



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: August 15, 2024

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the August 26, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

Laser Day Welcomes New Students to College Life



On August 14, Laser Day welcomed over 985 new students and their parents to campus. The annual event provides an opportunity for incoming students to connect with their peers and meet with faculty, staff, and current students ahead of the 2024-2025 school year. The day began with a warm welcome from college administrators, followed by a panel where current students answered questions from the new class. Attendees chose from various academic presentations and nine afternoon sessions on student success, covering topics like communities of color at IVC, undecided majors, and transfer pathways. A complimentary lunch and resource fair concluded the event, providing valuable information and support for the new school year.

IVC Ranked #1 Community College in California and #6 in the Nation by WalletHub



On August 13, personal finance website WalletHub published a list of the best community colleges in 2024. IVC is ranked the #1 community college in California and #6 nationwide. WalletHub compared over 650 community colleges across the United States, evaluating 18 key cost and quality indicators. They made their determination based on where students can receive the best education at the lowest price. [KNX](#), [KTLA](#), [CBS](#), [KFI](#), and [KCAL](#) also covered the story, further publicizing this honorable recognition. Read the full story [here](#).

Fall 2024 Professional Development Week at IVC



On August 12, the 2024-2025 academic year kicked off with a week of professional development opportunities. Faculty, staff, and administrators were invited to participate in over 85 sessions designed to enrich their professional skills and knowledge. The week began with the President's Opening Session, The State of the College, where Dr. John Hernandez celebrated college-wide achievements, previewed goals for the upcoming year's highlights, and discussed future opportunities for growth. The session began with a slideshow

showcasing employees' summer activities, creating a sense of community and connection. Professional development sessions emphasized Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, innovative pedagogical strategies, mental health resources, and artificial intelligence tools to enhance teaching across diverse learning environments.

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Amplifying LGBTQ+ Leadership in Higher Education



The American Council on Education's publication "Voices from the Field 2024: LGBTQ+ Presidents in Higher Education" features an interview with President John Hernandez. Despite ongoing efforts to diversify leadership in higher education, the representation of LGBTQ+ leaders remain marginalized. The American College President Study showed a modest increase in LGBTQ+ presidents from 4.5% in 2016 to 6.9% in 2022. However, research on their experiences is limited, leaving their narratives in the shadows. This brief aims to amplify the voices of five LGBTQ+ college presidents who have broken the silence by leading openly. They highlight the lack of visible pathways to leadership, the challenges of disclosure, and the need for leadership programs to be more inclusive. These insights underscore the importance of recognizing and supporting LGBTQ+ leadership in higher education to create more equitable pathways to the presidency. Read the publication [here](#).

Million Dollar Success for IVC Foundation



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, more than \$1 million was contributed through the IVC Foundation to support the students and programs of Irvine Valley College. This is the second year in a row that the IVC Foundation reached this milestone. All the funds contributed are invested in the students through scholarships, emergency fund grants, equipment purchases, bringing in guest speakers, supporting student attendance at conferences, and so much more. The IVC Foundation believes in contributing to a meaningful experience that enhances teaching and learning at IVC. They cultivate resources daily to provide access to an exceptional education and a caring campus community.

Five IVC Students Participate in Paid Undergraduate Research Experience



On August 8, IVC students Steve Salinas, Lucius Gibbons, Julissa Maupin, Angel Rivera, and Alexander Martinez presented their research posters during the 11th annual California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) summer research symposium. The students participated in Project RAISE (Regional Alliance in STEM Education) as part of the Undergraduate Research Experience at CSUF. IVC was one of nine community colleges in the area to have students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) conduct paid research at CSUF. This year's cohort included 46 participants, each receiving a \$5,000 stipend for their research and participation in the 8-week summer program. Four of IVC's participating students are members of the MESA Program. To learn more about the program visit ivc.edu/mesa.

