contributions of the Latinx community. The Puente Program hosted guest speaker Erica Alfaro, who shared her experience as the daughter of immigrants, a first-generation community college student, and a single mother, which inspired her book "Harvesting Dreams." The Office of Student Equity hosted a celebration that featured Latinx-owned small businesses showcasing local handmade items, food, and Salsa dance lessons. A Mexican history and nutrition workshop was provided, and attendees gained a deeper understanding of Latinx cuisine, its cultural significance, and its nutritional benefits. View photos [here](#).

### AANAPISI Week Celebrated at IVC



The college celebrated Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) week from September 25 to October 1. [Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering \(ELEVATE\) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders \(AAPI\)](#) kicked off the week by hosting an information booth where attendees received swag items promoting ELEVATE AAPI and learned about the importance of AANAPISI at IVC. The [Center for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander](#) hosted a tea-tasting event during which information was shared about AANAPISI work being done nationwide. The weeklong celebration ended with a lunch and learn session where attendees shared a meal while discussing pertinent AAPI issues the community faces today.

### Celebrating National Coming Out Week 2023



IVC recognized National Coming Out Week from October 9 to 13. During this week, the campus honored the experiences of anyone sharing their gender or sexual identity for the first time with another person. While one may ultimately have countless "coming out" conversations in a lifetime, the first time someone shares this part of themselves with another person is often life-changing. IVC celebrated the week with Paint Your Pride, an activity of art expression and for sharing life experiences. Additionally, Pride Scholars organized a field trip to the LGBT Queer Resource Center at California State University, Fullerton, providing students with valuable resources and support within the LGBTQ+ community.

### IVC Observes Deaf Awareness Month



In observance of Deaf Awareness Month in September, Dr. Keith Gamache, a professor of American Sign Language (ASL) at IVC, orchestrated a Deaf panel discussion of over 40 participants. Following the panel, Dr. Gamache and Tina Leonard, another ASL instructor at IVC, delivered opening remarks, accompanied by the screening of impactful clips that shed light on the diverse Deaf experience. The panel featuring Professor Lee Ann Tang from California State University, Northridge, Professor Tie Burcham from Western Oregon University, Karen Soza, an ASL teacher in Los Angeles, Glen Tjandra, an ASL tutor at IVC, and Professors Gamache and Leonard, delved into a series of thought-provoking questions. The discussion explored various aspects of Deaf identity, sign language influences, experiences with microaggressions, the advantages of collaboration between Deaf and hearing individuals, the role of technology in addressing communication challenges within the Deaf community, and the significance of signing skills and cultural identity in promoting well-being among Deaf adults.

### Let Freedom Read Celebration: Banned Books Week 2023



The IVC Library celebrated Banned Books Week from October 1 to 7. Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. The theme for Banned Books Week 2023 was "Let Freedom Read." A letter contest was held during the week where students could submit a letter about the importance of not banning books for a chance to win a Barnes and Noble gift card. The submitted letters were sent to the Department of Education. There was also a read-out event hosted in the Outdoor Learning Lab where attendees listened to participants read passages from banned books they brought to share.

### Guided Pathways at IVC Holds Inaugural Pathways to Success Fair



On September 20, the Guided Pathways Completion Teams held the first-ever Pathways to Success Fair. The event's purpose was to help students find their academic or career path and connect them to services on campus. Students were encouraged to connect with at least two academic and career interest areas, student support centers, and IVC communities. All 10 interest areas had booths for students to interact with at the event. There were 23 booths representing student support centers, services, and communities on campus. More than 400 students participated in the event, and over 70 volunteers helped make it a success. Among the volunteers was South Orange County Community College District Trustee Marcia Milchiker, who helped check students in as they arrived at the event. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Hosts Walk of Hope for Suicide Awareness and Prevention



On September 19, IVC hosted its annual Walk of Hope for Suicide Awareness and Prevention. The event started with a welcome message from Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald, and remarks from Chancellor Dr. Julianna Barnes. Esther Ibarra from Didi Hirsh provided a keynote speech. Students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in the one-mile walk around the campus perimeter to promote education and awareness about suicide prevention. This important event takes place each year to remind the IVC campus community of the impact each individual can make in potentially saving a life. The event also included a mental health resource fair with over 20 community partners to share information and outreach support services. This collaborative effort showcases the institution's dedication to tackling the multifaceted challenges related to mental health and suicide prevention. View photos [here](#).

