

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

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

**DATE:** December 5, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **President's Report for the December 16, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

### IVC Holiday Mingle Brings Campus Community Together



On December 3, the President's Office hosted a holiday open house in the Performing Arts Center lobby, welcoming IVC faculty, staff, and administrators. Attendees enjoyed an inviting atmosphere with charcuterie boards, cookies, desserts, tea, and coffee. The event provided a perfect opportunity to connect with colleagues and enjoy a moment of relaxation during the busy end-of-semester rush. View photos from the event [here](#).

### IVC Hosts Partners and Pancakes Breakfast



On December 3, IVC welcomed over 100 attendees to the inaugural Partners and Pancakes Breakfast at the IVC at ATEP campus, launching its yearlong 40th-anniversary celebration. The event brought together employers, advisory board members, community partners, alumni, students, faculty, and staff to honor IVC's legacy of student empowerment, workforce innovation, and community impact. It also set the stage for the college's ongoing commitment to expanding Career Education programs, aligning with the ever-changing needs of employers and the workforce. South Orange County Community College District Chancellor Dr. Julianna M. Asperin Barnes moderated the panel discussion on "The Importance of Workforce Development in Orange County." Panelists included Jeffrey Ball, President and CEO of the Orange County Business Council; Randy Mees, Director at Edwards Lifesciences; and Ves Vafadari, Assurance Manager at Moss Adams and a proud IVC alumnus. The morning also included inspiring remarks from student speaker Haley Barrios from the [Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement \(MESA\)](#) program. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Classified Senate Spreads Holiday Cheer with Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets



On November 25, the Classified Senate teamed up with Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), the Office of Student Equity, and College Corps to continue a campus tradition: the annual Thanksgiving dinner giveaway. This event promotes community support for students facing food insecurity during the holiday season. This year, the team's collaborative efforts raised enough funds to assemble 100 Thanksgiving dinner baskets, 40 more baskets than last year. Special thanks to all the employees whose dedication and hard work made this event possible. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Music Students Shine at Statewide Conference



winning the MACCC Composition Competition.

The IVC Music Department recently attended the San Diego Music Association of California Community Colleges (MACCC) conference from November 21 to 23. Twenty-seven students and four faculty and staff members participated in this annual event celebrating musical excellence and collaboration across the state. Students participated in piano and composition masterclasses and performed in the intercollegiate honor band and intercollegiate honor choir. A highlight of the conference was second-year music major Brandon Yang's achievement of

### IVC Participates in Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise



critical decision-making, crisis communication, and interagency coordination. It served as a powerful reminder of the importance of readiness in emergencies.

On November 21, IVC participated in the third annual Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise hosted by the Emergency Preparedness Interagency Collaborative (EPIC). IVC's team of seven joined over 100 colleagues from regional public safety agencies and educational institutions. Founded in 2014 by the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD), EPIC fosters collaboration on safety and preparedness in the Greater Irvine area. This year's exercise focused on earthquake response and recovery, providing training in

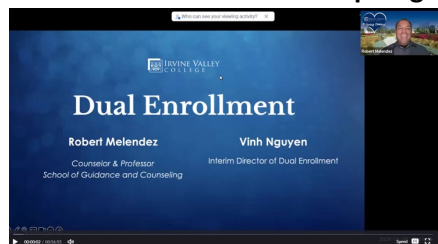
### Campus Community Comes Together for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week



included community webinars that delved into the complex and interconnected issues of hunger and homelessness in Orange County.

IVC observed [Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week \(HHAW\)](#), a series of events to inform and connect the campus community to vital resources. The events included a CalFresh Workshop, a Resource Fair, and a Homelessness 101 class presented by United Way Orange County. The CalFresh Workshop provided information about eligibility and the application processes for food assistance benefits, helping students access critical support. At the Resource Fair, students, faculty, and staff were introduced to various on- and off-campus services, including IVC's Basic Needs Program, which offers assistance with food security, housing, and other essential services. The week also

### IVC Outreach Hosts Virtual Spotlight Week



This year's Virtual Spotlight Week hosted 289 high school students and their parents. The weeklong series of live webinars offered valuable insights for high school students, parents, and guardians exploring opportunities at IVC. Daily sessions covered essential topics, including financial aid, the Irvine Valley Promise Program, the IVC Honors Program, pathways for transferring to four-year universities, career education programs, and dual enrollment.

