

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

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

DATE: April 16, 2026

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the April 27, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Student Ian Crundall Named 2026 CalCPA Scholarship Recipient



Ian Crundall was named a recipient of a 2026 scholarship from the California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA), a prestigious statewide honor recognizing academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to the accounting profession. He is among a small group of students across California selected for this highly competitive award. Crundall is an active participant in IVC's GAP 4+1 Accounting Pathway, developed in partnership with California State University, Fullerton. The program helps students accelerate progress toward a bachelor's degree and Certified Public Accountant eligibility through rigorous coursework, career exploration, and connections with industry professionals. This recognition highlights the impact of career-focused pathways at IVC and reflects the college's commitment to preparing students for success in business and accounting.

Arab American Heritage Month Celebration Brings Campus Community Together



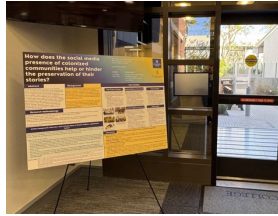
On April 8, IVC hosted its Arab American Heritage Month Celebration, bringing students, faculty, and classified professionals together for an afternoon of culture, community, and connection. The event highlighted the history, traditions, and contributions of Arab communities through meaningful conversation and shared celebration. Designed to foster awareness and belonging, the gathering created space for the campus community to engage with and learn from the diverse experiences that shape Arab American heritage. Through its welcoming atmosphere and focus on cultural appreciation, the event reflected IVC's continued commitment to celebrating diversity and strengthening an inclusive campus environment. View photos [here](#).

DEIA Day Highlighted Indigenous Voices, Culture, and Community



On April 3, IVC hosted DEIA Day 2026, a campuswide gathering centered on the theme "Honoring Indigenous Voices: Culture, Wisdom & Community." The event brought together the campus community for a meaningful morning of reflection, learning, and relationship-building focused on the Native communities whose ancestral homelands and traditional territories the college occupies. Tribal members from the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation, Belardes Band, and the Gabrielino-Shoshone Nation of Southern California shared their stories and perspectives, offering participants valuable opportunities to listen, learn, and engage in dialogue. DEIA Day reflected IVC's continued commitment to equity, inclusion, and fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse communities connected to the college. View photos [here](#).

Student Research Poster Featured at DEIA Day Now on Display in the Library



A student research poster developed through Phi Theta Kappa’s Honors in Action project was featured at this year’s DEIA Day on April 3, and is now on display in the IVC Library. Created by students Lia Veisalov and Pedro Silva, the project examined how digital platforms can both support and hinder the preservation of stories within colonized communities. The research included a comparative meta-analysis of Indigenous communities around the world and was strengthened by an interview with leaders from the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, whose perspectives added important insight on representation, cultural protocols, and preservation. Now displayed in the library, the poster extends the impact of the students’ work by inviting the campus community to engage with issues of cultural storytelling, identity, and respectful digital representation.

Aspiring Educators Club Hosts Guest Speaker Dr. Stephen Glass



The IVC Aspiring Educators Club hosted “An Educator’s Journey: A Conversation with Dr. Stephen Glass” on April 2, bringing together students interested in education careers for an engaging and informative discussion. Dr. Glass, distinguished faculty in residence in educational leadership at California State University, Long Beach, shared insights from over 25 years of experience in PK–12 education, including his roles as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and high school principal, as well as his current service as

a member of the Orange Unified School District Board of Trustees. Students gained perspective on real-world career pathways in education and leadership development, and on the importance of advancing equity in schools.

Natural Sciences Center Builds Community and Support for STEM Students



On April 1, the Irvine Standard highlighted IVC’s new Natural Sciences Center, which opened in February as a dedicated space for students in astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, geology, health sciences, marine science, and physics. The center offers free drop-in tutoring, workshops, and a welcoming environment where students can study, collaborate, and build connections with peers and faculty. The feature spotlights student Hinanui Swider, who uses the center both as a biology student preparing to transfer and as a

chemistry tutor supporting others in their academic success. In its first few weeks, the center recorded 250 unique student visits, reflecting strong early engagement and growing demand for STEM-centered support at IVC. Read the full story [here](#).

