

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

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

**DATE:** December 4, 2025

**SUBJECT:** **President's Report for the December 15, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **IVC Holiday Mingle Welcomes Campus Community for Seasonal Celebration**



On December 2, the President's Office hosted the Holiday Mingle in the Performing Arts Center, creating a cheerful and inviting space for employees to gather. The open house featured refreshments and warm conversation, offering colleagues a welcome opportunity to reconnect and unwind as the fall semester neared its close. This year's celebration continued IVC's tradition of fostering community and gratitude during the holiday season. The campus community was encouraged to support students by contributing non-perishable food items for The Spot: Center for Basic Needs, reinforcing the college's commitment to fostering a caring campus. View photos [here](#).

### **Restock the Spot Holiday Can Drive; Classified Senate Supports Student Basic Needs**



From December 1–11, the Classified Senate partnered with College Corps to host "Restock the Spot: Holiday Can Drive" in support of The Spot: Center for Basic Needs. Classified professionals were invited to donate highly needed items, including canned goods, rice, pasta, instant meals, and hygiene and personal care products. College Corps fellows staffed the collection tents while Classified staff volunteered, contributed donations, and helped promote the effort across campus. The initiative helped ensure students had access to essential resources during a critical time of year, while simultaneously strengthening connection, engagement, and community-building among Classified professionals.

### **AESL 505 Students Support Local Families Through Thanksgiving Food Drive**



Ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday on November 21, students in the AESL 505 course with Professor Gail Schwartz organized a voluntary food drive to support Families Forward, a local nonprofit serving homeless and housing-insecure families in Orange County. Class members collected nonperishable items and then coordinated delivery of the donations directly to the organization as an act of community service. The act of service provided the class with space to celebrate before the holiday, creating time for connection and fellowship among adult learners.

### IVC Honors Native American Heritage Month with Film Screening and Community Dialogue



IVC hosted a screening of “On the Backs of Our Ancestors” in recognition of [Native American Heritage Month](#) on November 19. Students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to explore themes of Indigenous history, resilience, and culture. The event featured a facilitated discussion led by Professor of Ethnic Studies Araceli Centanino with the film Director Todd Perry, Acjachemen Tribal Leader Mark Mendez, Cultural Resource Director with the Juaneño Band of

Mission Indians Juanita Joyce Perry, and Cultural Resource Director of the Gabrieleño Tongva Tribe Sam Dunlap. The panel discussion provided meaningful context on the lived experiences and enduring contributions of local Indigenous communities. The campus reflected on the importance of historical awareness and ongoing efforts to honor the peoples whose ancestral homelands IVC occupies. Also in attendance were SOCCCD Trustees Marcia Milchiker and Dr. Terri Rydell. This program strengthened the college’s commitment to fostering an environment rooted in respect, cultural understanding, and community partnership, reinforcing dedication to inclusive learning and shared stewardship. View photos [here](#).

### Noche de Baile Celebrates Latin Dance and Cross-Cultural Connection



On November 19, Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (ELEVATE AAPI) partnered with the IVC Spanish Department to host Noche de Baile, an evening of salsa and merengue held in the Center for Asian American, Native American and Pacific Islanders (CAANAPI). Spanish Professors Karla Lemari and Beatrice Tseng led the workshop, which drew more than 100 students, faculty, and staff. Participants

learned about the history and cultural significance of salsa and merengue, immersed themselves in the rhythms of Latin culture through dance lessons and singing in Spanish, and enjoyed tres leches cake in community with one another. The event fostered cross-cultural connection and a strong sense of belonging, reinforcing the college’s commitment to culturally responsive programming and an inclusive campus environment.

### International Day Showcases IVC’s Global Community



IVC celebrated International Day on November 19. Students, faculty, and staff gathered to experience the many nations represented within the college community. Co-sponsored by the International Student Program and the International Student Club, the event featured multicultural food, lively entertainment, and student-led activities that highlighted global traditions. Attendees explored a student-led Cultural Museum to learn more about the home countries and cultures of IVC

students and enjoyed a drum performance by Hikari Taiko. This celebration highlights IVC’s commitment to fostering an inclusive, globally engaged campus environment. View photos [here](#).

### Idea Pitch Competition Final Round Showcases Student Innovation



On November 18, IVC hosted the final round of the 2025 Idea Pitch Competition, bringing together student entrepreneurs, industry judges, and campus partners for an evening focused on innovation and creativity. The culminating event of the Entrepreneurship Program's "Ignite Innovation" competition invited students who

advanced from the October mentor selection round to present their refined business ideas in five-minute pitches to a panel of industry experts and professional entrepreneurs. Judges evaluated each pitch on clarity, feasibility, market need, and potential impact, while students competed for cash awards and in-kind business start-up support. Faculty, staff, classmates, and community members attended to cheer on the presenters, creating an encouraging environment for emerging entrepreneurs to practice public speaking and receive real-time feedback from professionals with the hope of launching their businesses in the future. First place was awarded to IVC student Nathaniel Kim, second place to Tustin Legacy Magnet Academy (TLMA) junior Liv Kong, and third place to TLMA senior Farishta Islam. View photos [here](#).

### Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Highlights Basic Needs Support for Students



From November 17–21, IVC commemorated Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week with a series of events designed to increase understanding of basic needs insecurity and connect students with critical resources. Recognizing that thousands of college students across the state experience ongoing housing and food insecurity, the college emphasized an individualized and holistic approach to student support through on-campus programming and partnerships with community agencies. Together, these efforts reinforced IVC's ongoing commitment to addressing non-academic barriers and ensuring that students have access to essential resources that support their success in and out of the classroom.

