

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

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

DATE: January 8, 2026

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the January 20, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting**

Spring 2026 Professional Development Week Highlights Strategic Enrollment and Adult Learners



On January 6, IVC launched Spring 2026 Professional Development Week with the President's Opening Session in the Performing Arts Center, bringing together faculty, staff, and administrators for a focused look at student access, retention, and completion. The session highlighted IVC's participation in the 2025–2026 California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Strategic Enrollment Management Program, a year-long initiative designed to strengthen enrollment and student success efforts across the college. The project leadership team presented IVC's initiative, "Your Life. Your Goals. Our Support. Empowering Adult Learners at IVC," sharing key findings about the experiences of adult learners and outlining next steps to better support their educational journeys. Building on IVC's ongoing commitment to professional development as a driver of student success, President's Opening Session set a collaborative tone for a week of activities centered on equity-minded practice, strategic enrollment, and enhanced support for adult learners. View photos [here](#).

Women's Flag Football Sets Spring 2026 Schedule for Second Season



The Spring 2026 schedule for women's flag football is set as the program prepares for its second season under coach Sami Logan. Building on a strong inaugural year, the Lasers returned after helping launch one of California's earliest collegiate women's flag football programs. The sport continues to grow, with Cypress, Golden West, and Saddleback joining the Orange Empire Conference. Colleges Ventura, MiraCosta, and Moreno Valley are also launching programs. The Lasers begin the season on February 7 at Redlands and then take on Ventura in their first home game of the season on March 4. The full 2026 IVC spring schedule can be seen at www.ivclasers.com

IVC Mock Trial Club Earns First Place at National AMTA Community College Clash



In December, the IVC Mock Trial Club competed in the 3rd Annual American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Community College Clash. IVC fielded two teams at the national virtual tournament and competed alongside eight community colleges. The team demonstrated exceptional performance by earning first place overall based on judges' scores, while a second IVC team secured fourth place, placing the college in two of the tournament's top four positions. Students also received individual honors recognizing standout legal analysis and courtroom presentation: Jayden Sanchez and Ricky Larson earned Outstanding Attorney Awards, while Francis Samson and Jayden Sanchez received Outstanding Witness Awards.

Women's Basketball Earned 65-39 Win Over Oxnard at Ventura Crossover



On December 27, IVC's women's basketball team closed out the Ventura crossover with a decisive 65-39 win over Oxnard at Ventura, securing its 10th victory in the last 11 games. Ranked No. 10 in the state in the latest coaches' poll, the Lasers improved to 14-2 overall while showcasing a balanced offensive effort and strong team defense. IVC set the tone early, leading 16-7 after the first quarter and 35-20 at halftime, then sealed the win by outscoring Oxnard 14-5 in the fourth quarter. The victory highlighted the Lasers' momentum heading into the Orange Empire Conference.

IVC Health and Wellness Center Shares "Spreading Holiday Cheer"



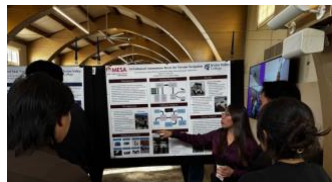
On December 12, the IVC Health and Wellness Center welcomed students and employees to a "Spreading Holiday Cheer" celebration featuring a special visit from Santa Claus. Guests enjoyed candy canes and seasonal treats while taking photos with Santa in a warm, festive setting that offered a cheerful break from end-of-semester stress. The event fostered connection and campus spirit as the college community prepared to close out the fall term. View photos [here](#).

Q&A with Congressman Dave Min Highlights Student Civic Engagement



On December 8, IVC students hosted a Q&A with Congressman Dave Min (CA-47), creating an opportunity for direct dialogue between students and a sitting member of Congress. Organized by the IVC Democrats club, whose members took the initiative to contact the congressman's office and coordinate the visit, the event brought together students interested in public service, policy, and civic leadership. Under the guidance of Political Science Professor and club advisor Dr. Joon S. Kil, students facilitated a wide-ranging conversation that allowed attendees to ask questions about national and state issues, the legislative process, and pathways for community college students to engage in public policy. This program reinforced IVC's commitment to fostering informed, engaged citizens and expanding co-curricular opportunities that connect classroom learning with real-world democratic participation.

MESA Students Present Research at CSU Channel Islands



Eleven students from IVC's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program visited California State University, Channel Islands on Nov. 21-22. The group toured the campus and attended the Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research, where nine students presented their research posters. Students described the conference as an empowering opportunity that boosted their confidence in presenting to a wider academic audience. They felt genuinely validated standing alongside peers from prominent four-year institutions and appreciated the strong sense of community they formed during the event.

Educational Partners Conference Highlights Transfer Pathways and Student Support



On December 5, IVC hosted its Educational Partners Conference, welcoming regional educational k-12 partners to the Performing Arts Center for a half-day program focused on transfer pathways, student support services, and collaborative strategies to promote college success. Check-in and breakfast began in the PAC lobby, followed by a general session on the Rezanoor Stage that featured welcome remarks from Vice President for Student Services Dr. Martha McDonald and Vice President for Instruction Rick Miranda. Breakout sessions showcased IVC's programs, academic and career pathways, and dual enrollment opportunities for middle and high school students. View photos [here](#).

