

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

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

DATE: February 13, 2025

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the February 24, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Celebrates Black History Month 2025



IVC honors Black History Month by celebrating African American culture and history throughout February. The month-long celebration included an event where students engaged with local Black-owned businesses, community partners, and on-campus organizations. The Black Student Success Scholars Program planned a Self Love & Body Liberation Workshop to challenge negative body narratives and a Rest as Resistance Workshop to promote self-care and healing. As part of the celebration, IVC hosted a free public event featuring Roxane Gay, an author and cultural critic whose writing is widely revered. Additionally, [IVC's Black History Month website](#) promoted local events and campus communities, such as the [Black Student Success Scholars Program](#), Womxn of Color Collective ([WoCC](#)), and Fellowship Exchange of Lessons Learned and Academic Support ([IVC FELLAS](#)).

Precinct Reporter Group Highlights IVC's Black History Month Events



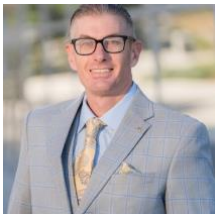
IVC's Black History Month celebration is in the spotlight, as the Precinct Reporter Group showcases the campus's commitment to honoring Black culture, achievement, and contributions. The article highlights key events and features the Black Student Success Scholars program. Read more about IVC's Black History Month celebrations and student success initiatives in the Precinct Reporter Group feature [here](#).

IVC Participates in the 45th annual Orange County Black History Parade & Unity Festival



On February 1, IVC hosted a booth during the 45th Annual Orange County Black History Parade & Unity Festival, organized by the Orange County Heritage Council (OCHC). The IVC Outreach and Counseling teams provided information about the college's programs and services, answered questions about the campus, and guided attendees on the steps to becoming an IVC student. The OCHC, a nonprofit organization focused on uplifting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, organizes this annual event to celebrate cultural heritage and foster community empowerment.

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Spotlights IVC Rising Scholar



Clifford Haines, a formerly incarcerated student, found a path to success at IVC with the support of the Rising Scholars Network. After overcoming significant challenges, he became the first Rising Scholar to graduate from IVC. He has since transferred to California State University, Long Beach, to pursue a degree in business accountancy. Read more about Haines' journey in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office feature [here](#).

IVC and Coastline ROP Expand Healthcare Pathways for English Learners



IVC and Coastline Regional Occupational Program (ROP) strengthened their partnership with support from a second round of funding from the state's English Language Learners (ELL) Healthcare Pathways grant. Building on the success of the Pharmacy Technician program, IVC and Coastline ROP have launched a new Dental Assisting program. This program is for advanced English learners who have completed their Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) courses at IVC or through the South Orange County Regional Consortium (SOCRC) partners. The inaugural cohort consists of 23 students now engaging in comprehensive training that includes back and front-office dental assisting and dental radiology.

This training prepares them for the Registered Dental Assistant license. Beginning in April, students will participate in externships at dental offices. The program culminates at the end of May, equipping students to enter the workforce upon completing this one-semester program.

IVC Men's Volleyball Team Honored as CCCAA Scholar Team Recipient



The Men's Volleyball team has been named by the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) as a Scholar Team Recipient for the 2023-24 academic year. This marks IVC's fifth team award, joining previous recipients: Men's Soccer in 2021, Beach Volleyball in 2019 and 2015, and Men's Volleyball in 2014. Under the leadership of Head Coach Rory Jones, the Men's Volleyball team has cultivated a new academic culture setting high expectations, contributing to their recognition. Notably, all ten student-athletes have successfully transferred further pursuing their academic goals. The team's achievements will be celebrated at the CCCAA Scholar-Athlete Luncheon on March 26, during the 2025 CCCAA Convention in Sacramento. Congratulations to the team for earning this prestigious award.

IVC Celebrates Lunar New Year Festival



IVC celebrated the [Year of the Snake](#) on February 11 with a Lunar New Year celebration filled with cultural experiences and community engagement. Nearly 600 students explored a gallery walk showcasing traditional artwork, enjoyed a Tai Chi session led by Emeritus Professor Matthew Ma, and experienced an energetic performance by the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center. The event, co-hosted by the Office of Student Equity and Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ([ELEVATE AAPI](#)), highlighted the rich traditions of the holiday while fostering a sense of belonging on campus. View photos [here](#).