### IVC at ATEP Held Manufacturing Day 2023



On October 6, IVC at ATEP hosted partners from Tustin and Irvine Unified for Manufacturing Day. About 150 students were in attendance from Beckman High School, Legacy Magnet Academy High School, Tustin High School, Foothill High School, Hillview High School, and Woodbridge High School to gain a better understanding of the many aspects of manufacturing and broaden their perspectives on the pathways that can lead to a career in manufacturing within a variety of industry sectors. IVC faculty held hands-on demonstrations in Design Model Making and Rapid Prototyping, Drafting Technology, Electrical/Electronic Technology, and Engineering programs. Director of Economic & Workforce Development Martha Payán-Hernández and President John Hernandez welcomed the students. The event also included an industry and resource expo and opportunities for students to connect directly with companies like Edwards Lifesciences, Applied Medical, and Universal Robot. Read more [here](#).



### IVC at ATEP Hosts 2023 Adult Education Pathways Fair



On September 28, the South Orange County Regional Consortium (SOCRC) held the second annual Adult Education Pathways Fair, hosted by IVC at ATEP. The fair hosted approximately 250 attendees and featured more than 10 Adult education centers and colleges that showcased Adult Education and College pathway programs in Orange County. Attendees shared a meal, listened to music, and learned about community information and resources. The partnership helped promote community and support for individuals looking to enhance their education and career opportunities. View photos [here](#).

### Columbus Tustin Middle School Visits IVC



The Outreach Department organized a [campus tour for 180 8th graders from Columbus Tustin Middle School](#) on September 15. Students received IVC bags containing college information and small giveaways. The visit started in the Performing Arts Center, where Outreach Specialist Nicole Tufenkjian provided welcome remarks to the audience. Theater Arts Professor Scott Grabau held an interactive presentation that discussed career education and shared stories about successful alums. IVC counselor Christian Chavez provided valuable insights into the community college system's certificate programs, associate degrees, and transfer opportunities. Students participated in a campus tour guided by student ambassadors and wrapped up the day with lunch, marking the end of another successful annual visit from the middle school.

### Chancellor Barnes and President Hernandez Visit Tustin Unified Legacy Magnet Academy



### IVC Supports Tustin Unified at State of the Schools Event



On September 20, IVC attended the annual Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) State of the Schools held this year at Beckman High School and hosted by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation. The event celebrated TUSD and included Superintendent Dr. Mark Johnson, highlighting the district's achievements in serving students and the community. President John Hernandez was joined by Chancellor Julianna Barnes, Trustee T.J. Prendergast III, Terri Rydell, Ed.D., Executive Director of Marketing and Creative Services Diane Oaks, Director of Outreach and Strategic Partnerships Frank Rivera, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Business Sciences Traci Fahimi, and Dean of Enrollment Services Gregory Vega.

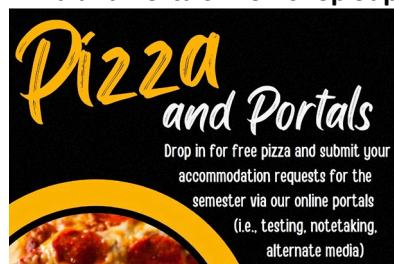
### IVC Represented at the City of Irvine Hispanic Heritage Month “Fiesta Latina en Irvine”



On September 17, Outreach participated in the City of Irvine’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, “Fiesta Latina en Irvine.” The City of Irvine presented the event in partnership with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and UCI Health. The event was free for all ages, honoring the culture and contributions of Latin American indigenous communities and those with

Spanish, Mexican, Caribbean, Central, and South American roots through music, food, language, literature, and art. Faculty and staff from Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS), Puente Program, and Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) were also present and participated in tabling at the event.

