



IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

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

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

DATE: April 18, 2024

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the April 29, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Recognizes Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Month



Throughout April, IVC celebrates [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(DEIA\) Awareness Month](#) to recognize our commitment to building an inclusive campus culture that reflects the lived experiences of our diverse community. It provides an opportunity to learn about human experiences other than our own, to connect in community with one another, and to reexamine the ways we need to grow and change to better support one another. Events included cultural awareness workshops, poetry readings, a lecture series, diversity dialogues,

networking events and community gatherings designed to foster a sense of belonging and unity within the campus community. The overall goal of the activities was to highlight the college's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus environment for all members of the community. The hallmark event was DEIA Day on April 12 presented by the [President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(PAC-DEIA\)](#). The event featured conversations with a student panel led by Erin Pollard and Dr. Emily Liu, a discussion on Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) students presented by Dr. Amrik Johal and Dr. Priya J. Shah, and a discussion on how "Servingness" can impact SWANA students' education by Dr. Zack Ritter and Marium Mohiuddin. View photos [here](#).

IVC Awards Teachers of the Year



IVC has announced its three Teacher of the Year recognition recipients for the 2024-25 academic year. Mathematics Professor Sanjai Gupta was named Outstanding Full-Time Teacher of the Year. Associate Mathematics Faculty Roy Zipstein was named Outstanding Part-Time Teacher of the Year. Dance instructor Jun Chung was named Outstanding Emeritus Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program identifies and honors exemplary faculty and highlights educational innovation, student learning, and the rewards of teaching. IVC will formally recognize this year's honorees at the college's Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 6.

MESA Program Hosts Grand Opening



On April 23, IVC held the grand opening of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Center located in B353 in the B 300 building. The MESA Center was established to advance equity, inclusion, access, and success in Calculus-based STEM majors at IVC. The MESA Program launched this academic year, supporting over 90 students in Fall 2023. The grand opening included an open house for the campus to learn more about the program's services, and to hear from MESA students about how the program is enhancing their academic journey.

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

English as a Second Language Department Celebrates the Achievements of Adult ESL Students



On April 19, IVC's English as a Second Language (ESL) Department celebrated 120 Adult ESL (AESL) students who earned an AESL Certificate of Competency in Fall 2023. IVC offers three AESL certificates of competency, all requiring completion of various courses. Following the formal awards ceremony, students practiced conversing with others, played games, and enjoyed lunch. During the ceremony, student speakers shared their experience taking classes at IVC and how these courses helped them reach their career and life goals. Many students brought family members and friends to celebrate with them, and some applied on-site to become IVC students.

IVC Students Win Chapman University Pitch Competition



On April 12, the Chapman University Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship hosted its annual Panther Cage pitch competition. The competition is now open to the community and students outside of Chapman University. In the student category, which consisted of startup teams from colleges, the winners were Lauren Cho and Mandy Shi from Beckman High School. Their startup called SimplyFly is an app to help make your flying and travel experience easier and more enjoyable. Cho is currently enrolled in an IVC Dual Enrollment entrepreneurship class at Beckman High School. In the community category, IVC business student, Cornelius Hojatkashani won first place with his creation of a new type of dog collar to alleviate the leash tangling when walking your dog. Congratulations to both winners for all their hard work and entrepreneurial mindset in developing their business ideas and preparing a great pitch to a panel of industry judges and investors.

IVC and Saddleback Presidents Team Up for Panel Discussion on Student Challenges



On April 11, South County Outreach hosted their annual fundraiser, Empty Bowls, which featured a panel discussion on understanding the needs and challenges faced by community college students. Presidents Dr. John Hernandez and Dr. Elliot Stern participated as panelists, answering questions about student demographics, college costs, homelessness, and the work each college is doing to support students. The South County Outreach mission is to "help people help themselves," which is difficult for community college students in Orange County (OC). The diverse demographic of community college students reflects the needs and challenges the greater OC community faces.