Humanities Student Showcase Celebrates Creativity, Scholarship, and Career Exploration



From March 30 to April 2, IVC hosted the 3rd Annual Humanities Student Showcase, a series of events celebrating student creativity, expression, and professional exploration. The showcase brought together students, faculty, and staff for a week of engaging activities that highlighted the vibrancy of IVC’s Humanities community. The event series began with a Student Work Exhibition, featuring creative and academic projects. Students shared original work during the National Poetry Month Reading and Open Mic, creating space for storytelling, reflection, and artistic expression. The showcase concluded with a Humanities Job Mixer, where students explored career pathways and connected with professionals in the field. View photos [here](#) and [here](#).

Women's History Panel Highlights Ongoing Conversations on Equity, Rights, and Leadership



On March 30, IVC hosted a Women's History Panel, bringing the campus together for a timely conversation on the enduring impact of women's struggles and achievements. Featuring IVC faculty members Dr. Brittany Adams, Dr. Araceli Centanino, and Bahareh Alaei, the panel explored how women's historical experiences continue to shape contemporary discussions around equity, rights, and leadership. The event created space for thoughtful reflection on the progress women have made and the work that remains in building a more just and inclusive society. View photos [here](#).

Veterans Services Center's Cynthia Cavalie Earns 2026 Woman of Distinction Honor



Cynthia Cavalie, mental health professional caseworker in IVC's Veterans Services Center, was recently honored as a 2026 Woman of Distinction by State Senator Steven Choi on March 30, in recognition of her leadership, service, and impact in the community. The award reflects her longstanding commitment to integrity-driven work and her dedication to supporting others across multiple professional roles. Cavalie plays an important role in supporting student veterans through mental health guidance, case management, and connections to crisis response resources. Her work helps advance the Veterans Services Center's mission of fostering belonging, stability, and a successful transition for veterans navigating higher education and civilian life.

IVC Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Earns International Honors at Catalyst Convention



On March 29, IVC's Alpha Omega Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recognized at the Catalyst International Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, earning two Honors in Action Research Project Awards in Theme 4, Preservation of Stories, for its project, "How Does Social Media Presence of Colonized Communities Help or Hinder the Preservation of Their Stories?" The chapter also received a Distinguished Chapter Award for the rigor and impact of both its research and its college project, which was developed in collaboration with ASIVC, Student Life, and Technology Services to create a Student Life Canvas page that promotes student engagement and community connection. Distinguished Chapter recognition places IVC among the top 36 Phi Theta Kappa chapters in the world. Congratulations to all chapter members, including Lia Veisalov, Pedro Silva, Charles Wu, Savannah Sayer, Ana Moreno, and advisor Professor Kurt Meyer, who has long helped lead the chapter's success at IVC.

IVC Leaders Featured on National Podcast Highlighting Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Work



On March 29, IVC leaders were featured on the "Que Pasa, HSIs with Dr. Gina Ann Garcia" podcast, where they shared the college's ongoing efforts, led by the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Council, to advance equity and "servingness" as an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution. [The episode, "Building HSI Mindsets: Irvine Valley College's Training Approach,"](#) highlighted the work of Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald, ESL Faculty and Academic Senate President Rebecca Beck, and Adult ESL Program Coordinator Julie Scholl. During the discussion, the team reflected on the college's intentional shift beyond an enrollment-based definition of HSIs toward a deeper examination of institutional policies, practices, and power structures that impact student success. Grounded in Dr. Garcia's scholarship, the college developed a comprehensive, year-long professional development series engaging faculty, classified professionals, and administrators in equity-centered transformation.

