



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: September 7, 2023

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the September 18, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Named Great College to Work For in all 10 Categories Second Year in a Row



IVC is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. The results released September 15 on GreatCollegesList.com are based on a survey of 194 colleges and universities. In all, 72 of those institutions achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with IVC included among the large universities with 10,000 or more students. This year, 42 institutions are on the Honor Roll, recognized as standouts in their size categories. Once again, IVC received honors in all 10 categories this year:

- Job Satisfaction & Support
- Compensation & Benefits
- Professional Development
- Mission & Pride
- Supervisor/Department Chair Effectiveness
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Faculty & Staff Well-being
- Shared Governance
- Faculty Experience
- Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging

IVC Earns 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School Designation



On August 18, IVC received designation as a Military Friendly® and Military Spouse Friendly School. Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2023-2024 survey, with 665 earning special awards for exceeding the standard. The 2023-2024 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May and October issue of G.I. Jobs magazine at www.militaryfriendly.com. Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by combining the institution’s survey scores with the assessment of the institution’s ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance Hosted at IVC



On September 11, the Office of Student Life, Veteran Services Center, and the IVC Classified Senate Caring Campus Team, in collaboration with UCI Health, hosted a 9/11 memorial ceremony to honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001. President John Hernandez began the ceremony by introducing Medical Director of the UCI Transfusion Medicine Service at UC Irvine Medical Center Dr. Minh-Ha Tran, who shared a few words about the importance of the event. President Hernandez then led participants through a moment of silence while Lieutenant Phillip Romero and Officer Jason Mann performed a flag-folding ceremony. A memorial table was staged in the center of the event with vases symbolizing the Twin Towers, the plane that crashed into the Pentagon, and the fourth plane that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. The event included a life-saving blood drive where more than 80 volunteers signed up to donate blood to help increase the supply for patients at UCI Health, Orange County's only Level I Trauma Center. To contribute to the UCI Campus Blood Donor Center in Irvine, schedule an appointment by visiting [Find A Drive](#).

IVC Student Veterans of America (SVA) Chapter Attends West Coast Regional Conference



The IVC Student Veterans of America (SVA) Chapter attended the SVA West Coast Regional Conference in Sacramento from August 17-19. The trip began with a State Capitol tour, where students visited legislative chambers while learning about the state legislators' voting processes. The conference focused on utilizing SVA's national framework to build a sustainable SVA-affiliated veterans club at IVC. The SVA's mission is to instill peer support and camaraderie within local chapters to help create a sense of belonging and reduce feelings of isolation, supporting student veteran's wellness and mental health. The club prioritizes supporting veterans with the challenges of transitioning to civilian life through a peer-supportive network by discussing mental health, stress management, and coping strategies while directing members to appropriate support services when needed. With the support of local SVA advisors, the club can organize workshops, seminars, and networking events to assist veterans in building career skills, exploring job opportunities, and transitioning smoothly after completing their educational goals.

Irvine Valley Promise Program Achieves Record Enrollment and Diversity Milestones



Cohort five began in Fall 2022 and is in its second year. Last year's cohort demonstrated impressive academic outcomes with an 83% persistence rate, an average cumulative GPA of 3.16, and an average of 33.24 cumulative units.

The Irvine Valley Promise Program has exceeded its initial goal of enrolling 1,500 students for the incoming sixth cohort, reaching a record enrollment of nearly 1,800 students for Fall 2023. Sixty-five percent of cohort six students are eligible for the California College Promise Grant (CCPG), marking a 3.6% increase in economically disadvantaged students compared to the previous year's cohort. A significant development is the rise of Hispanic/Latinx students as the largest racial/ethnic group within the program, comprising 32.2%.

International Student Program's Largest Incoming Class Since Fall 2019



On August 15, the International Student Program (ISP) welcomed 252 new international students for Fall 2023 during the International Student Orientation. The incoming class is the largest since Fall 2019 and represents a 43% increase in new student enrollment over Fall 2022. Total ISP enrollment is 513 students which has grown 23% compared to Spring 2023. Students from over 31 countries joined the orientation to learn about the college, hear from IVC's administration, and meet other students. Many students also participated in Laser Day

and commented on the accessibility and friendliness of IVC's faculty and staff, putting them at ease as they began their American education experience. The ISP is actively recruiting overseas and domestically, benefiting from the college's high transfer rates and location.

IVC Honors Program Receives Record Number of Incoming Freshmen Applications



The IVC Honors Program received a record number of incoming student applications for Fall 2023. The program has an incoming class of 352 first-year students, for a total of 815 current members in the Honors Program. Honors Program members enjoy a variety of benefits, including smaller seminar-style classes with an enriched curriculum, social and cultural activities, leadership and scholarship opportunities, and priority consideration for admission to transfer institutions, including UCLA and UC Irvine. Applications to the Honors Program are accepted year-round at ivc.edu/honors.

ELEVATE AAPI Launches Certificate Program and Welcomes First Learning Community Cohort



The Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (ELEVATE AAPI) program welcomed its first learning community cohort to IVC. There are 21 students enrolled in the yearlong cohort of courses. The cohort courses comprise Academic, Career, and Life Success COUN 6, Introduction to Asian American Studies ETHN 20, and Communication Fundamentals COMM 1. The ELEVATE AAPI certificate program also launched this fall and currently has 35 students who plan to complete one of three certificates: Social Justice and Cultural

Competency, Leadership, or 21st Century Skills and Success. The ELEVATE AAPI program is funded by a 5-year Title 3 grant through the Department of Education. The \$2 million grant focuses on increasing academic success, career readiness, and mental health support through wraparound services such as dedicated counseling, peer and faculty mentors, and access to the dedicated Center for Asian Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders (CAANAPI).