Representatives from IVC Present During Pathways to Equity Conference



From April 8-9, IVC was well represented at the [2024 Pathways to Equity Conference](#), "Equity in Action: Advancing Including, Inspiring Change," hosted by the California Community College Chancellor's Office to support [Vision 2030](#) and its equity goals. IVC Counseling Faculty and Articulation Officer Tiffany Tran and Articulation

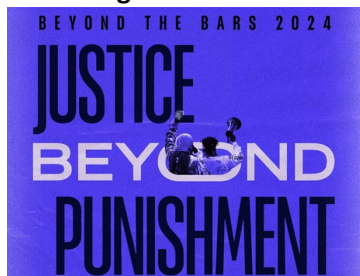
Specialist Katia Kubeck presented on "Approaches for Streamlining Transcript Reviews, Prerequisite Clearances, and Faculty Involvement." The conference was designed for a wide range of practitioners engaging in change efforts on their campuses to come together to work on actionable takeaways.

Students Attend Palm Springs International Dance Festival



From April 5-7, the Dance Department took 13 dancers from the Performing Dance Ensemble Group to the Palm Springs International Dance Festival put on by Nickerson-Rossi Dance. The festival allowed students to take classes with worldwide master teachers in multiple dance genres, see a professional dance concert, and perform themselves. The professional gala dance concert included works by Nickerson-Rossi Dance Company, Hai Cohen, Yuka Fukuda, Tropicaleiza, Jamie Nichols, and Versa-Style Legacy that showcased a variety of styles. Our IVC dancers wrapped up the festival by performing two works choreographed by our IVC student choreographers, Danna Pacheco, Sabrina Campaña, and Mia Vasquez.

The Rising Scholars Team Attends Beyond the Bars 2024 Conference



From April 5-7, The Rising Scholars team, including two employees and one student staff member, had the incredible opportunity to attend the Beyond the Bars 2024 conference in New York. The annual conference, hosted by Columbia University, is a student-driven conference addressing mass incarceration and brings together students, faculty, practitioners, advocates, and those whom the justice system has impacted. Panelists shared insightful yet imperfect stories of supporting survivors of violence seeking justice, both within and beyond the established system. The

conference emphasized understanding diverse perspectives and fostering holistic solutions. The IVC team shared that the experience was inspirational and energizing.

IVC Well Represented at Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) National Conference



The Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) National Conference took place from April 3-6. A delegation of nine students participated in the pre-conference sessions focusing on [AANAPISI](#) history and current events, taking action moving forward, and storytelling to share their identities and experiences in a performance narrative. Three IVC students were selected to share their narratives during the AANAPISI Leaders Convening, which hosted Presidents, Chancellors, Board of Trustees, and Superintendents nationwide. Eight IVC employees presented

on various topics, and students L Dunham and Vivian Lee presented "How to talk about mental health with your AAPI families: Addressing Stigmas and Finding Care." The conference included 1,500 educators nationwide who discussed best practices and initiatives for supporting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students.

IVC Student John Salgado Received Recognition and Scholarship from Santa Ana Police Department



On April 3, the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) awarded John Salgado the 2023 Explorer of the Year award, which included a scholarship. Salgado has been a SAPD Explorer since 2021 and has reached the rank of Sergeant. Salgado is a member of the first IVC Puente cohort and serves as a Puente Student Ambassador. His poem "Mexicans Aren't Pilgrims" was recently selected for publication in "LiveWire," the online literary arts journal of Fullerton College. Salgado is an English major and has been accepted to the University of California, Irvine, where he plans to transfer for Fall 2024.

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IVC Hosts Arts Village Building Dedication Ceremony



On April 3, the Arts Village ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony marked the completion of the college's largest construction project. The 62,471 square foot complex combines music, dance, visual arts, and fine arts in architecturally striking structures designed to promote artistic inspiration. The event featured live performances, art displays, and demonstrations. The celebration also included recognition of IVC's designation as an all-Steinway school. The college invested \$1.2 million and acquired 19 Steinway & Sons pianos, bringing the campus total to 32 Steinway pianos. View photos [here](#).

Guided Pathways Humanities Completion Team Hosts Annual Humanities Showcase



During the first week of April, the Guided Pathways Humanities Completion Team hosted a series of events showcasing creative and professional opportunities available to students taking Humanities courses. The week of events began with a Student Open Mic and Poetry Reading by Orange County's Poet Laureate Gustavo Hernandez in IVC's Writing Center, where 13 students presented their poems. A Humanities Job Mixer featured the Mayor of Irvine, Farrah Khan. The final event was a Student Showcase where students were encouraged to share creative and academic work from Humanities courses with the larger IVC community. View photos [here](#) and [here](#).