SOCCCD and IVC Represented at Leadership Institute for Tomorrow (Lift)



On August 6, Chancellor Julianna Barnes and President John Hernandez participated in a CEO panel discussion during the Lift Institute hosted by California State University, Fullerton. The panel focused on leadership and its relationship to cultural and community wealth. Following the panel, they both participated in mentoring sessions with attendees. The Lift Institute is a five-day intensive symposium designed to empower emerging leaders through a transformative and self-reflective experience. The event focused on the intersection of cultural wealth, art, and technology, and it offers participants a unique opportunity to explore leadership within diverse communities both locally and globally.

IVC Dual Enrollment Programs Helps Northwood High School Student Find Success



On August 5, Northwood High School senior Ellen Wang was featured in a story highlighting IVC's Dual Enrollment program. Wang learned entrepreneur skills and launched Sunrise Venture, a nonprofit that connects students in 19 high schools with local entrepreneurs. Wang recounted her experience in the program as one that changed her life. Read the full story [here](#).

Honors Program Hosts Summer Events to Benefit Students



During July and August, the [Honors Program](#) offered a series of virtual workshops for continuing and incoming Honors students. Students learned how to conduct and present research and get published, write compelling transfer application essays, and ensure certification for Honors transfer agreements. The Honors Program provides a supportive learning community that nurtures academic, professional, and personal growth in highly motivated students from all backgrounds. Watch the Honors Program informational video [here](#).

IVC Highlights Achievements and Community Support at Irvine City Council Meeting



On July 23, President John Hernandez had the honor to present during the Irvine City Council meeting. The presentation highlighted IVC's accolades, student success, student support, programs, and recent campus improvements. IVC expressed its gratitude to the City and council members for their long-standing commitment through the Educational Partnership Fund that annually invests \$100,000 in student scholarships for Irvine residents and Early College at Beckman High School. [Click here to watch the meeting](#).

IVC's Women's Volleyball Team Recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement



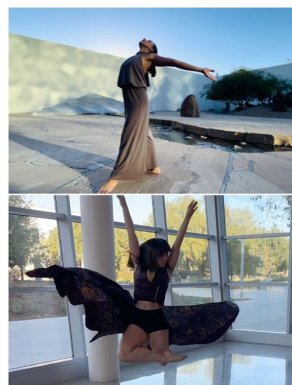
On July 21, the [women's volleyball team](#) was named a recipient of the 2024 [American Volleyball Coaches Association \(AVCA\)](#) Team Academic Award. More than 1,400 collegiate and high school volleyball programs maintained a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale) to earn the award for their classroom excellence during the recently completed academic year. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC Hosts Association of California Community Colleges Administrators' (ACCCA's) Admin 101 Program



From July 21-25, ACCCA's summer leadership training course, Admin 101 Program, returned to IVC for a second year. IVC is proud to serve as the location for the weeklong professional development opportunity offered to California Community College leaders. President John Hernandez welcomed the incoming cohort of candidates and provided an overview of IVC's efforts to reshape student success on campus. Topics covered throughout the week included governance, budget/finance, human resources, DEIA, change management, and a group project presentation. Congratulations to Academic Senate President Rebecca Beck, Director of Arts, Production Management Benjamin Penman, Director of Veterans Services Center Dylan Bender, Grant Project Manager for College Corps David Mendoza, and Interim Grant Project Manager for MESA César Montenegro for completing the training this summer.

IVC Dance Films Featured at Idaho Screendance Festival



On July 11, two short dance films created by IVC faculty members were screened at the Idaho Screendance Festival (IDF). The movie "A Declaration" was directed, choreographed, and edited by Teresa Jankovic, and "The Other Side of the Glass" was directed, choreographed, and edited by Jennifer La Curan. The films showcased IVC dancers, with costumes designed by IVC Costume Designer Christina Perez. The IDF, established in 2018, is an annual event featuring a selection of film screenings and workshops over two days. During the pandemic, the IVC dance department expanded its offerings to include dance film production. This burgeoning field in the dance world has enabled our students and faculty to acquire and hone new, increasingly relevant skills in contemporary arts communities.