Global Policy Forum Engages Students in Debate on Nuclear Energy and Sustainability



On December 3, the IVC Political Science Club and award-winning Model United Nations (MUN) team hosted their semi-annual Global Policy Forum, building on the team's recent success at the National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C.

More than 65 students, faculty, and staff attended the evening event to consider the question, "Is Nuclear Energy Essential for Achieving Global Sustainability?" Student teams presented well-researched arguments on both sides of the issue, followed by a robust question-and-answer session in which audience members posed thoughtful and challenging inquiries. At the conclusion of the forum, the side arguing that nuclear energy is not essential for global sustainability earned the audience vote. The strong turnout and high level of student engagement reflected IVC's continued commitment to fostering global awareness, civil discourse, and informed citizenship.

IVC English Professor Invited to Lead Statewide Workshops on Student-Centered Teaching



IVC Professor of English Summer Serpas presented "Supporting the Whole Student in the English Corequisite Classroom" on December 3 to the Louisiana Board of Regents at their statewide Corequisite Academy. Following her presentation, Dr. Zackeus Johnson, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, invited her to present at the state's fourth annual Meauxmentum Summit, a convening of higher education leaders advancing Louisiana's goal for 60% of working-age adults to earn a degree or high-value credential by 2030. Taking place February

4–5 in Lafayette, Louisiana, the summit will feature Serpas leading two interdisciplinary workshops focused on cultivating a culture of care through inclusive syllabus policies, belonging-building routines, individualized student support, and effective use of campus resources, along with consultation sessions and collaborative meetings with campus teams. Her invitation reflects IVC's student-centered teaching philosophy and highlights the college's English instruction as a national model.

14th Annual IVC and Saddleback Student Research Symposium Showcases Student Innovation



On November 14, the IVC and Saddleback Honors Programs hosted their 14th Annual Student Research Symposium. This year's symposium was the largest ever, with 142 total research projects presented. The 112 research projects completed by IVC students included topics including peer mentorship of student veterans,

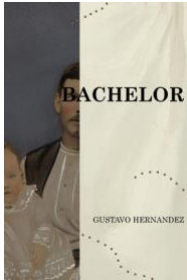
corporate social responsibility in the global chocolate industry, and healthcare provider bias and women's contraceptive burden. The symposium featured an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Jennifer Hedgecock, Professor of English at Saddleback College, titled "Scholarly Exploration: The Path Towards Self Discovery." The Symposium celebrated the achievements of student scholars and the invaluable mentorship provided by faculty who guided them throughout their research journeys.

IVC Students Bring Their Voices to the Basic Needs Summit



A team of 11, including 9 students, traveled to Napa Valley College along with IVC President John Hernandez to attend this year's Basic Needs Summit. The convening was an inspiring gathering of more than 300 students, practitioners, administrators, and trustees focused on advancing student basic needs. Centered on the timely theme, "Sustaining Hope: Meeting Student Needs in Uncertain Times," the summit marked a milestone year with the addition of its first-ever student track, which drew 65 student participants statewide, and IVC proudly served as a sponsor. During the conference, students shared their lived experiences as community college students, highlighted the impact of basic needs resources on their academic success, and offered insights on how campuses can better support international students in accessing essential services. The group left energized, grateful for the opportunity to represent IVC alongside President Hernandez, and ready to bring fresh ideas back to campus to strengthen student support efforts.

IVC English Instructor and OC Poet Laureate Gustavo Hernandez Publishes New Poetry Collection



In October, IVC English instructor and Orange County Poet Laureate Gustavo Hernandez published "Bachelor," his newest book of poetry. The release was featured in a ["Los Angeles Times" article](#) by IVC alumna Sarah Mosqueda, which highlighted Hernandez's poetry education work through workshops at IVC and his broader commitment to mentorship in the local literary community. Hernandez's profile also noted his ongoing community engagement through OC Poet Laureate office hours hosted in partnership with LibroMobile in Santa Ana, creating additional opportunities for writers and readers to connect with poetry in accessible, public spaces. Extending his impact beyond the classroom and page, Hernandez curated "Bright as Life: Southern California Poets" at the Huntington Beach Art Center, which opened on December 9 and remains on view through February 14. The exhibition features poetry displayed on gallery walls, including work by IVC English faculty Lisa Alvarez and Kristen Skjonsby, underscoring the depth of IVC's faculty leadership in the region's arts and culture landscape.

Men's Soccer Midfielder Cade Williams Commits to UC Irvine NCAA Division I



IVC men's soccer standout Cade Williams signed with NCAA Division I UC Irvine following a championship season with the Lasers. Williams earned first-team All-Orange Empire Conference honors and helped lead IVC to a 13-8-1 overall record, an Orange Empire Conference title, and a berth in the 3C2A Southern California Regional Playoffs. The Arizona native played in all 22 matches, starting 21, and finished the season with one goal and three assists. He was also selected to the United Soccer Coaches 2025 Men's Scholar All-America. His transfer reflects IVC's continued success in preparing student-athletes to excel academically and competitively at the next level.

Upcoming Events

Spring Club Day

January 28

Trio Fiora, Suzanne Wong Piano Faculty Recital

February 22

Lunar New Year Celebration

February 18

Celebrating Excellence

March 6

Transfer & Graduate School Fair

March 10

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "H".

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President