

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

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

DATE: August 20, 2026

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the August 31, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting**

New Students Welcomed at Laser Day



On August 12, Laser Day welcomed 1,025 incoming students and their families to campus for an engaging introduction to college life. The annual event connected new students with faculty, classified professionals, student leaders, and peers while helping them prepare for a successful start to the 2026–27 academic year. The day began with a warm welcome from college leadership, information on how to get involved in Student Life, a welcome message from ASIVC President Luka Krezovic, and a

student panel where current students shared their experiences and answered questions. Attendees participated in academic presentations and chose breakout sessions focused on student success, including topics such as transfer pathways, support for students of color, returning to school as adult learners, and navigating college as an undecided major. Lunch and a campus resource fair rounded out the day, providing students with valuable tools, resources, and connections for a successful start at IVC. [View photos here.](#)

IVC President's Opening Session and Professional Development Week



On August 10, IVC launched the Fall 2026 semester with Professional Development Week, featuring more than 80 workshops and learning opportunities designed to enhance employee knowledge, foster collaboration, and support student success. Organized by the Academic Affairs Committee and [The Hub, IVC's Center for Professional Learning](#), the week showcased the innovative work taking place across the college while preparing faculty and classified professionals for the semester ahead. The

President's Opening Session officially kicked off the week, bringing together the campus community and district colleagues both in person and virtually. President Hernandez delivered a State of the College address, celebrating institutional achievements and sharing the college's vision and priorities for the year ahead. The session concluded with a reception, providing attendees an opportunity to reconnect and celebrate the start of the new academic year. [View photos here.](#)

President's Annual Lunch



IVC continued its tradition of bringing employees together for the annual President's Lunch on August 13. The event, now in its fifth year, provided an opportunity for faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to connect with the president while enjoying time together as a campus community and celebrating the start of the Fall 2026 semester. The gathering highlighted the importance of collaboration, engagement, and the shared commitment of employees in supporting student success. [View photos here.](#)

College for Kids Thrives at IVC This Summer



This summer, IVC partnered with five companies to offer 41 classes over a seven-week period. A total of 455 children participated in academic and personal enrichment courses, providing young learners with opportunities to explore new interests, build confidence, and experience the college campus in a fun and engaging environment.

ACCCA's Admin 101 Program Returns to IVC for Fourth Year of Leadership Development at IVC



IVC served as the host campus for the Association of California Community College Administrators' (ACCCA) Admin 101 Program, held from July 19-23. Now in its fourth consecutive year at IVC, the intensive summer training brought together emerging leaders from across California's community colleges for a week of professional learning, collaboration, and practical skill-building. The curriculum covered essential topics, including governance, budget and finance, human resources, equity, and change management. The week concluded with participants delivering group project presentations that reflected their learning and growth in leadership. President Hernandez welcomed this year's cohort with remarks that highlighted IVC's innovative strategies for advancing student success and institutional transformation. Congratulations to the IVC leadership who completed the 2026 program: Director of Dual Enrollment Ryan Cummins; Assistant Director of Marketing and Creative Services Melanie Buettner; Interim Director of Facilities Anna Petrossian; Registrar Moe Rasouli; and SOCCCD Acting Human Resources Supervisor Denice Hernandez.

ACCCA Great Deans Participation



During the week of July 13, Dr. Angel Hernandez, IVC dean of Counseling Services, participated in the ACCCA Great Deans Program kickoff in Sacramento. The eight-month leadership development program brings together deans from across California to strengthen their leadership capacity and prepares them to serve effectively within the California Community Colleges system. The 2026 cohort includes 44 deans from instruction and student services representing 33 colleges. The program focuses on four key areas: equity and social justice; supervision and leadership; administrative policies, procedures and structures; and networking, community building and personal wellness.

IVC Recognized Among Top 25 Community Colleges in the Nation



IVC has been recognized as the **#5** community college in California by [WalletHub](https://www.wallethub.com) and is among the **top 25** community colleges in the nation.

IVC Veteran Services Director Featured at Statewide Veterans Summit



IVC Director of Veteran Services Dylan Bender served as a featured presenter at the 13th Annual California Community Colleges Veterans Summit in Indian Wells. Bender delivered the conference's closing keynote, "The Warrior Adaptation: How We Can Play a Critical Role in Moving Veterans from Transition to Direction," highlighting strategies to help student veterans build purpose, community, and long-term success.

He also led two breakout sessions on veteran transition, student engagement, and student success, sharing effective practices with higher education professionals from across California. Bender's participation reflects IVC's continued leadership in veteran education and its ongoing commitment to supporting student veterans and military-connected students.

