

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

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

**DATE:** March 17, 2025

**SUBJECT:** **President's Report for the April 28, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

### IVC Recognizes Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Month



Throughout April, IVC honored [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(DEIA\) Awareness Month](#), reaffirming the college's dedication to fostering an inclusive, student-centered learning environment. The month's events offered numerous opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage in cross-cultural learning, storytelling, and community-building activities designed to elevate voices and experiences across the IVC community. This year's hallmark event, "DEIA Day," occurred on Friday, April 4, and was hosted by the [President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(PAC-DEIA\)](#). The event focused on the social model of accessibility, encouraging participants to go beyond compliance and adopt strategies centered on empowerment to promote inclusion. Sessions emphasized shifting institutional practices to create spaces where every voice is celebrated, and every perspective counts. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Alumna Inducted into Hall of Fame



IVC alumna Phouangmaly "Pong" Pravongviengkham has been inducted into the 2025 California Community College Women's Basketball Coaches Association (CCCWBCA) Hall of Fame. A standout point guard for the Lasers during the 1997–98 and 1998–99 seasons, Pravongviengkham helped lead IVC to a combined 52 wins, an Orange Empire Conference title, and the program's first-ever appearance in the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) State Championship Tournament. She earned conference MVP honors, set a school record for assists in a game, and was named All-State and All-Southern California. After IVC, she received a full athletic scholarship to compete at Northern Arizona University (NCAA Division I). Pravongviengkham's induction honors her legacy as one of the most impactful athletes in IVC history. Read the full story [here](#).

### IVC Welcomes Over 3,500 Attendees at 4th Annual Preview Night



On April 16, IVC hosted its 4th Annual Preview Night, welcoming more than 3,500 high school students and their families to explore the college's programs, services, and campus community. The event provided an engaging and informative experience to support students transitioning from high school to college. Prospective students learned about IVC's top-ranked transfer success, including its distinction as #1 in Orange County for transfers to the UC system. Presentations offered insight into financial aid, the Irvine Valley Promise Program, the IVC Honors Program, dual enrollment opportunities, and comprehensive student support services. The resource fair highlighted academic departments, support programs, and career opportunities, with booths offering interactive exhibits and opportunities to learn about involvement through student government and co-curricular programs.

### IVC Analyst Kevin Hsu Honored with RP Group Rising Star Award



Research and Planning Analyst Kevin Hsu has been named a 2025 RP Group Rising Star Award recipient. This distinguished honor is awarded to professionals who have demonstrated outstanding promise and leadership in institutional research, planning, and effectiveness (IRPE) within the first 10 years of their careers. Presented annually by the RP Group, the Rising Star Award recognizes emerging leaders in California's Community College system who exemplify a commitment to equity-minded research, data-informed decision-making, and innovative planning. Hsu was formally recognized during the RP Group Conference awards ceremony in April and nationally through the RP Group's press release.

### IVC Project Team Earns Honorable Mention in RP Group's 2025 Outstanding Project Award



The RP Group's Outstanding Project Award program celebrates exemplary contributions to student and institutional success through community college research, planning, and institutional effectiveness. The project, "Improving the Student Experience and Increasing Access by Streamlining Workflows: A Collaborative

Between EOPS and Research," was recognized for its innovative, equity-focused approach to removing barriers within student support services. This collaborative effort brought together team members from across institutions, including IVC Research and Planning Analyst Kevin Hsu, EOPS Specialist Luis Macias, Former EOPS Student/EOPS Student Workers Sarah Smeltzer and Diego Valencia, and Saddleback College Counselor Cindy Duran. The team concentrated on enhancing the internal processes of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) to support historically underserved student populations better.

### IVC Delegation Shines at 2025 APAHE National Conference



A delegation of 12 students from the ELEVATE program and 11 employees represented IVC during the 2025 Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) National Conference on April 9-11. The group engaged in conversations on equity, leadership, and the evolving needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities in higher

education. Among the featured presenters was Professor Edwin Tiongson, who led a Reader's Theater performance alongside student participants. The presentation used storytelling as a powerful platform to uplift student voices and foster a greater understanding of AANHPI identities and experiences. ELEVATE students also hosted a workshop on Title IX awareness in the AANHPI community. College leaders in attendance included President John Hernandez, Dean of Counseling Services Angel Hernandez, and Director of Student Success Initiatives DeeJay Santiago.

### Fast Fridays Launch to Support High School Seniors



Beginning April 4, IVC welcomed high school seniors to campus for their Fast Friday program, which allows students to complete their Pre-Registration requirements in one day while on campus. This series is organized by the Matriculation team in the Office of Admissions and Records. The program serves students from local high schools and beyond, offering tailored agendas that include campus tours and opportunities to connect with the IVC community.

