

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

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

DATE: July 10, 2025

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

Advancing Access and Opportunity for Adult Re-Entry Students



IVC launched a Student Success and Enrollment Management (SEM) initiative focused on enhancing enrollment, retention, and career readiness for adult re-entry students. The initiative addresses statewide and local enrollment challenges, as well as the increasing number of adult learners seeking to advance their education and careers. Many adult students face barriers, including financial constraints, work and family obligations, and limited access to student services typically designed for younger learners. IVC's SEM initiative will implement a range of targeted strategies to support this population, including collecting and analyzing data to better understand their needs, mapping the student journey to identify key barriers and opportunities, and developing streamlined academic and career pathways that align with their goals and responsibilities. Aligned with the priorities of Vision 2030, SEM advances workforce readiness, digital access, and equity-focused student outcomes. It represents a significant step toward increasing degree and certificate completion, improving workforce connections, and expanding equitable educational opportunities for adult learners. A cross-campus team began this work in Summer 2025 and will continue efforts into the 2025–2026 academic year, with a focused analysis on the needs of the re-entry student population.

IVC Strengthens Pathway to Pharmacy Through WesternU Partnership



Western University IVC continues to expand opportunities for transfer and professional advancement through its partnership with Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU), College of Pharmacy. Established through a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2023, the collaboration provides IVC students with a clear and supported [pathway into pharmacy school](#). IVC Transfer Center has actively promoted the opportunity during one-on-one appointments, tabling events, and center visits. WesternU representatives have conducted multiple workshops over the past two years. Informing students about the application timeline, program expectations, and transfer requirements. WesternU has recognized IVC as its largest community college partner. Four IVC students are confirmed to begin their studies at WesternU in Fall 2025, with an additional 11 students projected to enter in Fall 2026. This partnership exemplifies IVC's commitment to supporting students' educational and career goals through strategic university collaborations and guided transfer pathways.

IVC Featured for Embedding Caring Campus into Strategic Framework



IVC was recently featured in the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) newsletter and website for its deep integration of the Caring Campus framework into its 10-year strategic plan, Inspire 2035. The article highlights IVC's commitment to fostering a culture of care, with initiatives like "IVC Cares," Caring Campus Moments at meetings, and a tri-chaired Caring Campus Committee. To read the full story, [click here](#).

IVC Students Showcase Wildfire Prevention Innovation at National STEM Competition



A student team from IVC was selected as a national finalist in the 2025 Community College Innovation Challenge, a competition led by the American Association of Community Colleges in partnership with the National Science Foundation. Led by Professor of Chemistry Dr. Don Perry, students Abdel J. Ali, Victor C. Baroudy, Leonard L. Gea, and Jonathan M. Lynch presented their wildfire prevention innovation during a poster showcase on Capitol Hill, joining 11 other student-led teams from across the country. Inspired by recent California wildfires and their lasting impacts on communities, the IVC students developed a home fire prevention system centered on a fire-retardant gel. Their design offers a proactive approach to mitigating property damage and insurance costs during fire seasons. Student researcher Gea noted that their gel formulation builds upon the work of Stanford chemical researcher Eric Appel, integrating cutting-edge science with real-world application. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC Women's Flag Football Completes Inaugural Season with 11 Wins and Statewide Momentum



IVC concluded its first-ever women's flag football season with an 11-3 record, marking a groundbreaking year for the program. Under the leadership of Head Coach Sami Logan and with the support of Dean of the School of Kinesiology, Health and Athletics Keith Shackleford, the Lasers launched their inaugural season in spring 2025. The season featured a strong competitive performance, including four victories over crosstown rival Saddleback College. The team demonstrated dedication through consistent film study, weight training, and high-intensity practices, building a close-knit community committed to shared goals. IVC's early leadership in the sport has sparked interest statewide, with the number of participating colleges expected to more than triple by Spring 2026. Coach Logan expressed appreciation for the support of IVC's athletics department and her assistant coaches in building the program. She praised the team's resilience, trust, and commitment, which shaped a strong foundation for future success.

IVC Baseball Standout Tyler Eastham Commits to NCAA Division II Chico State



Sophomore Tyler Eastham has committed to continue his academic and athletic career at California State University, Chico. Eastham appeared in 16 games with 12 starts, throwing a team-high 68.2 innings and recording 45 strikeouts. He posted an overall earned run average (ERA) of 4.46 and demonstrated consistency by going at least five innings in eight starts. In Orange Empire Conference play, Eastham made seven starts across eight appearances, finishing with an ERA of 4.24 over 40.1 innings. His performance earned him Second Team All-Conference honors, a reflection of his perseverance and impact throughout the season. He completed the season with a 3-5 record and one save, helping guide the Lasers to a 16-24 overall finish. At Chico State, Eastham joins a NCAA Division II program that competes in the California Collegiate Athletic Association.