IVC Chorale Travels to and Performs in France



In July, members of the IVC Chorale traveled to France to participate in the Paris Choral Festival, commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Liberation of France. They visited Normandy, including Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery, where they performed during a wreath-laying ceremony. The group also explored cultural sites like Mont Saint-Michel and the Rouen Cathedral, famously painted by Claude Monet. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Impressionist exhibition, they visited Monet's home in Giverny before heading to Paris. In Paris, the singers joined a 350-voice

choir to perform the Duruflé Requiem at the Church of the Madeleine under the direction of Dr. Craig Jessop. They also toured Paris and visited the Louvre Museum. This transformative experience, supported by the IVC Foundation, broadened the students' worldviews and deepened their connection to music as a universal language. The program extends their gratitude to the Board of Trustees and IVC Administration for their continued support.

Professor Julie Kirk Searching for Missing People in New Mexico Wildfires



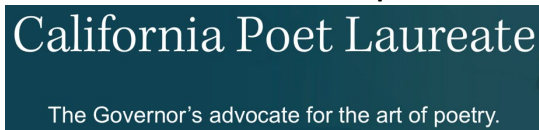
In late June, IVC Professor Julie Kirk Purcell deployed with her human remains detection canine, Keres, to Ruidoso, New Mexico, in the wake of the wildfires there. She was part of a 20-canine strike team sent to Search 1,300 burned structures in the region. Over five days, the canines searched all structures with no finds, and all missing people were accounted for. Keres sustained a couple of minor injuries but is fully healed now. Keres is a four-year-old female Belgian Malinois who was certified by the FEMA system last November. They are both part of CATF5, managed by OCFA.

Three IVC Puentistas receive Hispanic Education Endowment Fund Scholarships



For over 30 years, the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund has awarded over \$3.8 million in scholarships to over 2,700 outstanding Orange County Hispanic students. This year, three IVC Puentistas were selected to receive awards. Summer Sanchez-Cornejo is the recipient of the Alvarado Smith Raymond G. Alvarado Scholarship. This scholarship supports Latino students pursuing law school and demonstrated leadership and involvement in the Latino community. Sanchez-Cornejo transferred to UC Riverside this fall, where she will major in Political Science as a pre-law student. Izack Padilla received the Lara Family Scholarship. Padilla transferred to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall, where he will study Industrial Design and Packaging at the Orfalea College of Business. Jaquelin Salgado was awarded the Sandra Y. Cervantes Scholarship. Salgado transferred to UC Berkeley this fall, where her intended major is Media Studies, with an emphasis on law and policy.

Two additional IVC Puentistas published in "Our California"



Poems written by Dalilah Vazquez and Kimberly Zavala were chosen to represent Orange County and published online in "My California," a project of the California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick and the California Arts Council.

Vazquez and Zavala's poems bring IVC Puente's contribution to the statewide project to four since poems by Elena Gookin and Ana Hernandez were selected earlier this year. The project received hundreds of submissions from writers of all ages and backgrounds from all over California. Click [here](#) to read their poems.

Professor of Art History Appointed to College Art Association Committee



Professor of Art History Amy Grimm has been appointed to the College Art Association's Committee on Research and Scholarship. Dr. Grimm successfully developed a panel and call for proposals for "Expanding the Practice of Research: Transdisciplinarity in Art and Art History" for the New York City Conference in February 2025.

Dr. Patricia Beckmann Wells Premieres Film at TikTok Headquarters



Professor of Interactive Media Arts Patricia Beckmann Wells premiered her film “Mombomb, part 1” at TikTok’s headquarters. The screening was part of the [AI Artist Festival](#) and will continue to tour multiple film festivals. [The film also won second place](#) in the Meta Morph Award Festival for best story. Additionally, Dr. Beckmann Wells worked this summer on the second edition of “Face It: A Visual Reference for Multi-ethnic Facial Modeling” with husband Scott W. Wells, Senior Character

Artist on the Call of Duty franchise, and publisher Taylor Francis. Dr. Beckmann Wells will lecture on informed character design at Pixar, Dreamworks, Walt Disney Animation Studios, and the Epic Games Metahuman Project.

Upcoming Events

Health Fair

August 27

Club Day

September 4

Dance Master Class – Latin with Jennelle Wax

September 10

Dance Master Class – Contemporary with Nikiya Palombi

September 26

Walk of Hope: Suicode Awareness

September 24

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President