### **Celebrating Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) Student Achievement**



On April 11, the ESL Department hosted a celebration recognizing the accomplishments of Adult ESL (AESL) students who earned a Certificate of Competency in this past year. The event honored the accomplishments of over 230 students who completed an AESL certificate of competency, each designed to support language development and career readiness. The ceremony featured heartfelt student speeches reflecting on personal growth, the impact of AESL coursework, and aspirations for the future. Students and supporters enjoyed time to connect and celebrate together. View photos [here](#).

### **Humanities Week Celebrates Creativity, Career Exploration, and Student Achievement**



The Guided Pathways Humanities Completion Team recently hosted their second annual Humanities Week. The week began with a Poetry Reading and Open Mic featuring Donato Martinez and Orange County Poet Laureate Gustavo Hernandez. The open mic session welcomed student and community poets to the stage, creating an inclusive space for emerging voices to share their artistry. The Humanities Job Mixer welcomed faculty, alumni, and community professionals to discuss real-world career opportunities for humanities majors and minors. Students had the opportunity to explore potential career paths, ask questions, and make professional connections that may shape their futures. The week concluded with the Humanities Student Showcase, where students presented creative and research-based projects to their peers and faculty. This event highlighted the range of scholarly and artistic work developed in humanities courses and invited the broader IVC community to engage with and celebrate student achievement.

### **Languages Film Festival Showcases Global Stories in Celebration of World Languages Month**



The Languages Department hosted the Spring 2025 International Film Festival, a four-day global storytelling and cultural exchange celebration. In recognition of World Languages Month, the festival featured five international films, each offering perspectives on identity, tradition, and human connection. Screenings included “Through Deaf Eyes (USA), a documentary chronicling 200 years of Deaf culture in America; “The Nightingale” (China), a heartwarming tale of an elderly man and his granddaughter’s journey through rural China; “Perfumes” (France), a character-driven film exploring the unexpected friendship between a chauffeur and a perfumer; “Koshien: Japan’s Field of Dreams” (Japan), a documentary delving into Japan’s revered high school baseball championship; and “Landfill Harmonic” (Paraguay), the inspiring true story of children who create orchestral instruments from landfill materials.

### **Inaugural IVC Women’s Tea Honors Women’s History Month**



In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Office of Student Life and Student Equity hosted the inaugural IVC Women’s Tea event at on March 28. The event, hosted in [IVC at ATEP](#), honored women’s accomplishments and lasting impact historically, globally, and within the IVC community. The gathering brought together students, faculty, staff, and community members to foster connection, solidarity, and inspiration among women of all backgrounds. Attendees shared stories of resilience, engaged in meaningful conversations, and affirmed their collective commitment to uplifting one another. The featured keynote speaker, Emily Calandrelli, was the 100th Woman in Space. Her powerful remarks encouraged guests to embrace their potential, break through barriers, and boldly pursue new frontiers. View photos [here](#).



### **The Spot: Center for Basic Needs Celebrates Grand Opening**



On March 26, IVC officially celebrated the grand opening of The Spot: Center for Basic Needs at its new location in the Student Activities Center. The event featured remarks by President John Hernandez, who highlighted The Spot's critical role in supporting equitable access to education. Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald spoke about the college's vision for enhancing wraparound services and fostering a student-centered environment. The newly established center offers a comprehensive range of resources to students, including The Spot Pantry for food support, a free clothing closet, campus-wide snack hubs for daily nourishment, diapers for students with young children, CalFresh enrollment assistance, and private appointments with a case manager for housing support and referrals to both campus and community resources. View photos [here](#).

### **President John Hernandez Participates in NCCHC Leadership Fellows President's Panel**



On March 25, President John Hernandez participated as a panelist in the National Community College Hispanic Council's (NCCHC) Ted Martinez, Jr. Leadership Fellows Program, held at Long Beach City College. Now in its fourth decade, the NCCHC program is widely recognized as a premier leadership development initiative for Hispanic and Latino professionals in community colleges. Dr. Hernandez joined a panel of college presidents to share insights on equity-centered leadership, institutional transformation, and the importance of mentorship in advancing Latinx representation in higher education leadership.