Students Engage, Explore, and Connect During Spring 2025 Club Day



On February 5, IVC hosted [Spring 2025 Club Day](#), an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in campus life. More than 420 students attended, with over 60 student organizations showcasing their initiatives and activities. Hosted by the [Office of Student Life](#) and the [Inter-Club Council](#), Club Day provides a platform for students to engage with peers, develop leadership skills, and explore interests that may guide their academic and career paths.

President John Hernandez Speaks at the Exchange Club of Irvine



On February 4, President John Hernandez delivered a presentation titled "Irvine Valley College: 40 Years of Community Impact" to the Exchange Club of Irvine. Dr. Hernandez provided an update on IVC's achievements over the past four decades, emphasizing its role as an educational asset within the community. The presentation highlighted several key areas, including IVC's accolades, record-breaking enrollment figures, and initiatives to align Adult English as a Second Language programs with workforce needs. Dr. Hernandez also discussed the college's dual enrollment opportunities, the growth of The Spot: Center for Basic Needs, the exploration of new academic programs, and ongoing campus improvements.

IVC Soccer Stars Advance to NCAA Division II Programs



Congratulations to IVC men's soccer standouts [Mason Tracey](#) and [Logen Coffin](#) as they continue their athletic and academic careers at NCAA Division II universities. Tracey has committed to Oklahoma Christian University after an outstanding season with the Lasers. The Vista Murrieta High School alum earned second-team honors in the Orange Empire Conference. He contributed four goals and five assists during the 2024 season, including a two-goal performance in a crucial win against Orange Coast. Coffin, a versatile defender and midfielder from Chino Hills High School will join Cal Poly Humboldt competing in the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA). Throughout two seasons with the Lasers, Coffin played in 34 matches and started in 16.

IVC Speech Team Concludes Fall Semester with Remarkable Achievements



The Speech Team ended the fall semester with 125 individual awards and 9 team sweepstakes awards across 13 tournaments. Their most recent triumph was at the PSCFA Fall Championship Tournament. This intensive three-day event featured competition against 38 colleges and universities from California, Arizona, and Utah. Forty-eight students represented IVC, participating in events ranging from debate to the oral interpretation of literature. A standout performer was Karis Kwon, a dual-enrollment student who excelled in novice extemporaneous speaking, competing against 55 students. Kwon emerged victorious, claiming 1st Place. Kamalesh Sadu and Hassan Mekky also achieved an undefeated record in the NPDA team debate, earning gold medals. The IVC Speech Team garnered 27 awards at the tournament. The team intends to continue its success by competing in several local tournaments before advancing to national championships in Norfolk, Virginia, and international championships in Incheon, South Korea.

EOPS Open House Celebrates the Program's Statewide Anniversary



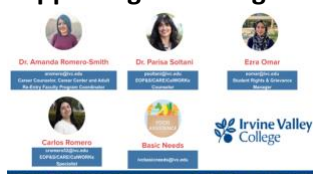
On January 28, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) hosted an Open House. EOPS is a statewide initiative celebrating its 55th anniversary following its establishment after the Civil Rights Movement. The anniversary celebration honors more than half a century of steadfast commitment to advancing student achievement, promoting equity, and upholding the principles of social justice. The event also highlighted the achievements of both current and former students, showcasing the program's lasting impact on their academic and professional journeys.

Celebrating EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs Parenting Students: Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards



Seven students from IVC's EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs programs are recipients of the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award. This non-profit organization supports single mothers who are the primary financial providers for their families. The students collectively received nearly \$10,000 in scholarships, providing essential financial assistance as they pursue their academic goals. Soroptimist, established in 1972, has awarded over \$41 million in education scholarships to more than 41,000 women. The students were honored during the CARE Program's annual kick-off event in January. The event showcased their accomplishments and emphasized ongoing support to ensure parenting students' success.

Supporting Parenting Students at IVC



On January 8, Dr. Parisa Soltani, Dr. Amanda Romero, Carlos Romero, and Ezra Omar conducted a presentation at IVC addressing the increasing enrollment of parenting students. This session provided insights for faculty and staff on enhancing support for parenting students, highlighting essential resources available both on campus and externally. The team presented state-wide and campus-specific data illustrating the growing number of parenting students and their unique challenges in managing academic, personal, and family responsibilities. The presentation also dispelled common misconceptions about parenting students, offering a more accurate and empathetic understanding of their experiences.

