

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

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

DATE: June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the June 23, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Hosts 40th Annual Commencement Ceremony



On May 22, IVC held its 40th Commencement Ceremony, honoring the achievements of the Class of 2025. The ceremony celebrated the conferral of 3,147 degrees to 1,667 graduates and 1,250 certificates of achievement. This year's graduating class included 455 Honors Program students and 36 Early College students from Beckman High School. [Ten-year-old Zora Elling made history as IVC's youngest graduate](#), breaking the record previously held by her siblings. The Commencement

Ceremony's success is credited to the tremendous amount of planning and collaboration effort from many individuals across the campus. View photos [here](#).

IVC Foundation Awards Record \$924,807 in Student Support at 40th Annual Scholarship Celebration



On May 16, IVC hosted its 40th Annual Scholarship Celebration. The IVC Foundation awarded \$584,555 in scholarships to students, distributing 578 awards in recognition of their academic achievements, leadership, and perseverance. Additionally, students benefited from \$276,615 in awards from external partners and \$63,637 in emergency aid and bookstore vouchers. These combined efforts resulted in a historic \$924,807 in direct student support, representing an 18% increase from

the previous year and the highest total in the college's history. Read more [here](#). See photos [here](#).

College Corps Fellows Surpass 20,000 Hours in Record-Breaking Year of Service



On May 16, IVC celebrated the achievements of its third cohort of College Corps Fellows during the End-of-Year Award Ceremony. Over the past academic year, 52 Fellows contributed more than 20,000 hours of service, exceeding the previous cohort's total by over 3,700 hours and a 10% increase in overall impact. Fellows addressed community needs, including combating food insecurity and supporting K-12 education. Sixteen students returned for a second year of service, reinforcing the

program's emphasis on sustained commitment and leadership development. Beyond their service, Fellows engaged in regional symposiums and professional development workshops, strengthening their skills and expanding their professional networks. The ceremony featured remarks from President John Hernandez, Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald, and Dean of Counseling Services Angel Hernandez. The program also included a musical performance by student Yvonne Lee and reflections from student speakers Steve Salinas and Serah Fayad. View photos [here](#).

Early College Graduates Celebrated at Annual Breakfast



On May 15, IVC hosted the Early College Breakfast to recognize 36 graduating seniors from Beckman High School who completed their IGETC certification (general education for UC and CSU) and/or associate degrees through the Early College Program. President John Hernandez and Vice President for Instruction Rick Miranda offered remarks and congratulations, with the event led by Interim Director of Dual Enrollment Vinh Nguyen. Since 2007, over 320 students have completed the Beckman Early College program. View photos [here](#).

CARE Mother's Day Luncheon Celebrates Resilience of Parenting Students



On May 9, the EOPS/CARE program hosted its annual CARE Mother's Day Luncheon at Strawberry Farms Golf Club. The event celebrated parenting students as they pursue higher education while serving as primary caregivers. Fourteen CARE students attended the luncheon, accompanied by CARE staff and Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald. Each student was recognized for their strength, perseverance, and commitment to academic success. In addition to a shared meal, attendees received resource cards to support their ongoing educational journey. The event served not only as a moment of appreciation but also as a reminder of the strong community and support network that surrounds these inspiring individuals.

Honoring Transfer Students During the 2025 Transfer Celebration



On May 8, the Transfer Center hosted its annual Transfer Celebration, recognizing the accomplishments of students preparing to continue their academic journeys at four-year colleges and universities. The program began with a welcome from Transfer Center Counselor/Coordinator Tuan Nguyen, followed by congratulatory remarks from President John Hernandez, Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald, and Dean of Counseling Services Angel Hernandez. This year's celebration highlighted the breadth of IVC's transfer success, with students accepted to all nine undergraduate UC campuses, 16 CSUs, and numerous private and out-of-state universities, including Columbia, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Michigan. The event also featured the presentation of the Transfer Advocate of the Year award, which was given to Counselor Carmen Johnson for her outstanding dedication to supporting students. View photos [here](#).