Advancing Student Navigation Through a Comprehensive Wayfinding and Signage Initiative



IVC is making significant progress on its Student-Focused Campuswide Signage Implementation Project, a comprehensive wayfinding initiative designed to improve navigation, accessibility, [communication](#), and campus identity. The project will create a unified system of exterior and interior signage, digital directories, and electronic marquee displays. By integrating physical and digital wayfinding tools, the college is creating a more welcoming, intuitive, and accessible environment. The campus successfully

completed phase one of the project, including installation of new exterior building identification signs and interior room signage across all instructional and student-facing facilities, with remaining non-instructional buildings to follow. Future phases include additional exterior wayfinding elements, campus kiosks, vehicular and pedestrian directional signage, reinstalled digital displays, and new electronic marquee signs at key campus entrances, completing IVC's first fully integrated campuswide wayfinding system. The construction phase of the project started this summer, and overall completion is anticipated by spring 2027.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Leaders



On July 24, IVC hosted the IgniteHER Summit in partnership with Girls Inc. of Orange County and Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, welcoming girls grades seven through 11 for a dynamic day of empowerment and skill building. The event opened with welcome remarks from Vice President Martha McDonald, followed by an inspiring keynote from California Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero. Participants engaged in interactive workshops on financial literacy, personal branding, goal setting, creativity, and confidence,

with highlights including "Money Matters," elevator pitch coaching, and "Strong, Smart, and Bold Skills." A resource fair and networking lunch connected students with community partners, and a panel of accomplished women leaders offered insight and encouragement. The summit provided practical tools and meaningful inspiration, equipping students to envision and pursue bold futures. [View photos from IgniteHER event.](#)

Girls Inc. STEM Camps

Girls Inc. STEM Camps were held at IVC from July 6–17, engaging approximately 40 students in grades 1–6 in an immersive “Space Quest” curriculum. Participants took on the role of Space Cadets in a simulated Space Academy, completing interactive missions focused on space exploration. Throughout the program, students learned about influential STEMInistas, explored the tools and technologies used in space science, and addressed real-world challenges faced by STEM professionals. The camp provided a dynamic, hands-on learning experience that fostered curiosity and early interest in STEM fields. The partnership between IVC and Girls Inc. of Orange County began in Summer 2025. To formalize and strengthen this relationship, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed in January 2026. The MOU establishes a framework for collaboration in support of Girls Inc. of Orange County's non-school-based programs, which are centrally located in Irvine, Tustin, and Santa Ana. The agreement also expands opportunities to offer programming on IVC's campus, providing participating families with greater access to educational resources, enrichment activities, and college engagement opportunities.

Samueli Foundation Investment Expands Opportunities



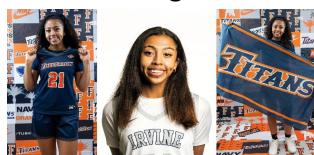
This summer, IVC's MESA Program expanded its STEM Projects Advancing Research & Knowledge (SPARK) Program through support from the Samueli Foundation, transforming the initiative from an eight-week research experience into a comprehensive 10-week STEM research and experiential learning program. A new SPARK Skills Lab provided intensive training in programming, electronics, artificial intelligence, data analysis, engineering design, scientific research methods, and professional communication. The program

served 48 students from IVC, Fullerton College, and Orange Coast College, strengthening regional STEM transfer pathways through the Samueli Collaborative Grant. Reciprocal opportunities also enabled IVC students to participate in specialized STEM programs at partner colleges. Following the Skills Lab, IVC students conducted faculty-mentored research through August 6 under the guidance of Professors Alec Sim and Steven Nguyen, with continued support from NASA. Students completed 16 research projects spanning aerospace engineering, robotics, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, renewable energy, chemistry, physics, and advanced manufacturing. The expanded program also increased student stipends to \$7,500, reducing financial barriers while supporting deeper engagement in research. The program concluded with a student research poster session during FLEX Week, showcasing the innovative work of the college's emerging STEM scholars and highlighting IVC's commitment to expanding undergraduate research, transfer success, and career pathways in STEM. [View MESA SPARK photos here.](#)

IVC Model United Nations Earns National Recognition

During the 2025–2026 academic year, IVC's Model United Nations (MUN) team soared to new heights, earning 31 awards, including 11 at national conferences in Washington, D.C., and New York. IVC was one of only two community colleges to receive Outstanding Delegation honors at the national conferences, recognizing the top five percent of participating institutions. The team also earned 20 awards at regional conferences, chaired multiple committees at the national level, and had three recent alumni serve as assistant directors. In addition, IVC MUN hosted two Global Policy Forums for the campus community, fostering discussion on current international issues and global policy challenges.

Alexis Price Signs with Cal State Fullerton



Standout IVC women's basketball player Alexis Price will continue her career at NCAA Division I Cal State Fullerton. A 6-foot sophomore wing from Downey High, Price earned first-team All-Orange Empire Conference honors for the second straight season and was named second-team all-state after helping the Lasers capture an Orange Empire Conference title and advance to the CCCAA State Championship Tournament. IVC finished 26-5 and ranked No. 7 in the final state poll. Price averaged 13.9 points, 8.1 rebounds, 2.2 assists, 1.9 steals and 1.5 blocks per game in 2025-26, scoring in double figures 23 times, including a season-high 31 points in a road win over Mt. San Jacinto.