Empowering Success: A Look into the EOPS Programs



In January, Dr. Silvia Torrez Mendoza and Carlos Romero conducted a presentation at IVC focused on Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). The session highlighted the critical support provided through EOPS initiatives, such as CARE, CalWORKs, NextUp, and Guardian Scholars. The exposition detailed the unique services and resources available to students in these programs, including academic counseling, financial assistance, and personal mentorship opportunities. The data shared illustrated the programs' significant impact on student success, retention, and graduation rates. The session called for greater engagement from the broader IVC community to support EOPS students' academic journeys.

IVC Hosts Irvine Company for Arts Village Tour



On January 15, IVC hosted representatives from the Irvine Company for a campus tour focused on the Arts Village. Attendees from the Irvine Company included Senior Vice President of Planning and Design Rob Elliott, Vice President of Public Affairs Steve Greyshock, and Senior Director of Public Affairs Emily Grant. During the tour, IVC leadership facilitated a dialogue emphasizing the college's commitment to master planning, the arts, and a long-term vision that benefits the community. The representatives from the Irvine Company expressed their appreciation for the informative discussion and the advancements taking place at IVC. The Arts Village was highlighted as a significant asset to the community, reflecting the college's role as a key contributor to local cultural and educational initiatives. IVC values its historical relationship with the Irvine Company and anticipates future collaborations that continue to enhance educational opportunities for the community.

ELEVATE New Student Orientation



On January 12, IVC's Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (ELEVATE AAPI) program hosted the New Student Orientation in the Center for Asian American Native American and Pacific Islanders (CAANAPI). The ELEVATE program welcomed a mix of 16 first-time, continuing, and returning college students for the spring semester. During the orientation, students received their textbooks and learned more about the program, services, and available resources. The featured student panel provided peer-to-peer interaction and engagement. Several exercises and activities helped foster community building. The students engaged with each other throughout the orientation and shared that the event was informative and beneficial, appreciating the opportunity to connect.

IVC Puente Program Kicks Off Spring Semester with Engaging Activities



Puente students toured the University of California, Riverside in January, where IVC alumna and former Puentista Summer Sanchez-Cornejo welcomed them. She shared her journey as a transfer student, offering insights into academic transition. Following the university tour, the

group explored The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture, spending time at the Yolanda Lopez exhibit, which marks the first solo display of the pioneering Chicana feminist artist. On January 29, Puente hosted a Mentor-Mentee Meet And Greet event. This gathering allowed Puentistas to connect with their mentors over dinner, facilitating relationship-building and support networks. The month concluded with the 3rd Annual Scholarship Lab, where 16 students participated in this intensive 5-hour session, receiving guidance on scholarship applications.

IVC Professor Featured in LA Times Article Exploring Literary Perspectives on California's Wildfires



In a recent LA Times article, Professor of English Lisa Alvarez was featured for her approach to teaching literature that explores Southern California's Santa Ana winds and wildfires. The article critiques the tendency to focus on well-known works that portray these events as symbols of chaos or societal decline. Professor Alvarez emphasizes the importance of historical and contemporary context when discussing natural disasters. She challenges students to go beyond the familiar and engage with works from lesser-known authors who bring fresh, diverse viewpoints to the conversation. This approach helps students gain a comprehensive understanding of Southern California's challenges and its stories of resilience. Read the full story [here](#).

Free Tax Preparation Services for Students and Community Members



IVC continues its long-standing partnership with Orange County United Way, offering [Free Tax Prep services](#) to support students' and community members' tax filing needs. The college has served as a location for this no-cost initiative since 2011. The service is accessible to individuals with a household income below \$67,000. Participants can schedule an appointment with an IRS-certified volunteer through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Services are available in English, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Farsi. Appointments are open until April 12.

Upcoming Events

Roxane Gay

February 25

Spring Sing

February 28

IVC Wind Symphony in Concert with Symphonic Winds of the Pacific

March 1

Symphony Orchestra in Concert

March 2

Jazz Ensembles Concert

March 3

Women Veteran Networking Forum: Re-Ignite Your Values

March 6

music@noon Student Recital Series

March 7

IVC Foundation Awards Dinner, Celebrating Excellence

March 7

The Mendoza Family Distinguished Lecture Series, with Lalo Alcaraz

March 12

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President