Fast Fridays Return During Spring Semester



Throughout March, the Office of Enrollment Services organized Fast Fridays for 120 students from four high schools in Tustin and Santa Ana Unified School Districts. These workshops, held on campus, helped incoming first-time college students complete pre-enrollment steps like orientation, advisement, placement, and education plans. The agenda was customized to their needs and schedules, including campus tours and IVC community interactions. Transportation was arranged to remove barriers, ensuring students received personalized support. Feedback from participants and high schools was positive, with students appreciating the assistance and connection-building opportunities. Additional Fast Friday workshops are planned for April and May.

IVC Circle K International Wins Awards



From March 22-24, the IVC Circle K International Club made a significant impact at the annual California-Nevada-Hawaii Circle K International District Convention. Club members Dylan Nelson, Rey Hoshi, and Carlin Lau were awarded Outstanding District Board Member, Outstanding Divisional Leadership Team Member, and 100% Monthly Report Forms on Time, respectively. Nelson received a gold recognition for completing 85 hours of service. Hoshi received a bronze recognition for completing 30 hours of service. Nelson was also elected as governor for the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Circle K International, the highest student leadership position in the district. Read the full story [here](#).

Black Student Success Scholars Tour Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)



From March 18-23, Eight Black Student Success Scholars participated in the 2nd annual IVC HBCU Tour. The students visited the following universities: Howard University (Washington, D.C.), Hampton University (Hampton, VA), Bowie State (Bowie, MD), Norfolk State University (Norfolk, VA), Delaware State University (Dover, DE), Cheyney University (Cheyney, PA), and Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD).

The group also visited the National African American History & Culture Museum in Washington, D.C., the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, and the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, VA. The tour was a collaborative event as IVC's students joined peers from San Bernardino Valley College, Pasadena City College, and Citrus College.

ASIVC Advocates for Community Colleges in Washington, D.C.



From March 15-19, ASIVC participated in the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) National Student Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. The students attended conference sessions, including workshops around student advocacy and leadership, and engaging with community colleges nationwide. They had the opportunity to discuss critical issues facing community college students, including basic needs, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and the Higher Education Act (HEA). The student leaders visited the congressional offices of Representative Mike Levin, Senator Laphonza Butler, Representative Young Kim, Senator Alex Padilla, and Representative Katie Porter. They also connected with congressional

staff members and Townsend Public Affairs, who commented on their excellent preparation, presentation, and collegial advocacy skillsets.

AESL Classes Celebrate "Norooz," the Persian New Year



On March 14, three Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) classes combined for a potluck and joyous celebration of "Norooz," the Persian New Year. Associate faculty Fariba Bolourieh skillfully led students in preparing a meaningful event featuring a gorgeous "haft seen" (special display with "seven Ss"), a santur (Persian stringed instrument) performance, a slide presentation about the holiday, and other cultural activities that were all created and presented by students. Nearly one hundred people were in attendance in the

PAC lobby, including guests from across campus. Special thanks to Facilities, Maintenance and Operations, and Technology Services for swiftly and graciously creating a perfect solution to accommodate the event when faced with inclement weather.

Veterans Services Center Hosts Women Veteran Networking Forum



On March 13, IVC's Veterans Services Center and Saddleback College's Veterans Education and Transition Services hosted the Women Veteran Networking Forum. The event celebrated and honored the achievements of women veterans with a panel discussion, breakout sessions, and a catered lunch. The event theme was "Discover Your Identity," the forum focused on how women veterans navigate the transition from military to civilian life. View a [video recap](#) or [photos](#).

Puentistas Visit the University of California, Riverside, and the Museum of Chicano Art and Culture



On March 8, IVC Puente attended Puente Day at the University of California, Riverside. The event included information sessions about the university's majors, student resources, financial aid, and a campus tour. The Puentistas wrapped up their day with a visit to The Cheech Marin Museum of Chicano Art and Culture. A docent-led tour highlighted the community gallery, which featured Judith Hernandez's one-woman retrospective. The tour concluded with an art lesson inspired by Hernandez's work.