Adult ESL Mini-Conference Inspires Collaborative Teaching Innovation



On March 26, IVC hosted the 13th Semi-Annual Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) Mini-Conference, themed “From Inspiration to Implementation.” The professional development event brought together 54 faculty members from the South Orange County Regional Consortium, including colleagues from Saddleback College, Irvine Adult School, and Tustin Adult School. Six faculty presenters shared examples of how inspiration can be transformed into engaging and effective learning experiences for AESL students. The mini-conference continues to provide opportunity for faculty across institutions to collaborate, exchange ideas, and reflect on new strategies to strengthen their teaching practice. The event highlighted the power of shared learning, professional growth, and cross-campus partnership in support of adult learners.

IVC Earns Military Friendly® and Military Spouse Friendly® Designations



IVC has been recognized for its commitment to supporting military-connected students, earning the 2026–2027 Military Friendly® Schools designation with a silver-level distinction, as well as the Military Spouse Friendly® School designation. Announced on March 25, this recognition

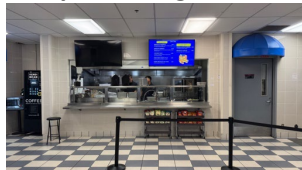
highlights IVC’s dedication to providing high-quality support services, academic pathways, and resources for veterans, active-duty service members, and military families. Institutions receiving this designation were evaluated using public data sources and a comprehensive survey administered by Military Friendly®, which included more than 3,200 organizations nationwide. Final ratings were based on criteria including student recruitment, retention, academic progress, graduation rates, career placement, and the availability of support services for military-connected students.

IVC Dual Enrollment Partnership Recognized with California Exemplary Award



On March 23, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that 32 schools across the state were selected to receive the California Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award, including Tustin Unified School District’s Legacy Magnet Academy in partnership with IVC. This prestigious recognition highlights outstanding dual enrollment programs that expand access to college coursework for high school students while fostering strong collaboration between K-12 districts, colleges, families, and community partners. Award recipients were selected based on demonstrated excellence in equity, student support, integrated academic pathways, and measurable student outcomes. The Legacy Magnet Academy partnership exemplifies these standards by providing students with meaningful opportunities to earn college credit, explore career pathways, and begin their higher education journey at no cost while still in high school. Read more [here](#).

Campus Dining Enhancements: Laser Café Grand Reopening and Patio Café Launch



The Laser Café officially celebrated its grand reopening on March 23, marking the return of a central dining and gathering space for the campus community and an important milestone in the college’s efforts to enhance student-centered amenities. It serves hot food, grab-and-go meals, and coffee and beverage options, providing convenient and affordable choices throughout the day.

The Library Patio Café opened earlier this semester, which offers coffee, tea, and light snacks in an open-air setting that creates a relaxed and accessible space for gathering between classes, meetings, and campus activities. A third venue, the Promenade Café, will open later this semester. Students with ASIVC access receive an additional 10 percent discount across all campus dining venues, and food vouchers are accepted to assist students experiencing financial need.

IVC and Saddleback MESA Host Northern California College Tour



During spring break, IVC and Saddleback College's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) programs collaborated to host a Northern California college tour, offering 40 students an immersive transfer-exploration experience. The tour included visits to the University of California, Santa Barbara; California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; San José State University; Stanford University; and the University of California, Berkeley. For many students, this was their first time visiting Northern California and stepping onto university campuses of this scale and prestige. The experience allowed students to envision themselves as future transfer students, expanding their academic aspirations and awareness of transfer opportunities.

IVC Model UN Tops Competition, Brings Home 12 Awards



On March 16, IVC's Model United Nations team earned 12 awards at the Inland Empire Conference for Model United Nations (IECMUN) conference at Riverside City College, achieving its highest total to date and outperforming all competing colleges. The 34-member team competed in simulations including the Security Council, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the General Assembly, sweeping all awards in UNESCO and securing a majority in the highly competitive Security Council. Students were recognized across all levels, including five Outstanding Delegate awards, as well as Distinguished Delegate, Honorable Mention, and peer-selected Best Delegate honors. A team of 16 students will next travel to New York to compete at the National Model United Nations Conference. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC Speech Brings Home Awards from Greece to California