### IVC Men's Soccer Team Captures Orange Empire Conference Title



The men's soccer team captured the Orange Empire Conference championship with a 3–2 victory over Golden West at LeBard Stadium at Orange Coast College on November 14. Entering the match one point ahead of Cypress in the conference standings, the Lasers delivered a decisive start, scoring three goals in the first 20 minutes. Despite challenging weather conditions and a late surge by Golden West, the Lasers maintained control of the match. They secured their first conference title since 2015, closing the regular season with a 13–7–1 overall record and a 10–3–1 record in Orange Empire Conference play. Head Coach Conor Ward credited the championship to the consistent efforts of the players, assistant coaches, and staff over multiple seasons, underscoring the strength of IVC's intercollegiate athletics program and its commitment to student-athlete success. Read the full story [here](#).

### Classified Senate Hosts “Tokens of Thanks” Letter Writing Event in Support of Students’ Basic Needs



On November 14, The Classified Senate hosted “Tokens of Thanks,” a letter-writing event that invited classified professionals to craft handwritten notes of appreciation for students. In partnership with The Spot: Center for Basic Needs and EOPS, employees wrote heartfelt messages of encouragement to be included in Classified Senate Autumn Appreciation Packages for students experiencing food and housing insecurity. Each package provided a gift card for food, a dessert, and a handwritten “Token of Thanks” from the classified professional community. This initiative highlighted the vital role of classified professionals in fostering a caring campus culture and supporting students’

well-being during the holiday season.

### 2025 Annual Emergency Preparedness Interagency Collaborative (EPIC) Exercise



A team from IVC attended the 2025 Annual EPIC Exercise on November 13. This year’s exercise focused on Wildfire Planning: Response and Recovery. As wildfire risks continue to rise across the region, EPIC is a critical opportunity for schools and local jurisdictions to strengthen coordinated response efforts. Educational institutions play an essential role during emergencies, simultaneously serving as emergency shelters, reunification centers, and operational hubs responsible for the safety of thousands of students and staff. This year’s scenario emphasized unified command, resource sharing, and communication protocols vital for an effective, cross-jurisdictional response.

### IVC Model United Nations (MUN) Team Shines at National Conference in Washington, D.C.



The MUN team earned national recognition at the National MUN Conference in Washington, D.C., held November 5 to 9. Competing against top universities from around the world, the team received two Outstanding Delegation Awards, two Position Paper Awards, and the rare honor of chairing three committees. IVC was one of only two community colleges to earn two top awards. Representing Morocco and Guyana, the 16-member delegation addressed global challenges including opiate trafficking, radioactive waste management, the crisis in Haiti, and sustainable tourism. While in Washington, students also met with congressional staff and national security professionals for discussions on policy, diplomacy, and careers in public service. Read the full story [here](#).

### South Orange County Regional Consortium Celebrates 11th Semi-Annual Adult ESL Mini-Conference



On November 7, the South Orange County Regional Consortium ([SOCRC](#)) hosted the 11th joint IVC and Saddleback College Semi-Annual Adult ESL (AESL) Mini-Conference. The conference brings together educators from across the region for a day dedicated to advancing adult learner success. The event provided a collaborative professional development space focused on strengthening instructional practices, sharing innovative strategies, and supporting the diverse needs of adult English language learners. Sessions were designed to enhance teaching effectiveness and promote equitable learning environments for adult ESL students. The continued success of the semi-annual conference reflects the IVC’s commitment to empowering adult learners with the language skills necessary to pursue educational, professional, and personal goals.

### Congressman Dave Min Visits with IVC Student Veterans



IVC welcomed U.S. Representative Dave Min (D-47) for a Veteran Student Roundtable on November 7. The gathering brought student veterans, faculty, staff, and campus leadership for an afternoon of dialogue and connection. The event offered student veterans a platform to share their experiences, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities related to education, career pathways, and support programs. Congressman Min engaged with students, listening to their perspectives and highlighting the importance of strengthening resources for veterans pursuing higher education. SOCCCD Board of Trustees Vice President Ryan Dack also attended the event. The roundtable demonstrated IVC's ongoing commitment to supporting military-connected students through inclusive programming and collaborative partnerships. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Presents Educational Pathways to Turkish Women's Empowerment Group



November 4, IVC partnered with the Anatolian Cultural Foundation to deliver an outreach presentation to a Turkish women's empowerment group seeking information about Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) courses, Career Education, and academic degree pathways. Professor of ESL Savyonne Steindler and Digital Media Arts Professor Gokce Kasicki led the session, which also featured students Burche and Zuzu, who shared about their experiences and insights with the programs. Attendees engaged with the information and asked questions about Career Education programs and credit AESL courses. The interactive gathering underscored the transformative impact of accessible educational pathways and the importance of community partnerships in supporting adult learners.

### Fall Dance Concert Series Premieres on the Rezanoor Stage



Throughout November, the Performing Arts Center ushered in the dance season with the Fall Dance Concert series on the Rezanoor Stage. The two-part "Take One" and "Take Two" concerts spanned six evenings and highlighted the creative output of IVC's Dance Department. The series blended live performance and film, offering students extensive opportunities to present original work and refine their technical and artistic skills. The concerts showcased new choreography by dance faculty, students, and distinguished guest artists Smriti Krishnan and Mia Simonović, underscoring the department's commitment to fostering professional collaboration and providing students with diverse artistic perspectives, and also featured a special creative partnership that integrated an original song, "Summer Time, it feels so good to me," composed by recently retired IVC Custodian Robert Flournoy.

### Upcoming Events

#### President's Opening Session

January 6, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President