IVC Tennis Star Named ITA Player of the Year



IVC's freshman men's tennis player Philip Neuman was named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) 3C2A Player of the Year following an outstanding season that helped lead the Lasers to a state championship. Neuman captured the men's singles state title at the Ojai Tournament, defeating teammate Steven Anderson in the championship final, and finished the season ranked No. 1 in singles by the ITA while earning All-American honors. A native of Luxembourg, Neuman was also named Orange Empire Conference Player of the Year, while IVC men's tennis posted a 14-1 overall record under Head Coach Ross Duncan. IVC's men's tennis team captured its second consecutive state title.

Early Childhood Education Registered Apprenticeship Program Launches with Strong Community Interest



IVC, in partnership with the Training and Research Foundation (TRF) and OC Pathways, recently hosted an information session for its new Early Childhood Education Registered Apprenticeship Program, drawing a strong turnout from prospective participants interested in launching careers in early childhood education. The innovative two-year earn-and-learn program combines paid employment with academic instruction, allowing apprentices to work in paid positions with TRF while completing approximately 2,000 hours of work-based learning. Participants in the program will also complete 24 units of designated IVC Early Childhood Education coursework at no cost, receive workplace mentoring and college support, demonstrate competencies aligned with both classroom learning and employment, and gain opportunities for wage progression and career advancement. The inaugural cohort will include up to 12 apprentices, with coursework beginning in late August. Apprenticeship positions may be available at TRF program locations in Santa Ana, Tustin, and Riverside. The Registered Apprenticeship Program reflects IVC's commitment to expanding innovative workforce pathways that address regional employment needs while creating affordable, accessible opportunities for students to earn credentials and gain valuable career experience simultaneously.

IVC Counselor Appointed to Statewide LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee



IVC Counselor Heather Johnson has been selected to serve on the California Community Colleges LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee for the 2026-27 academic year. The statewide advisory committee provides an opportunity for community college professionals to collaborate on strengthening resources, advancing equity and supporting LGBTQ+ students and employees across California's community colleges. Johnson brings extensive experience supporting LGBTQ+ students, including her previous service as an LGBTQ+ club adviser at San Bernardino Valley College and her current role as an IVC Pride Scholars counselor. She will contribute her experience and perspective in student advocacy as the committee works to foster welcoming, supportive and inclusive community college environments.

ABA Reapproves IVC's Paralegal Studies Program through 2033



This spring, the IVC Law and Paralegal Studies Department hosted a virtual site visit conducted by the American Bar Association (ABA) as part of its periodic reapproval process. The rigorous reapproval process involves a comprehensive evaluation of the program. During the week-long virtual visit, the ABA site team conducted interviews via Zoom with key campus departments that support IVC paralegal students, including the Library, Admissions and Records, Counseling, and the Office of Instruction. The site team also observed a class, met with part-time paralegal faculty, and held discussions with current students and program graduates and conferred with the Paralegal Advisory Board, who highlighted IVC's strong industry connections. Following their thorough review, the site team recommended IVC for reapproval with no formal recommendations for improvement, and the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals formally voted to grant full reapproval through 2033.

Inaugural High School Math Contest Builds Strong Regional Partnerships



IVC successfully launched its inaugural High School Math Contest, held in celebration of Pi Day, welcoming teams from eight local high schools for a day of academic competition and campus engagement. Coordinated by mathematics faculty members Deanna Valdez and Dr. Sanjai Gupta, the event strengthened partnerships with local schools while introducing prospective students to IVC's academic programs and campus community. Following a challenging mathematics competition, students participated in campus tours led by Student Ambassadors, connected with faculty and peers, and were recognized during an awards ceremony honoring top individual and team performances. The Mathematics Department plans to establish the competition as an annual tradition that promotes mathematical excellence and strengthens the college's outreach to future students.

Arts Promenade Highlighted by MWDOC



IVC's Arts Promenade was recently highlighted by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) for its significant water-saving landscape transformation. The project converted more than 34,500 square feet of turf into a water-efficient landscape featuring more than 100 trees and approximately 8,000 California native and climate-appropriate

plants. Through MWDOC's Turf Replacement Program, the transformation is estimated to save approximately 1.5 million gallons of water annually while creating a more sustainable and welcoming campus environment.

Upcoming Events

Club Day

September 2

Day of Remembrance – 9/11

September 10 at 11:30 am

Walk of Hope: Featuring a Health and Wellness Expo

September 15

Arts Promenade Ribbon Cutting

September 30 at 9 am

Giving Day

October 15

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President