### **IVC Speech Team Earns Back-to-Back 1st Place Awards**



The IVC Speech Team continued its record-breaking season with standout national, state, and international tournament performances. In March, students Alex Velez and Tymen Koetsier competed at the 35th Annual International Forensics Association Speech and Debate Championships in Incheon, South Korea, earning multiple awards and securing 3rd Place Team Sweepstakes. At the same time, the rest of the team competed at the California Community College Forensics Association State Championship in Woodland Hills, winning 1st Place Sweepstakes in limited entry. National Parliamentary Debate Association teams captured Bronze and Silver Medals. The team's success continued at the 2025 National Online Forensics National Championship, where IVC was named the top community college, earning 1st Place Sweepstakes and 10 individual awards. Highlights included Gold Medals for Chris Rodas in Persuasive Speaking and Sophia Diaz in After Dinner Speaking. Read the full story [here](#).

### **Arts(in)Fusion Showcase Celebrates Creative Collaboration Across Disciplines**



On March 14 and 15, the Performing Arts Center hosted "Arts(in)Fusion," the first fully collaborative School of the Arts showcase. The celebration of student creativity and performance brought together every department within the School of the Arts: media arts, studio art, communications, dance, music, and theatre. The showcase featured live performances and a pop-up gallery exhibit, highlighting the breadth and depth of student talent. Guests were also invited to a post-show meet and greet with performers and artists. In keeping with the spirit of collaboration and student-centered design, the event's official poster was created by a student with support from IVC's Marketing and Creative Services team.

### IVC Recognized at 2025 State of the City Address with Proposed Scholarship Initiative



On March 12, IVC was recognized during the 2025 State of the City presentation delivered by Irvine Mayor Larry Agran. The event welcomed civic leaders, community stakeholders, and residents to celebrate the city's achievements and future priorities. Representing IVC were South Orange County Community College District Board President Carolyn Inmon, Vice President Ryan Dack, IVC President John Hernandez, and Director of College Equity, Inclusion, and Access Erin Pollard. Mayor Agran described IVC as a "gem within our community," highlighting its essential role in delivering high-quality, affordable education. Agran proposed \$100,000 in funding for 50 IUSD scholarships during his address, offering up to \$2,000 each to support IVC students. The proposed scholarship program reflects the City of Irvine's continued partnership with IVC, expanding student opportunities and reinforcing the college's impact within the region.

### IVC MUN Hits It Out of the Ballpark at Inland Empire Conference for Model UN (IECMUN)



On March 8, IVC's MUN team participated in the regional IECMUN 2024 hosted by Riverside City College. The team won six awards in three committees, including the Best Delegate award in UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), three Outstanding Delegate awards, and two Distinguished Delegate awards. The team consisted of 24 students who represented 20 different countries in three committees. Student delegates simulated the Security Council on the U.S. Withdrawal from the Middle East, with the IVC team representing the United States. The students also dealt with the issues of "The Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation" in General Assembly 3rd and "Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence against Refugees" in UNHCR.

### IVC Esports Arena Reopens in Renovated PE270 Space



IVC Esport reopened its on-campus Esports Arena, now housed in the renovated PE270 space. The venue has been transformed from a dance classroom into a state-of-the-art esports facility. The newly updated arena features a full broadcasting center, a dedicated streaming and shoutcasting room, a student lounge, and multiple gaming stations that support both competitive and recreational play. The Esports program resumed open hours for all IVC students, providing free access to all available games. In preparation for the upcoming season, the program has also launched a student-led voting process to determine its next roster of competitive titles. Popular games like "Valorant," "League of Legends," and "Splatoon" are expected to return, with two additional games to be selected based on student interest.

### Moka Saiki Earns Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) All-American Honorable Mention



Sophomore Moka Saiki of IVC's Women's Basketball team received an All-American Honorable Mention by the WBCA for the 2024–25 season. The national recognition honors Saiki's exceptional performance, leadership, and dedication on and off the court. Saiki, a two-year starter for the Lasers, was previously named First Team All-Orange Empire Conference after leading IVC to the postseason for a second consecutive year. She started all 30 games during the 2024–25 season, averaging 12.4 points, 3.6 rebounds, and 3.0 assists per game. She scored in double figures 20 times, including three games with 20 or more points and a season-high 25 points against Allan Hancock on December 20, 2024. Read the full story [here](#).

### Upcoming Events

**Sexual Assault Awareness Week**

April 28 - May 2

**Against All Odds Dance Concert**

May 8-11

**Dance Master Class – Wigglin', Noodling' & Improvisin'**

April 29

**Chorale Concert**

May 11

**Student Services and Student Union Groundbreaking**

April 30

**Piano Feast: Moonlight Monday**

May 12

**RENT**

May 1 - 4

**Early College Breakfast**

May 15

**GAP4+1 Business Leader Speaker Series: Theresa Thomas**

May 2

**Commencement**

May 22

**Employee Recognition Ceremony**

May 6

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President