First-Generation Student Club Recognized with \$1,500 ARC Community Engagement Program Award



The First-Generation Student Club at IVC has been honored with a \$1,500 ARC Community Engagement Program (ACEP) Award from ARC Document Solutions, a national provider of digital printing and document management services. The ACEP Award celebrates individuals and organizations that exemplify ARC's values by creating meaningful change in their communities. The First-Generation Student Club was selected for its leadership in promoting equity and inclusion through mentorship, resource-sharing, and events that support first-generation college students in achieving their academic goals. Special recognition goes to Club President Sophia Diaz, whose leadership was instrumental in securing the award. Diaz led the effort to apply for the ACEP Award, showcasing the club's work and vision for community impact.

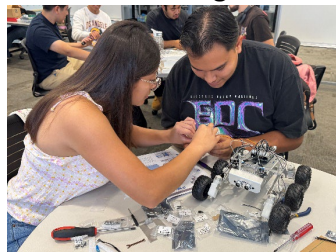
MESA Students Selected for Competitive Summer Research Opportunities



Several students from IVC's [Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement \(MESA\) Program](#) have been selected for undergraduate research opportunities. Seven students will spend eight weeks conducting research at California State University, Fullerton, as part of the Undergraduate Research Experience (URE), funded by Project RAISE (Regional Alliance in STEM Education). Chris Rodas will work with Dr. Doina Bein in computer science;

Evan Garcia and Haley Barrios-Gomez will conduct mechanical engineering research with Dr. Darren Banks and Dr. Sagil James, respectively; Joy Padilla and Susan Zelidon will focus on electrical engineering under the guidance of Dr. Jaya Dofe and Dr. Ankita Mohapatra; Gustavo Valencia will join Dr. Sampson Akwafuo's computer science lab; and Clarice Encarnacion will be mentored by Dr. Nilay Patel in biological sciences. Additionally, Jz Torres will be studying materials science and engineering with Dr. Regina Ragan at UC Irvine's Center for Complex and Active Materials as part of the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), funded by the National Science Foundation. Julissa Maupin has been selected for the SURFEES REU at Chapman University. Under Dr. Rebecca Glinburg's mentorship, she will study how the stress-granule protein Rin participates in the integrated stress pathway during neurodevelopment in larval *Drosophila* brains and whether osmotic stress triggers stress-granule formation in *Drosophila* ovaries. These placements reflect the MESA Program's growing success in connecting students with competitive, high-impact research opportunities.

MESA SPARK Program Launches to Advance Equity in STEM at IVC



The MESA Program launched the inaugural Summer STEM Projects Advancing Research & Knowledge (SPARK) initiative with 12 students. The Summer SPARK program is an eight-week immersive research experience, designed to prepare first-generation, low-income students pursuing calculus-based STEM degrees for academic and professional success. Under the mentorship of Dr. Alec Sim, students are developing skills in programming, data analysis, electronics, and experimental design. The modules guide students through electronics, soldering, experimental design, Arduino microcontrollers, and artificial intelligence using Raspberry Pi computers. Topics include robotics, AI-enhanced weather station analytics, electric motor testing, and the use of NASA's Open Vehicle Sketch Pad for next-generation aircraft wing design. The program also includes a chemistry-focused research project supported by Dr. Steven Nguyen. The program concludes with the design of scientific posters and final project presentations. Each participant receives a \$5,000 stipend upon completing the program.

Library Building Reopens Following Major Renovation



On July 7, the IVC Library building officially reopened to the campus community following a significant renovation and infrastructure upgrade. The project included a new HVAC system and a roofing upgrade, enhancing air quality, energy efficiency, and the overall comfort of the learning environment. Renovations also included the installation of a new exit door system, acoustical flooring, and acoustical wall panels to reduce noise and improve the study environment. The library now consists of the Patio Café, an outdoor extension that expands the facility toward BSTIC. This new space was created by adding a doorway opposite the main entrance, leading to a roughly 3,000-square-foot enclosed patio. The area features a variety of seating options, shade structures, vending machines, and access to power and data. Designed as a flexible environment for studying, group collaboration, or informal meetings, the Patio Café welcomes food and beverages without restriction.

Classified Employee Appreciation Ice Cream Social Celebrates Dedication and Service



On June 25, IVC hosted the Classified Employee Appreciation Ice Cream Social, offering a sweet and refreshing break for employees during the summer months. Held on the Library Patio, the event invited classified professionals to build their sundaes while enjoying camaraderie and appreciation from colleagues and campus leadership. The IVC administration team greeted attendees and served sundaes throughout the afternoon. The event is an expression of gratitude for the professionalism, dedication, and behind-the-scenes efforts that classified professionals provide in support of student success and institutional excellence. View photos [here](#).