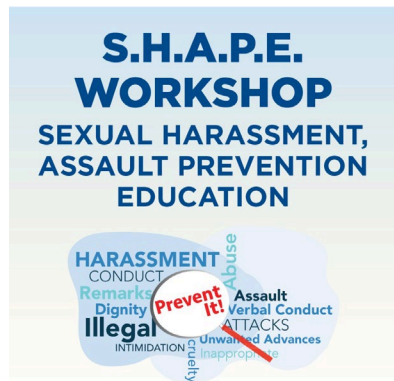
### Pizza and Portals Workshop Supports Student Success and Builds Community



Disability Support Programs for Students (DSPS) provided a two-day workshop for students in the DSPS Testing Center. The Pizza and Portals workshop helped students submit their online accommodation requests to prepare them for academic success. The event was strategically hosted in the testing center to familiarize students with its location and better prepare them for exam days. The students developed a sense of community as they collaborated to submit requests for exams, alternate media, note-takers, personal service

attendants, and ASL interpreters. They also learned how to reserve the DSPS study room, purchase textbooks online, apply for laptop loans, send their accommodations forms to their instructors, view their class schedules, and navigate the campus maps.

### IVC’s Title IX Office Hosts Sexual Harassment, Assault Prevention Workshops



On September 27, the Title IX Office hosted a Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Education (S.H.A.P.E) workshop. Education and Outreach Specialist Ariana Vargas from Laura’s House, the only state-approved comprehensive domestic violence agency in South Orange County, presented on Online Safety and Protection. All students, staff, and faculty were invited to attend the workshop. S.H.A.P.E Workshops started in 2023 and are offered as a preventative education resource for the entire campus community. These events help educate, prevent, and address sexual harassment and assault, create a safer and more supportive environment, and demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of the campus community.

### Accreditation Peer Review Team Hosts Open Forum



On Tuesday, October 11, the Accreditation Peer Review Team hosted an Open Forum for faculty and staff to meet members of the team and learn about the accreditation process before their full visits in Spring 2024. Attendees asked questions and shared their experiences working at IVC.

### **Puente Celebrates “Noche de Familia”**



The Puente Program welcomed students, siblings, parents, grandparents, and friends to their annual event, “Noche de Familia” on September 20. Over 80 attendees gathered to learn about the program and how they can support Puente students on their educational journey. Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald welcomed guests and shared her experience as a first-generation college student and the significance of programs like Puente in fostering success. The audience also heard from Puente student ambassadors who shared their experiences, a parent who expressed her gratitude for the program, and a special guest speaker, poet Donato Martinez.

### **IVC English Instructor Korey Bell Celebrates Literary Success**



IVC Department of English instructor Korey Bell’s short story “Black Jesus” was a [finalist in Narrative magazine’s Spring 2023 Story Contest](#). Narrative defines itself as dedicated to advancing literature in the digital age by supporting the finest writing talent and encouraging reading across communities and generations, in schools, and around the globe. Bell has an additional work titled “Seabreeze,” which is being published in ZYZZYVA magazine. Bell received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Irvine, and is currently working on a short story collection.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Job Fair Fall 2023**

October 25

#### **First-Gen College Student Celebration**

November 6

#### **Filipino American History Month Celebration**

October 26

#### **Health Fair**

November 7

#### **Cyber Day Fair**

October 27

#### **College Fair**

November 8

#### **Dia De Los Muertos**

November 1

#### **Veterans Day Ceremony and Resource Fair**

November 9

#### **Young Frankenstein**

November 2-12

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.  
President