After earning 124 awards this season, the IVC Speech Team competed in both the International Forensics Association Championships in Athens, Greece, from March 6–12 and the California Community College Forensics Association State Championships from March 11–15, splitting their team to represent the college at both events. Competing against top national and international programs, students achieved outstanding results, including multiple semifinalist and finalist placements in debate and individual events, with strong performances across International Public Debate Association, National Parliamentary Debate Association, impromptu, and extemporaneous speaking. At the state level, IVC earned 3rd place team sweepstakes, with students securing top speaker honors and multiple medals across events. These achievements reflect the team's continued excellence and dedication as they prepare for the Phi Rho Pi National Championships. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC Professor Lisa Alvarez Recognized at Women Making a Difference Awards



On March 14, English Professor Lisa Alvarez was recognized by Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley (Fifth District) at the Fifth Annual Women Making a Difference Awards ceremony. The annual event honors women across Orange County who are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation through their leadership, innovation, and service in education, economic development, civic engagement, and community empowerment. Professor Alvarez was celebrated for her impactful contributions to education and her commitment to uplifting students through inclusive and thoughtful teaching practices. Her recognition highlights the vital role educators play in shaping future leaders and strengthening communities.

Women Veteran Networking Forum Supports Identity, Connection, and Empowerment



On March 13, IVC hosted the “Women Veteran Networking Forum: Reclaim Your Identity – From Service to Self,” a regional collaboration led by the IVC Veterans Services Center and Saddleback College’s Veterans Education and Transition Services Program, in partnership with Women’s Unity at Cypress College Veterans Resource Center and the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative Women Veterans Working Group. The event brought together women veterans from across Orange County for a day of reflection, connection, and community-building. Designed to support the unique transition experiences of women veterans, the forum created space for participants to explore identity beyond military service and strengthen their sense of purpose in academic, professional, and personal settings. The program featured a keynote address by Dr. Mary Ann Villarreal, interim president of California State University, Dominguez Hills and an Air Force veteran, whose remarks emphasized the importance of mentorship, education, and institutional support. View photos [here](#).

IVC ASL Faculty Engage in Regional Professional Development and Outreach



On March 13, IVC’s American Sign Language (ASL) faculty attended the annual Southern California ASL Teachers Collaboration Conference at East Los Angeles College, joining approximately 100 participants for a day of professional learning and collaboration. IVC was proudly represented by the full ASL team, including Tanya Zeigler, Xiali Wu, Jaspreet Ghotra, Roy McCrory, and Keith Gamache. During the conference, Dr. Gamache presented a workshop on the history of ASL teaching, contributing IVC’s expertise to a regional dialogue on language instruction and Deaf education. The following week, the department continued its engagement by participating in a new Southern California conference focused on Deaf education.

These opportunities reflected the ASL department’s ongoing commitment to professional excellence, collaboration, and advancing inclusive education for Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

AESL Celebrates Adult English Learners Through Stories of Success



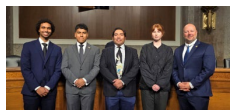
On March 12, the Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) program hosted “A Celebration of Adult English Learners: Stories of Success,” welcoming more than 120 students to a vibrant event focused on achievement, empowerment, and connection. The highlight of the program was a student panel that showcased the determination of English learners pursuing academic and career goals. Panelists shared powerful success stories, emphasizing how noncredit AESL courses served as a critical first step toward advanced education and careers in fields such as law, pharmacy, real estate, dentistry, and entrepreneurship. The event also featured a resource fair highlighting campus partnerships, where student services representatives and career education faculty shared information about available programs, resources, and pathways. Students were recognized for their accomplishments and engaged with peers and staff as they practiced communication skills and explored future opportunities. View photos [here](#).

