

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

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

DATE: February 12, 2026

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the February 23, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting**

College Corps Program Secured State Funding Through 2029



The #CaliforniansForAll College Corps state program awarded the Orange County Consortium of colleges renewed funding for the 2026–2029 cycle, extending paid community service opportunities for students across partner institutions. Concordia University serves as the consortium’s lead agency, with IVC continuing as a partner and Saddleback College joining as a new partner. The renewed award is expected to support approximately 60 students at each institution, providing paid, structured community service placements where students complete volunteer work supporting K–12 education, food insecurity relief, and climate action initiatives. This multi-year investment strengthens students’ ability to earn income while building career-ready skills, advancing civic leadership, and helping address critical community needs across California.

IVC Foundation Receives \$50,000 Gift to Strengthen Teacher Preparation Pathway



TEACHER PREPARATION
PATHWAY

The IVC Foundation received a \$50,000 gift from Irvine Company to support the college’s [Teacher Preparation Pathway](#). This collaborative initiative creates a clear and supported pathway from community college to the teaching profession. The gift expands financial assistance, hands-on learning opportunities, and program infrastructure for students pursuing careers in education, including the establishment of a new Teacher Preparation Funding Program to provide long-term support. Through the pathway, students receive academic and career counseling, faculty mentoring, classroom-based fieldwork, and clearly defined transfer routes to four-year universities. Read the full story [here](#).

Memorandum of Understanding with Girls Inc. of Orange County



of Orange County

IVC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Girls Inc. of Orange County to formalize a collaborative partnership that expands access to high-quality, girl-focused educational programming for families in Irvine, Tustin, and Santa Ana. Through this partnership, IVC will support the delivery of STEM camps, college readiness workshops, parent engagement programs, and leadership initiatives on the IVC campus, while promoting IVC’s academic pathways and student support services. A key highlight of this collaboration is the continued hosting of the IgniteHER Summit at IVC for a second year, in coordination with Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris’s office and Girls Inc. of Orange County, to inspire and prepare middle and high school students through leadership development, financial literacy, and college readiness programming. Girls Inc. of Orange County serves more than 9,000 girls annually and is nationally recognized for its mentorship-based, research-informed programming that prepares young women for academic success, higher education, and career pathways.

IVC at the Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival



On February 7, IVC joined community partners at the Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival by hosting an outreach booth in support of the event's 47th annual celebration. The Outreach and Counseling teams connected with attendees to share information about IVC programs and services and provide clear guidance on next steps for prospective students. Organized by the Orange County Heritage Council, the festival highlighted Black history and cultural heritage while creating a welcoming space for community empowerment and connection. IVC's presence reinforced the college's commitment to meeting students where they are, strengthening local partnerships, and expanding access to higher education for the communities we serve.

Dr. Eric Garcia Selected as Orange County Community College Counselor of the Year



Counseling Department Co-Chair Dr. Eric Garcia was selected as the Orange County Community College Counselor of the Year. Dr. Garcia was recognized at the 12th Annual OC Counselor Symposium on February 4, hosted by the Orange County Department of Education. The annual symposium honors outstanding counselors across the educational spectrum, including elementary, middle, and high schools, alternative education, and community colleges. Dr. Garcia was

recognized for his sustained commitment to student success, exemplary leadership within the Counseling Department, and meaningful contributions to the broader IVC campus community. This recognition reflects IVC's continued dedication to student-centered counseling practices and the vital role counselors play in advancing equitable access, achievement, and completion for students.

"Love Letters to Ourselves" Launched IVC's Black History Month Observance



IVC launched its [Black History Month](#) observance with student-centered programming that honored Black history, culture, and excellence. The celebration kicked off on February 3 with "Love Letters to Ourselves," hosted by [Black Student Success Scholars](#), which provided a reflective, creative space for students to pause, build community, and write heartfelt letters to themselves. The college also served as a hub for engagement by spotlighting campus communities and support networks, including the [Fellowship Exchange of Lessons Learned and Academic Support](#) and the [Womxn of Color Collective](#). This observance reflected IVC's ongoing commitment to

fostering belonging, elevating student voices, and supporting student success through culturally responsive programming.

