

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

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

DATE: January 9, 2025

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the January 21, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

Spring 2025 Professional Development Week at IVC



IVC offered over 80 sessions to faculty, staff, and administrators during the Spring 2025 Professional Development Week. The events commenced with the President's Opening Session, featuring a keynote address delivered by Dr. Kimberly M. Lowry, titled "Beyond the Finish Line: Building Pathways to Student Success." Dr. Lowry emphasized the importance of economic and social mobility for community college students and asked why it matters. She discussed how IVC could adopt and integrate the principles of the

next generation of community colleges to enhance student achievements and improve post-completion outcomes. View photos [here](#).

IVC Honors Students Awarded UCLA TAP Scholarships



Two graduates from the IVC Honors Program, Mary El-Abed, and Alice (Zihan) Zhao, have been named recipients of the University of California, Los Angeles Transfer Alliance Program (UCLA TAP) Scholarship. These scholarships, valued at \$5,000 each and renewable for a second year, provide financial support and include participation in the UCLA TAP Scholars Program. This achievement highlights the success of IVC's Honors students, with 70% of TAP-certified graduates being accepted into UCLA for the Fall 2024 admission cycle.

IVC Spanish Department Hosts Workshop at ATEP



On December 20, the Spanish Department organized a workshop on "The Communicative Approach in Foreign Language Teaching" presented by IVC professor emerita Jeanne Egasse. Professor Egasse co-authors two Spanish textbooks, "Dos Mundos" and "Tu Mundo," used at IVC, Saddleback College, and many other colleges and universities nationwide. In addition to Spanish, she has taught foreign language methodology and introductory linguistics courses. This half-day workshop introduced the history of language learning, explored the principles of second language acquisition, and helped participants develop a practical, natural approach to language teaching. Over 20 Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish instructors from IVC, Saddleback College, Norco College, and Chapman University attended this workshop held at ATEP.

EOPS Students Attend Charter 100 Holiday Luncheon



A group of 17 current and former students from IVC attended the Charter 100 Holiday Celebration on December 12. Charter 100 members have played a pivotal role in supporting students who face unique financial challenges by providing various scholarships for decades. These scholarships aim to alleviate financial burdens and demonstrate a belief in the student's ability to succeed. All scholarship recipients are active participants in the EOPS/CARE/NextUp/CalWORKs/Guardian Scholars programs, which provide crucial support services to help students achieve their educational goals.

IVC Health and Wellness Center Hosts "Spreading Holiday Cheer" Event



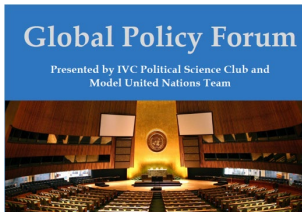
The Health and Wellness Center at IVC hosted "Spreading Holiday Cheer" on December 12. Students enjoyed a festive atmosphere as Santa Claus distributed candy canes and other treats. There were opportunities to take photos with Santa, creating memorable moments that provided a joyful experience for students and staff as the end of the semester approached. View photos [here](#).

EOPS Program Hosts Annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Event



On December 6, the EOPS/CARE/NextUp/CalWORKs/Guardian Scholars Department, in partnership with the Counseling Center and College Corps, held its annual Adopt-A-Family event at IVC. Now in its 39th year, this tradition provided a warm breakfast to nearly 100 attendees. Generous donations ensured children received toys and gifts to take home. The event has supported over 7,900 students, including 53 families this year. This community-focused initiative highlights the ongoing commitment of IVC and its partners to support students and their families. View photos of the event [here](#).

IVC Model United Nations (MUN) Hosts Global Policy Forum on Nuclear Weapons



On December 5, IVC MUN held a virtual Global Policy Forum to debate the critical question, "Do Nuclear Weapons Make the World Safer?" This semi-annual event, organized by MUN students and the Political Science Club, operates as a service-learning initiative to raise awareness of global challenges and opportunities and foster global citizenship. There were approximately 50 participants, in-person and online. The team advocating that nuclear weapons enhance global safety was chosen as the winner by the audience. Those interested in learning more about IVC MUN can contact Professor Shirin Sahani at ssahani@ivc.edu. A captioned recording is available [here](#).

