

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

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

DATE: July 9, 2026

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

IVC's "Ignite Your Future" Campaign Earns International CASE Award



On July 1, IVC's "Ignite Your Future" digital enrollment campaign earned a Bronze Circle of Excellence Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), receiving global recognition in the Marketing Initiatives category. The 2026 competition drew 4,185 entries from 628 institutions across 33 countries. Created in partnership with Gallegos United, the bilingual, culturally grounded campaign was designed to increase college applications and enrollment among Latine Gen Z students and their families. It generated 3.3 million impressions, 34,954 clicks, and 2,791 "Apply Now" conversions, nearly three times the original goal. This international recognition highlights IVC's innovative, data-informed approach to reaching prospective students and advancing equitable access to higher education. View video [here](#).

IVC Launches Year Two of Strategic Enrollment Management Initiative



IVC launched the second year of its participation in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Program, shifting from research and planning to implementation. During year one, IVC conducted listening sessions, mapped the adult learner journey, analyzed institutional data, and developed a framework to better understand barriers affecting adult learner persistence, retention, and completion. Year two focuses on six priorities designed to strengthen the adult learner experience: redesigning the student journey from application through completion; creating a centralized adult learner website; implementing a coordinated case management model; expanding Credit for Prior Learning opportunities; developing flexible, career-aligned accelerated pathways; and providing campuswide professional development focused on adult learning and equity-minded support. Together, these efforts will help reduce barriers, improve access to coordinated services, and ensure adult learners have the resources, guidance, and flexible pathways needed to achieve their educational and career goals.

IVC Celebrates Pride Month with Campus and Community Engagement



Throughout June, IVC celebrated Pride Month, honoring the legacy of the 1969 Stonewall uprising and reaffirming the college's commitment to dignity, equity, and belonging. The Office of Student Equity and Pride Scholars highlighted opportunities for students to build community, access resources, and celebrate sexual and gender diversity. On June 3, Pride Scholars attended Pride Night at Angel Stadium, where students and supporters gathered at the Big A to enjoy the pregame Pride Village and baseball game. The month continued with a Pride Picnic on June 25, offering students an opportunity to share lunch, play games, and connect in a welcoming campus environment. IVC also promoted campus and community resources, related academic courses, and local LGBTQIA+ support organizations.

Chicago College Tour Expands Transfer Awareness for IVC Students



From June 22-25, Students from IVC's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE), NextUp, Guardian Scholars, and Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success—Independent Living Program (YESS-ILP) participated in an educational tour to expand transfer awareness and expose them to diverse postsecondary opportunities. They visited the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois Chicago, and Northeastern Illinois University. During the trip, they learned about admissions pathways, explored academic programs, and experienced campus environments. The group also visited the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, connecting the experience to history, identity, and civic engagement. Students shared that the tour strengthened their confidence and broadened their sense of what is possible.

IVC Celebrates Construction Milestone with Student Union Topping Out Ceremony



IVC celebrated a major milestone in the construction of the new Student Union on June 24. The event brought together members of the campus and district communities, along with construction partners, to mark the completion of the building's structural frame. President John Hernandez welcomed attendees and recognized the many campus and district partners whose collaboration helped move the project forward. Attendees signed the final beam before it was lifted into place, creating a lasting symbol of the teamwork and collaboration behind the project. Joining the event were SOCCCD Board of Trustees President Carolyn Inmon, Vice President Ryan Dack, and Student Trustee Eric Shin. Once completed, the Student Union will serve as a welcoming campus hub for the cafeteria, bookstore, Office of Student Life and Student Equity, ASIVC, and other spaces that support student connection, engagement, and belonging. This milestone reflects IVC's continued investment in facilities that strengthen the student experience and foster a vibrant campus community. View photos [here](#).

IVC Thanks Classified Professionals at Summer Ice Cream Social



The Classified Employee Appreciation Ice Cream Social brought classified professionals together for an afternoon of connection, recognition and summer refreshments on June 24. Hosted by the IVC administration team, the event invited employees to enjoy made-to-order sundaes served by campus leaders while spending time with colleagues in a relaxed and welcoming setting. The annual gathering provides an opportunity to express appreciation for the essential contributions classified professionals make across the college. Their expertise, dedication and daily service strengthen campus operations and help create a supportive environment where students can succeed. The event advances IVC Inspire 2035 Priority 6: Workplace Culture and Growth by fostering a culture of care where employees feel valued, respected and connected to the broader campus community. View photos [here](#).

IVC Celebrates Freedom and Culture at OC Juneteenth Freedom Celebration



IVC participated in the 5th annual OC Juneteenth Freedom Celebration at the Great Park on June 20. Presented by Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Orange County, the free community event brought together attendees to honor the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and celebrate freedom, hope, and joy through music, dance, live performances, food, wellness activities, children's programming, and a BIPOC marketplace. IVC's Outreach team and student ambassadors were joined by Dean of Counseling Services Angel Hernandez and Counselor Heather Johnson. The team connected with community members, shared information about the college's academic programs and student support services, and helped prospective students and families learn more about educational opportunities at IVC. The college's participation

reflects its ongoing commitment to community engagement, inclusive outreach, and strengthening connections with the greater Irvine community.