IVC English Professor Selected for National Strong Start to Finish Ambassadors Program



In February, English Professor Summer Serpas was selected to join the national Strong Start to Finish Ambassadors Program, a year-long initiative focused on advancing developmental education reform nationwide. Professor Serpas was one of only five faculty members selected nationally for this competitive program. The Ambassadors Program elevates leaders who are shaping effective, student-centered approaches to developmental education by engaging policymakers, supporting institutional implementation, and sharing evidence-based practices across the field. As an ambassador, Professor Serpas will contribute through national presentations, media engagement, and thought leadership, including participation in the Strong Start Symposium in July 2026.

TEMCO Tech Talks Connects Students with Industry Professionals and Career Readiness Skills



IVC hosted TEMCO Tech Talks on January 29, a half-day career exploration event co-hosted by the Career Center and TEMCO Logistics, a leading appliance delivery and installation partner for Home Depot. The event brought students together with technology and IT professionals to gain firsthand insight into career pathways within the tech and logistics industries. The program featured a keynote presentation, an industry career panel, and an interactive workshop focused on branding oneself in a competitive job market. Students also participated in small-group breakout sessions and networking over lunch, providing opportunities to ask questions, learn from professionals' career journeys, and receive practical guidance on job search strategies and essential soft skills.

Congressmember Dave Min Engages with IVC Model United Nations Students



Congressmember Dave Min visited campus on January 29 to meet with students from the IVC Model United Nations program. During the visit, Congressman Min engaged students in discussion about public service, civic engagement, and the role of diplomacy and policymaking in addressing global and national challenges. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, share perspectives shaped by their Model United Nations experiences, and gain insight into the legislative process from an elected official. The conversation highlighted the value of experiential learning opportunities that connect classroom instruction with real-world civic leadership.

Club Day Showcased 75 Student Organizations



Spring 2026 Club Day took place on January 27, bringing together 75 student organizations. The quad was transformed into a hub of student leadership, featuring booths, peer-to-peer outreach, and live student performances that kept the atmosphere upbeat throughout the day. Supported by the Office of Student Life and the Inter-Club Council, Club Day provided students with an accessible way to explore involvement opportunities, build friendships, and find communities aligned with their interests and goals. View photos [here](#).

College Corps Day of Service United IVC and Regional Partners to Address Food Insecurity



College Corps Fellows participated in the program's annual Day of Service on January 24. In partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and alongside consortium partners at Concordia and Vanguard universities, more than 100 Fellows served the community to help address food insecurity. In post-event reflections, Fellows shared that the experience strengthened relationships while advancing a shared purpose. Students described the day as a valuable opportunity to connect with peers from different campuses, exchange personal stories, and learn what inspired one another to join College Corps.

IVC Keyboard and Chamber Music Series



IVC welcomed students and community members to “Then & Now: A Chamber Music Remix” on January 24. As part of the Keyboard and Chamber Music Series, the concert showcased the college’s dedication to artistic excellence through a dynamic live performance. Featuring iTrio with JinHee Kate Kim (violin), Marek Szpakiewicz (cello), and Susan Boettger (piano), along with guest artist Jiawei Yan, the performance blended classical masterworks with tango rhythms and reimagined pop selections through a chamber music lens.

Health and Wellness Center Encourages Campus Wellness Through Weekly Walks



Beginning January 13, the Health and Wellness Center launched “Walk & Talk with Dr. Firouzi,” a weekly one-hour walk designed to bring students, faculty, and staff together for casual conversation and general health-focused engagement. The gatherings provide a welcoming space to stretch, stay active, and explore wellness topics through questions and shared dialogue in an approachable, community-centered setting.

Welcome Week 2026 Connected Students to Resources, Community, and Campus Life



ASIVC hosted Welcome Week, a series of student-centered activities designed to help new and returning Lasers build connections, learn about campus support services, and start the spring semester with a strong sense of belonging. The week began on January 12 with a Resource Fair. Students also participated in a day-long Treasure Hunt across various locations, encouraging exploration of campus spaces and community-building. Students were invited to attend an ASIVC Town Hall Meeting that elevated student voice through questions and dialogue. The week concluded with Movie Night at Live Oak Terraces. Collectively, Welcome Week reinforced IVC’s commitment to student engagement, inclusive community-building, and ensuring students began the semester informed, supported, and connected. View photos [here](#).