IVC Speech Team Sham-Rocks in Ireland



The IVC Speech Team showcased their talents at the 34th Annual International Forensics Association (IFA) Speech and Debate Championships in Ireland after winning 118 awards over 22 days of competition this season. Competing from March 7-13 in Dublin against 40 colleges and universities, the team excelled in International Public Debate Association (IPDA) debate, extemporaneous speaking, persuasive speaking, impromptu speaking, and audio narration. In the IPDA debate, four IVC students advanced to the elimination rounds, the most of any school. Lena Anecki, a member of the IVC Speech Team, stood out as the IPDA Semi-Finalist earning the title of the highest-advancing community college student at the tournament. IVC Forensics has a history of international

engagement, having traveled to China and Germany for tournaments and hosting debate teams from various countries. Read the full story [here](#).

Marianne Wolfe Selected to Participate in the AANHPI SAP Advisory Committee



On March 6, IVC's [AANAPIS](#) Faculty Coordinator Marianne Wolfe was selected to participate in the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Student Achievement Program (AANHPI SAP) Advisory Committee. The AANHPI SAP mission is to ensure the success of underserved AANHPI students by providing policy guidance and technical assistance while fostering partnerships with community colleges throughout the state. This groundbreaking legislation-protected program is set to transform the education landscape for AANHPI students. It marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to advance AANHPI initiatives within California community colleges. Wolfe will be part of the team to help advise on how the AANHPI SAP funds are determined, distributed, and evaluated.

Student Veterans Advocacy in Washington, D.C.



From March 4-8, members of the Student Veterans Club attended Student Veterans of America's (SVA) Washington Week in Washington, D.C. The trip was a collaboration between IVC's Veterans Services Center and Saddleback's VETS Center. A central focus of the trip was advocacy for veterans' issues, particularly those impacting student veterans. Students actively lobbied for improvements in policies and support systems, reflecting their commitment to the well-being of the broader veteran community. The conference offered various interactions with

members of Congress and their teams, professional networking opportunities, and some time for sightseeing around the nation's Capital.

IVC MUN Strikes Gold at Inland Empire Conference for Model UN (IECMUN 2024)



On March 2, IVC's MUN team participated in the regional IECMUN 2024 hosted by Riverside City College. The team won 4 awards, the most awarded by any college in attendance. The awards included the Best Delegate, an Outstanding Delegate, a Distinguished Delegate, and an Honorable Mention. The team consisted of 12 students who simulated the Security Council on the issue of Conflict and Food Security and the General Assembly on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children in Conflict. The team will travel to the University of California,

Los Angeles, to attend the LAMUN Conference. To learn more about how to join Model United Nations, contact Professor Shirin Sahani at ssahani@ivc.edu.

ELEVATE AAPI Hosts a Series of Faculty Mentor Workshops



Throughout March, Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ([ELEVATE AAPI](#)) hosted six faculty mentor workshops, events, and activities. A keystone event was the collaboration with MESA, Guided Pathways, and Puente MAS to host an engineering and computer science transfer panel. Additionally, ELEVATE AAPI is partnering with IVC alumni Sarah Kim from Edu Light Inc. to provide culturally responsive coaching to the ELEVATE students to

explore their identities and find ways to strengthen and understand how their stories are impactful in many areas. This partnership will provide extra support in changing the narrative of students' journeys, turning adversity into positive career traits, and learning how to market themselves to employers, internships, and more.

International Student Enrollment Continues to Grow



IVC's international student team has been busy assisting the 107 new international students who joined the

college this spring. The number of new students represents a 37% increase over Spring 2023. The international student program saw an overall growth of 6% in Spring 2024, with 547 international students coming from over 47 countries. The combination of active recruitment, overseas partnerships, marketing, IVC's transfer reputation, and location in one of the safest cities in America contribute to the program's growth.

Upcoming Events

IVC Cares Spring Food Giving Event

May 2

Student Piano Recital

May 9

Boundless Dance Concert

May 2-4

Symphony Orchestra

May 12

AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration

May 7

Musical Theater Showcase

May 20

Transfer Celebration

May 7

Theater Conservatory Show

May 21

The Illusion

May 9-19

Commencement

May 23

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President