### IVC Financial Aid Office Reports Growth in Applications



The Financial Aid Office reported increased financial aid applications for Fall 2024, despite ongoing challenges with the delayed 2024-2025 FAFSA form. Compared to Fall 2023, the office has received approximately 1,000 additional FAFSA and CADAA applications. This growth reflects the effectiveness of dedicated outreach efforts and commitment to supporting students.

### Marketing and Creative Services Receives Five Medallion Awards



Marketing and Creative Services team was recently recognized with five Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District Six. The team earned accolades in the following categories: Gold for Communication Success Story ("Youngest Graduate"), Gold for Microsite/Landing Page (Veterans Sound Off), Silver for Social Media Post or Story ("Voices of IVC"), Silver for Logo Design (Arts Village), and Silver for Special Event (Arts Village Grand Opening). The awards highlight the team's creativity and innovation in marketing and communications. NCMPR District Six includes all community colleges in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Territory of Guam.

### Ruby Pastrana Named Community College Counselor of the Year



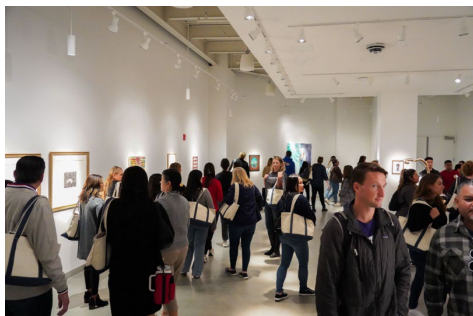
IVC Counselor Ruby Pastrana was named the Community College Counselor of the Year in the 2024-2025 Orange County Counselor Recognition Program. This prestigious award, presented by the Orange County Department of Education, recognizes Pastrana's unwavering dedication to student success and her exceptional contributions to school counseling. Pastrana will be honored at the Orange County Counselor Symposium on February 5, 2025.

### Financial Aid Outreach at Tustin High School



On November 13, Erica Lehman, Student Services Specialist in the IVC Financial Aid Office, presented to high school seniors attending Tustin High School's College Application Day. Over multiple sessions, students received an overview of federal and state financial aid programs, important tips and deadlines to know when applying for financial aid, and hands-on instruction on how to create their student portal log-ins. This outreach effort prepared Tustin High School seniors to apply for the 2025-2026 FAFSA and CADAA applications when the forms become available. Students also learned about the benefits and eligibility requirements for the Irvine Valley Promise Program. Lehman was accompanied on this Financial Aid outreach visit by IVC federal work-study students, one of whom is a recent Tustin High School alum.

### IVC Hosts Annual High School Counselors Conference



On November 8, IVC welcomed 135 high school counselors and college/career technicians to the annual High School Counselors Conference. This year's conference featured an in-depth look at IVC's latest initiatives, including new state-of-the-art student facilities, Irvine Valley Promise Program updates, pre-registration (matriculation) changes, and financial aid processes. Attendees also joined breakout sessions that explored Information Management and Computer Science, Transfer Programs, and the IVC Honors Program. A highlight of the day was a behind-the-scenes tour of the Arts Village led by the IVC School of the Arts faculty and Interim Dean. View photos [here](#).

### Puente Program Celebrates Tradition, Motivation, and Connection



In November, the Puente Program continued to foster community, culture, and empowerment with two events. IVC Puente participated in the 22nd annual Noche de Altares in Santa Ana, an El Centro Cultural de Mexico project for the third consecutive year. Puentistas worked alongside Professor Lisa Alvarez to build their altar, remaining until nearly midnight to honor their loved ones. Later in the month, Puentistas traveled to UC San Diego for the SoCal Puente Transfer Motivational Conference. Students joined hundreds of peers across Southern California for a day filled with campus tours, workshops, and networking with university representatives. The conference featured an inspiring keynote by Rafael Agustin, author of "Illegally Yours." The day concluded with a visit to Chicano Park, home to the world's largest collection of Chicano murals.