Celebrating Freedom and Culture at the OC Juneteenth Freedom Celebration



On June 21, IVC participated in the 4th annual OC Juneteenth Freedom Celebration, presented by Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Orange County in partnership with the City of Irvine. The community event was held at the Great Park and drew hundreds of attendees to honor the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and celebrate freedom, hope, and joy. IVC's Outreach team and student ambassadors were joined by SOCCCD Board Vice President Ryan Dack, Dean of Counseling Services Angel Hernandez, and Counselor Taliah Chatterfield. Together, they engaged with community members, sharing information about the college's academic programs and support services. IVC's presence reflected its ongoing dedication to strengthening its ties to the greater Irvine community.

Orange County Celebrates Philippine Independence Day at IVC



On June 14, IVC and Equitable Learning [Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at IVC \(ELEVATE AAPI\)](#) partnered with local Filipino American organizations and businesses to host Orange County's third annual Philippine Independence Day Celebration at Live Oak Terraces. More than 700 attendees participated throughout the day, alongside over 50 local businesses and organizations. Festivities included cultural performances, interactive demonstrations, featured speakers, community contests, a car show, and popular Filipino food trucks. The celebration concluded with a performance by ELEVATE's Readers Theater student group, presenting "This is us America 2025." ELEVATE AAPI was recognized by multiple government agencies for its leadership and collaboration in making the event a success. View photos [here](#).

IVC Celebrates English Language Learner Graduates of Healthcare Pathways Program



On June 12, the South Orange County Regional Consortium for Adult Education hosted a recognition ceremony honoring English language learner (ELL) students who completed noncredit healthcare training programs during the 2024–2025 academic year as part of California’s ELL Healthcare Pathways Grant. Among the honorees were 80 Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) students from IVC who completed pharmacy technician and dental assisting programs in partnership with Coastline ROP. President John Hernandez delivered remarks during the ceremony, which also featured a moving testimonial video in which students shared the personal impact of the

ELL Healthcare initiative on their lives. Program graduates expressed their enthusiasm to serve the local community as multilingual healthcare professionals.

IVC Hosts Annual Strategic Planning Retreat to Launch Inspire 2035 Vision



On June 10, administrators, faculty, classified professionals, and students convened for IVC’s annual Strategic Planning Retreat to reflect on progress of the 2020–2025 Strategic Plan and co-create a vision for the future. The

group was introduced to Inspire 2035, SOCCCD’s new long-range planning initiative. Activities encouraged attendees to share bold ideas that support district-wide priorities: student-centered practices, equitable access and outcomes, economic and social mobility, community vitality, and a culture of workplace growth. Through collaborative exercises, participants shared ideas and shared reflections, hopes, and commitments to shape the college’s next steps. The retreat reaffirmed IVC’s shared responsibility in advancing strategic goals and fostering a thriving campus community. In the fall term, IVC will finalize the plan leading to full plan approval in December. View photos [here](#).

Pride Scholars Celebrate Pride Night at Angel Stadium



On June 10, the Pride Scholars Program hosted an outing to Angel Stadium for the Angels’ Pride Night. A group of 26 students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators attended the event, joining the community to celebrate inclusivity and build connections beyond the classroom. Attendees received limited-edition Pride hats and explored a pre-game resource fair highlighting local queer-centered community organizations. The evening provided a meaningful opportunity for students to foster friendships, celebrate their identities,

and strengthen their sense of belonging at IVC. This gathering served as a proud kickoff to Pride Month with the Pride Scholars and their campus allies.

Performing Arts Center Events Expand Community Engagement



IVC's Performing Arts Center and Arts Village hosted events that showcased its role as a regional cultural hub. On May 6, IVC welcomed the Orange County Music and Arts Administrators for a campus-wide meeting. The next day, the "Arts 4 All" celebration brought hundreds of K–12 students and families to campus to explore ceramics, visual art, and student films. On June 4, IVC hosted "Violins of Hope," a powerful day of education and remembrance featuring restored instruments once played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. The event

included lectures, a community panel, and a moving performance by IVC students and a mixed ensemble, culminating in a guest appearance by world-renowned violinist Pinchas Zuckerman.

IVC Outreach Connects with Community at the 41st Annual Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off



On June 1, IVC's Outreach team returned to Old Town Tustin to participate in the 41st annual Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off. This event is the largest one-day chili cook-off in the nation, according to the International Chili Society. Thousands of community members from across the region attend the cook-off, providing an ideal platform for community engagement. As an event sponsor, IVC staffed an informational booth and responded to inquiries about the college's academic programs, English as a Second Language offerings,

Community and Emeritus Education, and the Irvine Valley Promise Program. The college's presence emphasized its ongoing commitment to expanding access and connecting residents with educational opportunities that support lifelong learning and student success.

Upcoming Events

President's Annual State of the College

August 11

Laser Day, IVC's New Student Welcome

August 13

Instruction Begins

August 18

Health Fair

August 27

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of John C. Hernandez.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President