IVC Student Veterans Engage in Leadership Development at SVA National Convention



From January 8-11, IVC student veterans represented the college at the 18th Annual Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The national conference brought together student veterans, educators, and industry leaders to support the academic, leadership, and career success of military-connected students. IVC student veterans and SVA chapter officers

participated in leadership workshops, professional development sessions, and networking opportunities focused on career readiness and civic leadership. Students connected with educators, mentors, and employers to explore pathways that support successful transitions from military service to higher education and civilian careers.

Welcome Booths Supported Students During the First Week of Spring 2026



During the first week of Spring 2026, IVC welcomed new and returning students with information booths positioned around campus to help students begin the term with confidence and connection. Volunteers provided friendly, on-the-spot assistance with directions to classrooms and key student support services, while also offering snacks and water to help students stay energized throughout the day. The initiative served a total of 5,566 students and was made possible through the support of 73 volunteers.

ELEVATE AAPI New Student Orientation



IVC's [Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders \(ELEVATE AAPI\)](#) program welcomed 33 new certificate-track students during its New Student Orientation

on January 9. The orientation provided students with an opportunity to learn about the program, its services, and available resources. A student panel encouraged peer-to-peer connection and helped new students engage with the ELEVATE AAPI community. Interactive activities and small-group exercises fostered relationship-building, and students connected with peer mentors over lunch to strengthen a sense of belonging from day one.

CARE Program Launches Spring 2026 with Kick-Off Workshop for Parenting Students



On January 6, the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) Program hosted its Spring 2026 Kick-Off Workshop, welcoming 15 single-parent students. The workshop opened with intentional community-building activities that fostered connection and encouraged participants to share about campus and community resources that have supported their success. This peer-to-peer exchange reinforced the importance of mutual support and collective resilience among CARE students. The workshop also emphasized practical time management strategies through interactive activities designed to help students navigate the demands of coursework, family responsibilities, and personal well-being throughout the semester. By centering community, skill-building, and shared experiences, the CARE Program continues to advance student persistence and success for parenting students at IVC.

IVC Men's Soccer Standout Commits to NCAA Division I Cal State Fullerton



Standout IVC sophomore men's soccer player Armin Tehrani has committed to continue his athletic and academic career at NCAA Division I California State University, Fullerton. Tehrani concluded an exceptional season as one of the top offensive players in the California Community College Athletic Association, leading the Orange Empire Conference (OEC) with nine goals and 11 assists for a conference-high 29 points. During the fall season, Tehrani earned OEC Offensive Player of the Year honors, was named IVC's Offensive Player of the Year, and received First Team All-Conference recognition. He appeared in and started all 19 matches for the Lasers, recording multiple points in 10 contests. Tehrani also played a key role in leading IVC to an Orange Empire Conference championship and a berth in the Southern California Regional Playoffs. His commitment reflects the continued success of IVC student-athletes advancing to four-year institutions and competing at the highest collegiate levels.

Free Tax Prep at IVC Expanded Access to No-Cost Filing Support



IVC strengthened its long-standing partnership with Orange County United Way by continuing to host [OC Free Tax Prep](#) services for students and community members. Serving as an on-campus site for this initiative since 2011, the program supported eligible filers with household incomes below \$69,000 by connecting them with IRS-certified volunteers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Services are offered by appointment in multiple languages, helping participants navigate the tax-filing process with confidence and reduce barriers to financial stability. Appointments are available through March 28.

Upcoming Events

Black History Month Celebration

February 25

Spring Sing

February 27

Symphony Orchestra Concert

February 28

Wind Symphony Concert

March 1

Big Band Concert

March 2

Celebrating Excellence

March 6

Transfer & Graduate School Fair

March 10

Women Veteran Networking Forum

March 13

DEIA Day

April 3

Preview Night

April 15

Employee Recognition Ceremony

April 16

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez".

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President