### IVC Model United Nations: A Decade of Excellence



IVC's Model United Nations team won two Outstanding Delegation awards at the National Model UN Conference held in Washington, D.C. (NMUN DC). IVC MUN has won the top award to NMUN DC 10 years in a row. IVC was one of only three colleges out of the 35 in attendance and the only community college to win two top awards. The team consisted of 16 students who represented Nigeria and Pakistan on five different committees. They addressed such issues as autonomous lethal weapons, upholding human rights during emergency migration, and environmental sustainability in the tourism industry. Additionally, the team won a Best Delegate and Position Paper award for their outstanding work in achieving inclusive and actionable solutions. The wins at NMUN DC follow the four awards the team won at the PACMUN conference hosted by Riverside City College on October 12. The team will travel to the New York National Model United Nations Conference in Spring 2025.

### IVC Circle K International Earns 2nd Place for Outstanding T-Shirt Design



IVC Circle K International Club members attended the annual California-Nevada-Hawaii District Fall Training Conference in Santa Maria. IVC Circle K proudly brought home the 2nd place award for Outstanding Club T-shirt. The t-shirt, designed by Vibhas Ippili, showcases the club's otter mascot flipping pancakes, a nod to the club's tradition of supporting pancake breakfasts hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Irvine at local elementary schools. The club officers were vital in planning the conference and hosting workshops. IVC's Circle K members contributed to a significant service project, collecting and donating over 2,000 hygiene items. These supplies were packaged into kits during the event and donated to a local shelter, making a meaningful impact on the community. Special thanks go to the Kiwanis Club of Irvine for their generous support, which helped make the trip possible.

### Celebrating 10 Semi-Annual Adult ESL Mini-Conferences: "Sit with their Stories"



On November 1, the South Orange County Regional Consortium ([SOCRC](#)) celebrated the 10th Semi-Annual Adult ESL (AESL) Mini-Conference. This collaborative professional development event brings together educators committed to empowering adult learners in our community. The Mini-Conference was hosted in person for the first time since the inaugural conference in Spring 2020. The theme, "Sit with their Stories," invited educators to learn from the lived experiences of a panel of seven AESL students from IVC and Saddleback. For many of these students, it was their first time participating in such an event, and they rose to the occasion with courage and grace. Their stories were inspiring, offering faculty invaluable insights into the resilience and determination of adult learners.

### IVC Dance Participates in Palm Springs International Dance Festival



During November, IVC Dancers and department chair Jennifer La Curan traveled to the Palm Springs International Dance Festival, founded by the Michael Nickerson-Rossi Dance Company. The team presented two faculty works and one student work across two performances. The students also participated in classes taught by members of the Nickerson-Rossi Dance Company, Sean Curran, a New York-based artist who leads Sean Curran Dance and teaches at New York University, and Ellen Rosa Taylor from Idyllwild Arts. Since

its inception in Spring 2019, this festival has become an annual tradition for IVC dancers, offering opportunities to connect with working dance professionals and providing students with opportunities for networking, skill development, and artistic growth.

### IVC Professors Share Best Practices at AB705/AB1705 Coalition Convening



Professor of English as a Second Language (ESL) Rebecca Beck and Professor of English Summer Serpas were invited to present at a virtual convening hosted by the Campaign for College Opportunity. This gathering brought together advocates and partners of the AB705/AB1705 coalition. Their presentation, "Understanding ESL and English Best Practices," highlighted IVC's ESL credit program as a model of best practices for California.

### ELEVATE AAPI's Fall Events



In October and November, Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer, and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (ELEVATE AAPI) hosted a series of student events, creating opportunities for cultural enrichment, community building, and learning. On October 19, students attended a performance of the Broadway musical “Little Shop of Horrors” at South Coast Repertory. For many, this was their first experience attending a live theater performance, making it an unforgettable introduction to the performing arts. On November

13, ELEVATE AAPI collaborated with IVC’s Spanish Department to host “Noche de Baile” in the Center for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander (CAANAPI). Over 80 students learned how to dance salsa and merengue while learning the rich history behind these dances. On November 16, students visited the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. Highlights included views of the Hollywood Sign, guided tours of the observatory, interactive exhibits, and attending planetarium shows.