IVC Veterans Services Center Completes Equine Therapy Pilot



This spring, the Veterans Services Center concluded a six-week equine therapy pilot in partnership with the Shea Center. Designed to support student veterans transitioning to civilian life, the program promoted emotional well-being, personal growth, and community connection through therapeutic horsemanship. Each week built on foundational skills beginning with grooming and horse behavior and progressing to mounted exercises and obstacle courses. These challenges served as metaphors for life transitions, encouraging adaptability, communication, and trust. Participants explored identity through horse pairings that reflected their own temperaments and practiced mindfulness in emotionally safe spaces. The final session offered a transformative capstone experience, with many students expressing a renewed sense of confidence and direction. This innovative program exemplifies IVC's commitment to holistic support for veterans.

The Ear Launch Party Showcases 28th Edition with Art, Storytelling, and Celebration



On May 8, IVC hosted the launch party for the 28th edition of “The Ear,” the college’s annual literary and visual arts journal. This year highlighted the collaboration among the English, Humanities, Ethnic Studies, and Digital Media Arts departments. The event opened with remarks from President John Hernandez, who reflected on the journal’s founding in 1982 and its lasting role in elevating student and community voices. Several senior editors were recognized for their leadership as they prepared to transfer to top universities, including UCLA, UCI, and UC Berkeley. This year’s journal features a mix of student and alumni contributors alongside professional writers and artists, including Donato Martinez, Mary Camarillo, and Xuan Tran. Mikey Chen, a re-entry student and longtime Senior Editor of The Ear, shared how his early work unloading shipping containers motivated him to pursue higher education and how his experiences with the journal helped prepare him to transfer to UCLA as a data science major. View photos [here](#).

IVC Honors Program Celebrates Record-Breaking Graduating Class



On May 2, the Honors Program hosted its annual Awards Ceremony, celebrating 455 graduating students, the largest cohort in the program’s history. The event began with a warm welcome from Honors Program Coordinator Emily Liu, followed by congratulatory remarks from President John Hernandez and student speaker Atharv

Attri. Graduating students took the stage to share their intended transfer institutions and reflect on their takeaways from their time at IVC. Each was honored with an IVC Honors medallion, symbolizing their successful completion of a rigorous and enriching academic curriculum. Friends, family, faculty, and staff joined the celebration, cheering as students proudly commemorated this significant achievement. View photos [here](#).

IVC Student Appointed as Statewide Student Representative for Honors Transfer Council of California



IVC Honors Program student Ninja Friberg has been appointed as one of two student representatives for the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC) for the 2025-26 academic year. In this leadership role, Friberg will attend monthly statewide meetings and provide student perspectives to help shape and strengthen honors education across California’s community colleges. The HTCC is a consortium of over 50 community college honors programs dedicated to enhancing academic engagement, enriched learning environments, and research opportunities for California’s diverse student population. The council facilitates collaboration among honors directors and counselors, negotiates transfer partnerships with colleges and universities nationwide, and hosts an annual Honors Research Conference where students present their work to a statewide audience.

Registration To Go Workshop Supports Students Across Seven High Schools



Throughout May, IVC facilitated its annual Registration To Go (“Reg To Go”) workshops at seven local high schools. Hosted by staff and faculty from Counseling and Financial Aid, these workshops provided hands-on, on-site registration support. Students received comprehensive assistance with class enrollment, course placement, education plans, and completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act applications. Completing these key steps helps students finalize their Fall 2025 enrollment before graduating from high school. High school partners and students expressed their appreciation for IVC’s continued commitment to easing the transition to college and ensuring student success.

IVC Delegation Attends LGBTQ Center OC's Indigo Ball 2025



On April 26, a delegation of students and staff attended the Indigo Ball, the LGBTQ Center OC's premier annual gala. As the Center's largest fundraiser, the Indigo Ball celebrates the organization's life-changing work and fosters community connection through an evening of entertainment and advocacy. The 2025 gala featured Torchbearer Honorees Adam Bouska and Jeff Parshley, co-founders of the NOH8 Campaign, recognized for their global impact on LGBTQ+ visibility and equality. IVC's delegation included representatives from the Pride Scholars program, the Office of Student Equity, EOPS, the School of the Arts, and Marketing and Creative Services, who engaged in conversations on identity, visibility, and the importance of inclusive spaces in education.