IVC Circle K International Earns Top Honors for Club Media and Service



From March 6–8, IVC's Circle K International Club attended the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Convention in Rancho Cucamonga, where students participated in leadership development, service initiatives, and workshops alongside peers from across the region. The club earned 1st Place Outstanding Club Media, recognizing the exceptional work of Thy Pham, and Kristy Nguyen was honored as Outstanding District Chair for Communications and Marketing. Students were also recognized for their commitment to community service through the Membership Recognition Program, with honors awarded to Omar El Aloosy (bronze) and Kristy Nguyen (silver). Collectively, the club contributed more than 200 hours of service this year, demonstrating a strong dedication to civic engagement and leadership.

IVC Student Veterans Advocate on Capitol Hill During SVA Washington Week



IVC's Veterans Services Center recently celebrated a significant achievement as student leaders from the Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter represented the college during SVA's Washington Week in Washington, D.C. from March 2-4. Selected officers and members traveled to the nation's capital to advocate for enhanced veteran education services, demonstrating the leadership, professionalism, and commitment of IVC's veteran community. During the visit, students attended Senate hearings and met with legislative staff representing key California leaders. In these conversations, they shared personal stories and firsthand experiences as student veterans, helping illustrate the real-world impact of policies affecting military-affiliated students and the importance of continued legislative support. Through thoughtful advocacy and authentic storytelling, IVC's student veterans elevated the college's presence on a national stage while advancing awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing today's military-connected learners.

IVC Cybersecurity Program Earns National Security Agency Validation



IVC's Computer Information Management (CIM) Information Technology Associate of Science degree recently earned Program of Study Validation in Cyber Defense from the National Security Agency (NSA) through academic year 2031. On March 3, the NSA and a committee of academic peers confirmed the designation, recognizing the program's alignment with national standards in cybersecurity education. This achievement reflected months of dedicated work by the IVC CIM team to complete the rigorous validation process. The recognition affirms the strength of IVC's Cybersecurity Program and its role in preparing students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet growing workforce demands in cyber defense.

IVC Puente Engages in Transfer Exploration, Cultural Learning, and Community Service



During the first weeks of the Spring 2026 semester, IVC's Puente Program participated in a series of academic, cultural, and service-oriented experiences that highlighted student success and community engagement. On February 13, Puentistas traveled to the University of California, Riverside for the Community College Day: Transfer Student Conference, where they heard from featured speaker and IVC alumna, former Puentista Summer Sanchez-Cornejo. Students spent the afternoon at The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture. Later in February, Puente hosted its fourth annual Day of Service at the OC Food Bank, where students packaged 480 boxes of food for seniors across Orange and Riverside counties. Students were joined by President John Hernandez during a visit to the Hilbert Museum in Orange, where they explored the Emigdio Vasquez retrospective and further connected their learning to the mural "La Educación y El Trabajo" displayed in the IVC Library.

IVC Marketing and Creative Services Earns National Recognition at NCMPR Conference



At the 2025 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations National Conference held in Washington, D.C., IVC’s Marketing and Creative Services team received national recognition for excellence in marketing and communications. Competing among colleges across the country, IVC earned two prestigious Paragon Awards: a Gold Award in the Successful Inclusive Marketing and Communication Projects category for its Hispanic Marketing Campaign, developed in partnership with Gallegos United, and a Silver Award in the E-Newsletter category for The Hub E-Newsletter created by New Media and Marketing Specialist Ace Caguioa. Out of submissions nationwide, only 98 institutions were recognized across 48 categories, underscoring the significance of this achievement. These honors highlight the team’s creativity, strategic approach, and commitment to advancing inclusive storytelling that reflects and serves IVC’s diverse community.

Upcoming Events

Sexual Assault Awareness Month – Denim Day

April 29

Transfer Celebration

May 6

Conversations Faculty Dance Concert

April 30 and May 2

Love and Information

May 7-17

Shared Voices Dance Concert

May 1 and 3

Mozart Requiem

May 15

Guitar Ensemble

May 1

Piano Feast

May 18

Jazz Picnic

May 2

Theater Arts Showcase

May 19

Ear Launch Party

May 5

Commencement

May 21

Respectfully Submitted,

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

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President