IVC Now a Participant in the Amazon Career Choice Program



IVC is now a participant in the Amazon Career Choice program. Career Choice is an innovative initiative offered by Amazon to further the education and skill sets of their employees contributing to the growth and development of the local workforce. Through the Amazon Career Choice program, Amazon employees are eligible to receive support for tuition, textbooks, and associated fees for a range of options from foundational skills like English language to career pathways and college credit programs at IVC.

President Hernandez Welcomes Incoming Puente Cohort



The incoming Puente cohort wrapped up their first week of the semester with a visit from President John Hernandez on August 25. President Hernandez greeted the group with a warm welcome and shared about his family, heritage, and academic journey as an immigrant and first-generation student. He discussed the

challenges, assistance, and community he found while starting at a community college and then transferring to a university. The class visit has become a tradition, an emotional touchstone that resonates with students throughout the year. The third Puente cohort currently has 29 students enrolled.

Office of Student Equity Hosts IVC Cares Fall Food Distribution



The Office of Student Equity organized a grab-and-go food distribution on August 30, during which 525 meals were provided to students. Students received a meal and a grocery bag with pantry and fresh produce items of their choosing. Over 3,100 pantry items were distributed during the event. IVC Cares meal distributions occur throughout the academic year, offering nourishment and insights into the Basic Needs program at the college. These distributions are crucial in supporting students and fostering a secure and inviting atmosphere

for the campus community. The success of this event was made possible by the dedication of more than 39 faculty, staff, and administrators who volunteered their time. Photos are available [here](#).

Fostering Campus Community and Exploration During Club Day



The Office of Student Life and Inter-Club Council hosted Club Day on September 13. More than 400 students attended the event with 56 student organizations represented. This event is a prime opportunity for students to immerse themselves in campus life and find community at the college. Joining student organizations opens doors to new friendships, enhancing their academic life and leadership skills and exploring potential career paths and interests. Attendees stopped by club booths, participated in activities, and enjoyed a meal. Photos of the event can be found on [IVC's Flickr](#).

English Language Center Now Open



The Adult ESL (AESL) Center and the Language Acquisition Center have merged into one center, the English Language Center (ELC). Combining the centers into one creates a central location for all English language learners streamlining access to resources and support for students enrolled in AESL and ESL courses. The newly renovated location is in room A 203 of IVC's A-200 building. The ELC is strategically located near the classrooms where AESL and ESL courses are taught, providing a more comprehensive, efficient, and accessible support system for students. For more information visit the [ESL/AESL Department](#).

IVC Dancers and Faculty Embark on Unique Dance Exploration in New York



Six dancers and two faculty members explored interspecies movement in upstate New York at Dancing with Horses, a workshop conducted by JoAnna Mendl Shaw and her dance company, The Equus Projects. The dancers interacted with horses and watched horse trainer Dan McCarthy of Catskill Natural Horse work with a Mustang stallion. The students were housed at the Middlebrook Arts Research and Residency Center and performed duet works for the local community. The group then traveled to New York City, participating in two master workshops and one movement class at Gibney Dance. The first workshop focused on how dance is used with domestic violence survivors and teens for violence prevention. The second was led by a Tony Award winning producer who provided the group with personal marketing information. During the movement class, students danced alongside professionals in Dual Rivet Contemporary Floorwork. The trip wrapped up with the students attending a new Broadway show, "Love Lies Here," and a backstage meet and greet with Renée Albulario, the associate choreographer and swing for the show. This travel was part of a dance research project that will be included in the Collective Movement Dance Concert.

ASIVC President Diego Victoria Honored with Three Civic Engagement Awards



ASIVC President Diego Victoria recently received three awards for his civic engagement. He received a state assembly certificate of recognition recognizing his work as a summer intern with the office of Assemblyman Phillip Chen of the 59th Assembly District. Victoria received a certificate of recognition as the volunteer of the month from the County of Orange, presented by Donald P. Wagner, chairman of the board of supervisors third district. He was recognized as the volunteer of the month for the Republican Party of Orange County, presented by chairman Fred Whitaker.

IVC Art Instructor Deployed on Rescue Mission in Maui



IVC Art Instructor and K-9 search and rescue handler Julie Kirk-Purcell deployed to Maui with her 9-year-old Belgian Malinois rescue dog, Olivia. Kirk-Purcell is a member of the Orange County-based Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 5 and landed in Maui for a 14-day search and rescue mission assisting with the massive recovery efforts following the deadly wildfires. Two weeks before her deployment, Kirk-Purcell was in Germany [working on a copy of Rembrandt van Rijn's "The Night Watch"](#) in conjunction with Royal Talons Art Supplies and the Rijksmuseum. Her detection dog Olivia will be turning 10 soon and previously worked the 2022 Hurricane Ian disaster in Florida. Kirk-Purcell first became interested in search and rescue after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Walk of Hope for Suicide Awareness

September 19

A Choral Kaleidoscope

September 29

Guided Pathways Fall Event

September 20

Keyboard Series - Romantic Masters

September 30

14th Annual Alumni Concert

September 22

No Exit

October 5-8

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President