IVC and PreMedCC Host Fifth Annual Health Professions Virtual Conference



On April 17-18, IVC and PreMedCC co-hosted the fifth Annual Health Professions Virtual Conference, a statewide event designed to support California community college students and counselors exploring careers in the healthcare field. This year's conference drew participants from across the state, offering a comprehensive overview of various pathways into the health professions, including physician assistant, pharmacy, optometry, podiatry, and other related fields. The two-day virtual event featured expert-led panels and presentations that addressed key topics, including admissions requirements, program expectations, and strategies for achieving academic and professional success in competitive healthcare programs. Attendees also received tailored guidance on preparing for transfer, connecting with professional networks, and accessing student support resources. IVC's continued partnership with PreMedCC is part of a shared commitment to broadening access to healthcare careers and empowering underrepresented students to pursue advanced education in the medical field.

IVC Aspiring Educators Club Recognized at Statewide CTA-AE Spring Event



On April 13, the IVC Aspiring Educators Club was honored at the California Teachers Association-Aspiring Educators (CTA-AE) Spring Event. The club was recognized for its outstanding achievements throughout the year, receiving awards in four of the six statewide categories. This statewide acknowledgment highlighted the club's dedication to fostering future educators and promoting leadership in the teaching profession. During the event, IVC student Queen Udofia was sworn in as the 2025-2026 Executive Vice President of the CTA-AE Statewide Board, a leadership role that elevates the group's presence at the state level. Udofia currently serves on the IVC Aspiring Educators Club Board, and her appointment is a significant milestone for the club. The club was recently named the Associated Students of IVC (ASIVC) Club of the Year. This recognition affirms the club's impactful contributions to campus life and its role in supporting the next generation of educators.

IVC Speech Wins Double Gold at National Championships



From April 5-13, IVC Speech earned top honors at the Phi Rho Pi National Championships in Norfolk, Virginia, competing among 52 community colleges. The team secured Gold in both the Debate Sweepstakes and Overall Sweepstakes (Wheeler Division), along with Bronze in the Individual Events Sweepstakes, marking IVC's 14th Phi Rho Pi National Champions title. The team concluded the 2024–2025 season with 204 individual and 18 team awards over 39 days of competition. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC's Chi Tau Epsilon XTE Excels at National Criminal Justice Competition



Irvine Valley College's Administration of Justice co-curricular program, [Chi Tau Epsilon XTE](#), continued its longstanding tradition of excellence by competing at the 2025 American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) Lambda Alpha Epsilon National Competition. This marks the 31st year of IVC's participation in the event. The competition brought together over 250 students from colleges and universities across the nation. This year's conference focused on the theme "Stopping Human Trafficking" and featured keynote presentations from experts representing international prosecution agencies and the California Attorney General's Office. IVC students demonstrated their skills in academic testing, crime scene investigation, physical agility, and firearms competitions, earning a total of six trophies. Emily Medero and Fatima Hassan earned top honors in the academic categories of Criminal Law and Corrections, respectively. Merag Sarajzada stood out in the physical agility event, showcasing exceptional athletic performance. In the firearms category, Samuel Ruehs, Delaram Vahapour, Johnathan Phu, Marianna Mendoza, and Fares Vatani achieved recognition for their outstanding marksmanship.

IVC Volleyball Standout Audrey Fowler Signs with NCAA Division I Tarleton State University



IVC women's volleyball player Audrey Fowler has signed to compete for the NCAA Division I beach volleyball program at Tarleton State University in Texas. In Fall 2023, Fowler helped lead the Lasers to an Orange Empire Conference (OEC) indoor championship and a berth in the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCA) State Championship. She was named first-team All-OEC, marking her second consecutive all-conference selection. Her individual stats were equally impressive, averaging 2.49 kills and 4.07 digs per set. She led the OEC in total digs with 387 and ranked third in digs per set. During the Spring 2024 beach season, Fowler contributed to an undefeated 14-0 conference record that earned IVC the OEC beach team title. Partnered with Avery Bennett, Fowler dominated the top court, going undefeated in conference play. She also earned the conference pairs individual title alongside former partner Natalia Brandlin. Fowler plans to major in journalism at Tarleton State.