IVC Graduate and Puente Student Publishes Commentary in Zócalo Public Square and CalMatters



Recent IVC graduate and Puente Program alum Priscilla Preciado had her writing published on June 18 in Zócalo Public Square and CalMatters, elevating her voice through a powerful personal essay on family, identity, racial profiling and the experiences of California Latinos. In her essay, "[Why ICE Raids Connect Me to My Father](#)," Preciado reflected on her father's experiences growing up in Garden Grove and connected his story to contemporary conversations about immigration enforcement, belonging and intergenerational resilience. The essay was also adapted by CalMatters under the headline "[Immigration Raids Have Made Skin Color Top of Mind](#)"

[for a New Generation of California Latinos.](#)" Preciado, who is transferring to Cal State Fullerton to study communications with an emphasis in journalism, exemplified the power of student storytelling and the impact of programs like Puente in helping students develop their voices, share their lived experiences and contribute meaningfully to public dialogue.

IVC Students Selected for Regional Alliance in STEM Education (RAISE) Summer Research Experience



Thirteen IVC students were selected for this year's Project RAISE Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, an eight-week program at California

State University, Fullerton that began on June 15. Congratulations to Ethan Adunagow, Roxana Bazargani, Ella Chagan, Javier Gonzalez, Angel Islas, Ashley Mendiola, Larry Perez, Viviana Rodriguez, German Leon, Juan Castorena, Nimrat Kaur, Danielle Zee, and Ines Khodja for earning this research opportunity. The selection process was highly competitive, with 66 IVC students applying and 22 invited to interview. Upon completion of the program, each participant will receive an \$8,500 stipend in recognition of their research engagement and commitment.

Philippine Independence Day Celebration Brings Culture and Community to IVC



Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer, and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (ELEVATE AAPI) partnered with local Filipino American businesses and community organizations to host Orange County's 4th annual Philippine Independence Day Celebration on June 13. More than 1,000 attendees participated throughout the day, and more than 50 local businesses and organizations were involved. The celebration highlighted Filipino culture, history, and community through cultural performances, interactive

demonstrations, featured speakers, contests, a car show, and Filipino food vendors. IVC's ELEVATE Readers Theater student group closed the program with a performance of "This Is Us America 2026: Pinays on the Rise," uplifting student voices and stories through the arts. ELEVATE AAPI was also recognized by several government agencies for its leadership and collaboration in helping host the event. The celebration reflected IVC's continued commitment to cultural engagement, student belonging, and meaningful community partnerships. View photos [here](#).

IVC Hosts Annual Strategic Planning Retreat



On June 9, students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators convened for IVC's annual Strategic Planning Retreat, "Unlocking Our Future with Inspire 2035." The event drew a record attendance of 102 participants, bringing the campus community together to advance IVC's Inspire 2035 priorities and goals. The retreat created a space for campuswide dialogue, reflection, and shared planning for the

upcoming year. Participants engaged in conversations that connected IVC's strategic SMART tactics and action steps to the everyday experiences of students, while also strengthening collaboration across departments and employee groups. One of the day's highlights was hearing from students through [videos featuring Josiah Soetomo, Lucienne Sue, Serah Fayad, and Sophia Diaz](#). Their reflections brought the planning work to life by reminding attendees of the student experiences at the heart of IVC's mission. View photos [here](#).

IVC Outreach Strengthens Community Connections at 42nd Annual Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off



On June 7, IVC's Outreach team participated in the 42nd annual Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off in Old Town Tustin, connecting with residents and visitors during one of the city's signature community events. As a 2026 event sponsor, IVC hosted a booth where the Outreach team shared information about the college's academic programs, English as a Second Language offerings, Community and Emeritus Education, and the Irvine Valley Promise Program. The annual street fair featured chili and salsa competitions, exhibitors, community organizations, food booths, and live music. The college's participation reflects its ongoing commitment to meeting community

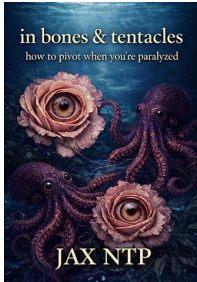
members where they are, expanding awareness of educational opportunities, and strengthening pathways that support lifelong learning and student success.

IVC Completes Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program



IVC recently concluded a yearlong Workplace Mentoring Program in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and Salesforce, connecting 19 students with professionals who provided career guidance, mentorship, and real-world workplace insights. Coordinated through the IVC Career Center, the program was designed to help students build professional confidence, expand their networks, explore career pathways, and strengthen essential career readiness skills. Students worked with Salesforce professionals who supported their growth in areas such as resume development, LinkedIn profile building, workplace communication, networking, and understanding industry expectations. The program also fostered meaningful relationships that helped students envision new career possibilities and gain confidence as they prepared for future professional opportunities. This inaugural cohort reflected IVC's commitment to student success, workforce development, and equitable access to professional networks. By establishing a strong foundation for future workplace mentoring opportunities, the partnership will continue helping students transition from college to career. View video [here](#).

Jax Pham's Debut Poetry Collection Highlights IVC Faculty Literary Achievement



IVC English faculty member Jax Pham recently published "In Bones & Tentacles: How to Pivot When You're Paralyzed," their first book of poetry. The poem collection explores queer identity, the body, and the language of paralysis through spaces of transit, waiting rooms, and other architectures of disappearance. Through collage, ars poetica, erasure, ekphrasis, and epistolary poems, Pham's work moves between motion and stillness while examining the structures of identity and power that attempt to define the self. This publication marks a meaningful creative milestone and highlights the literary contributions of IVC faculty within contemporary poetry.

Upcoming Events

President's Annual State of the College

August 10 at 2 pm

[Professional Development \(Flex\) Week](#)

August 10-14

Laser Day, IVC's New Student Welcome

August 12

Instruction Begins

August 17

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President