IVC Hosts De-Stress Fest



Near the end of the fall semester, the Offices of Student Life and Student Equity organized a series of de-stress events to support students as they approached the end of the semester. The activities included pet therapy sessions, a drawing event with donuts, interactive bubbles and chalk activities, and a movie night. These events allowed students to unwind and reflect on their achievements from the semester in a supportive environment.

Financial Aid Outreach Activities



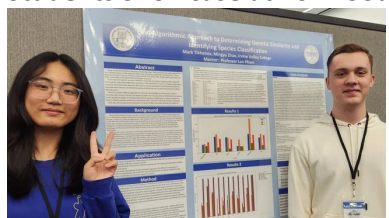
With the release of the 2025-2026 FAFSA and CADAA applications, IVC's Financial Aid Office held extensive outreach efforts in December to ensure the IVC community and local school districts are informed about their financial aid options. Student Services Specialist Erica Lehman provided a basic overview of federal and state financial aid programs, sharing essential information and deadlines with graduating seniors at University High School. Students at Legacy Magnet Academy received hands-on instruction, learning how to create FAFSA or CADAA accounts and begin their 2025-2026 financial aid applications. More than 600 parents and students from Huntington Beach Unified and Irvine Unified School Districts attended separate Zoom sessions where financial aid staff answered their questions. IVC Counselors participated in a session about financial aid's intricacies and how to best help students.

IVC's 4th Annual Idea Pitch Competition: A Showcase of Innovation



In November, IVC's 4th Annual Idea Pitch Competition spotlighted student creativity and entrepreneurship. The competition, featuring over 50 submissions, commenced with students presenting 60-second video pitches outlining innovative solutions and target audiences. The top 12 finalists progressed to a virtual round, delivering 3-minute presentations. Community members Brian Arnold, Don Voss, Catlin Tran, and Cynthia West served as judges evaluating the pitches, ultimately awarding Chloe Dalmacio 1st place for her app connecting high school students with nonprofit volunteer opportunities. Tiffany Yang's anime-themed clothing line secured 2nd place, while Leo Maffey's inflatable wrist pillow for travelers earned 3rd place. Winners received cash prizes and in-kind support to advance their projects. Read the full story [here](#).

Students Showcase at 2024 Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research



On November 23, IVC students presented at the [Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research \(SCCUR\)](#), hosted this year by California State University, San Bernardino. Sponsored by the IVC Honors Program, the students joined undergraduate scholars from two- and four-year colleges across California. IVC students delivered 10 oral and poster presentations on diverse topics such as AI-informed early detection of heart disease, indigenous agroecology, and the cognitive benefits of multilingualism. Congratulations to the IVC student presenters and their faculty mentors for their achievements and contributions to undergraduate research.

UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Support Initiatives



Transfer Center

During the UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) application period from September 1 to 30, the Transfer Center at IVC supported students through workshops and extended counseling hours. The Center successfully conducted seven TAG workshops, available both in-person and online, which were attended by 148 students seeking guidance on their applications. Personalized assistance was offered through drop-in hours and scheduled appointments. This concerted effort resulted in more than 940 IVC students submitting TAG applications.

IVC Faculty's Film Receives Dual Recognition at Slamdance Film Festival



Interactive Media Arts Professor Dr. Patricia Beckmann-Wells achieved significant recognition with her film, "Mombomb, Part 1." The film has been accepted into the 2025 Slamdance Film Festival in two categories: Episodic and Digital, Interactive and Gaming. This dual selection is a distinguished achievement, as the festival received over 10,000 submissions this year. The festival qualifies for the Academy Award and British Academy Film Awards, enhancing its status in the global film community. Dr. Beckmann-Wells' return to Slamdance follows her previous success in 2019 with "Propolis, Part 7," where she also participated as a special guest speaker on Artificial Intelligence filmmaking. Dr. Beckmann-Wells is also a finalist in the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, one of Asia's largest short film festivals. Final selections will be announced in April, with winners eligible for Academy Award nominations. "Mombomb, Part 1" has also received multiple Grand Prix awards internationally.

Upcoming Events

Keyboard Series – Chamber Music Extravaganza

January 25

Club Day

February 5

music@noon Student Recital Series

February 7

Lunar New Year Celebration

February 11

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President