IVC Student-Athletes Honored with 2024-25 Character Champion Awards



Women's soccer standout Jordan Madison and men's basketball leader Josiah Reed were named the 2024-25 Character Champion award recipients. This recognition honors student-athletes who exemplify integrity, leadership, and a commitment to excellence on and off the field. Madison, a star sophomore forward and team captain, ended the season with 12 goals and six game-winners. Her performance earned

her a first-team All-Orange Empire Conference selection. Madison will continue her athletic and academic journey at NCAA Division II Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Reed, a sophomore captain for the men's basketball team, helped lead the Lasers to a 17-14 record and a berth in the Southern California Regional Playoffs. Averaging 8.2 points and 5.4 rebounds per game, Reed earned second-team All-Orange Empire Conference honors for his performance. Beyond his athletic accomplishments, Reed is praised for his leadership, academic dedication, and community service.

Faith Hong Commits to National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Westcliff University



Faith Hong, a standout student-athlete and two-year starter for IVC's women's soccer team, has committed to continuing her academic and athletic journey at NAIA Westcliff University in Irvine. Head Coach Tom Lancaster praised Hong for her consistency, versatility, and impact on the field throughout her time at IVC. A graduate of University High School in Irvine, Hong was named second-team All-Orange Empire Conference for the 2023 season. She played a crucial role in leading the Lasers to a 10-10-1 overall record and a strong defensive showing, including 10 shutouts and just 16 goals allowed across 21 matches. Over two seasons, Hong appeared in 41 matches and earned 35 starts, providing a steady presence in the backline and contributing significantly to one of IVC's most competitive seasons in recent years.

Puente Visits UCLA for Inspiring Campus Tour



IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

The final weeks of the spring semester were a busy time for Puente. The cohort visited UCLA, followed by a tour of the California Science Center. The university tour, led by the UCLA Engineering Ambassadors, highlighted campus science labs and student services. Highlights included a visit with Puente Cohort 1's Sophie Lopez, a UCLA Communications transfer, and Madison Jones, an IVC alumna now studying Statistics and Data Science at UCLA, both of whom shared inspiring words of advice with the Puentistas.

Puente Holds End-of-Year Celebration



IVC's Puente Program hosted its annual end-of-year celebration, marking the culmination of its fourth year and honoring the Class of 2025. The graduating class nearly doubled in size compared to the previous year. The celebration highlighted the strong sense of community that the program fosters, one that continues to support and empower students on their academic journeys. Graduates shared their transfer plans to institutions, including CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Riverside. Keynote speeches were delivered by Ruben Estrada, a transfer student, and Sandra De Anda, an organizer with the O.C. Rapid Response Network. Puentista Kathleen Silva received a statewide Puente scholarship, one of only two awarded annually to aspiring K-12 educators. Students Destiny Brito and Isaiah Curran were selected to attend the Puente MaS Summer Academy at UC Berkeley, a fully funded residential program. Puentista Priscilla Preciado's poem titled "I am From" was accepted for publication in "LiveWire," the literary journal of Fullerton College. View photos [here](#).

IVC Employees Selected to Participate in LIFT Leadership Institute



Five IVC employees were selected to participate in CSUF's 2025 Leadership Institute for Tomorrow (LIFT), an intensive, five-day institute followed by a yearlong leadership development program. Supported by the California Community College Chancellor's Office, LIFT is designed to empower emerging leaders in higher education through mentorship, cultural exploration, and collaborative project design. Congratulations to Director of the Health and Wellness Center Ruby Villavisencio, Counselor Vanessa Marquez, EOPS/NextUp Program Coordinator Silvia Torrez Mendoza, Senior Administrative Assistant Diana Baltazar, and Senior Administrative Assistant Anthony Ercolamento.

IVC Professor Massimo Mitolo Publishes Speculative Poem in “Strange Horizons”



IVC Professor Massimo Mitolo from the School of Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation has been published in “Strange Horizons,” a publication for speculative fiction and poetry. His newest work, “Entangled Hearts: The Quantum Mechanics of Love,” explores the intersection of science and emotion. The poem presents love as a quantum phenomenon governed by the same immutable forces that bind the universe. This creative achievement showcases Professor Mitolo’s ongoing literary contributions, complementing his academic work, and offers readers a thought-provoking exploration of intimacy, physics, and narrative experimentation. Read the full poem [here](#).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hernandez" clearly legible.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President