### IVC’s GAP4+1 Program Highlighted on ABC News for Business Etiquette Training



On October 31, ABC News featured a segment emphasizing the critical role of business etiquette training in preparing college students for the professional workforce. The story spotlighted [IVC’s GAP4+1 program](#), showcasing its innovative approach to equipping students with professional skills beyond the classroom. The full story, “Young Adults Learn Do’s and Don’ts of Business Etiquette, How to Interact After Graduation”, can be viewed [here](#). GAP4+1 is a pathways partnership with California State University, Fullerton, that began in 2016. Since its inception, the program has served more than 260 students.

### Exploring the Art of Chinese Calligraphy with Professor Joanne Chen



On October 22, Professor Joanne Chen hosted a Chinese calligraphy demonstration for 25 students, faculty, and staff. The interactive session allowed students to learn about the history and artistry of Chinese calligraphy. Attendees learned how to use a Chinese brush and ink to craft delicate strokes, gaining a deeper appreciation for the skill and mindfulness required. Participants drew pandas and inscribed a Chinese saying on a bookmark to take home as a keepsake.

### Fourth Year in a Row: IVC Professor Massimo Mitolo Among World’s Most-Cited Scientists



Professor Massimo Mitolo, from the School of Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation, was named among the top 2% of the world’s most-cited scientists. This prestigious recognition comes from a publicly available [database published by Stanford University](#), which ranks researchers based on metrics such as total citations, h-index, co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, and more. Professor Mitolo is ranked 576th out of 100,000 scientists included in the list.

The database is based on the August 1, 2024, snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of the citation year 2023. Calculations were performed using all Scopus author profiles as of August 1, 2024.

### IVC Puentistas Published in “Latinx Voices”



Three IVC Puentistas had their work featured in the inaugural volume of “Latinx Voices,” published by the Ethnic Studies department of Saddleback College. This edition showcases powerful pieces that highlight the voices and experiences of the Latinx community, offering crucial narratives that emphasize resilience, strength, and culture. Among the featured works are “La Caminata Inolvidable” by Daneida Valencia, “Chef Smokey” by Emely Limon, and “Un Beso en mi Mano” by Ana Hernandez. These excerpts stem from research projects these students worked on during their Writing and Research course last spring, demonstrating their academic abilities and dedication to sharing stories that matter most to their community.

### Creativity and Talent Shine at IVC’s Performing Arts Center



Throughout the fall, the Performing Arts Center showcased the incredible talent of its music, theatre, and dance departments with a series of unforgettable performances. The Music Department delivered various events, from the Music@Noon Student Recital Series and Sophomore Recital to December’s festive Yuletide Piano duet and the grand Symphony Orchestra Concert. Other notable performances included the lively Jazz Ensemble Concert and the Music 59 Concert, featuring original student compositions. In theater, “The Tempest” captivated audiences with a futuristic take on Shakespeare’s classic. “Into the Woods” offered a fresh perspective on Stephen Sondheim’s intertwining fairy tales. The season concluded with the Musical Theater Showcase, highlighting students’ versatility and stage presence. Dance performances featured the Equal Pairs Dance Concert, a celebration of contemporary and classical choreography, and the Choreographic Showcase, where students presented original work they created.

### IVC Professor Lisa Montagne’s Recently Published Book Explores Humanity’s Future



English instructor and poet Lisa Montagne’s recent publication, “Robot Lover,” explores the balance between humanity, nature, and technology. This poetry collection examines our evolving relationship with artificial intelligence and asks, “Will we become robot lovers?” The book’s foreword, by Mike Bonifer, sets the stage for the poetry collection, which draws on centuries of human curiosity about intelligence and explores timely themes in today’s era of artificial intelligence. Montagne illustrated the book herself using pen and ink, grounding the futuristic themes with a timeless, handmade touch.

### Upcoming Events

#### Musical Theater Showcase

December 18

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.  
President