

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

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

DATE: March 13, 2025

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the March 24, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Welcomes Acclaimed Author Roxane Gay for Black History Month Celebration



In celebration of Black History Month, IVC's Ethnic Studies Program and Humanities Department welcomed Roxane Gay, acclaimed author and cultural critic, to campus. Dr. Gay started her visit in ETHN 40: Introduction to Black Studies, where she engaged with students and Dr. Bill Etter, whose class had been reading her latest book, "Opinions." Dr. Gay was also featured during a standing-room-only campus-wide event attended by students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Brittany Adams opened the program by welcoming everyone and sharing the history of Ethnic Studies at IVC before introducing Dr. Gay. Dr. Gay read from her latest book, which explores questions of popular culture, online engagement, and politics. Following the reading, Dr. Araceli Centanino moderated an engaging conversation with Dr. Gay, incorporating audience questions that explored themes of identity, advocacy, and storytelling. Concluding with a book signing, the occasion fostered a contemplative yet uplifting atmosphere, celebrating the power of literature and dialogue. [View photos here.](#)

IVC Celebrates Women's History Month



IVC recognized Women's History Month throughout March with events highlighting the contributions and achievements of women. The national theme for 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." The college hosted the Women's History Month Celebration on March 12, which featured local women-owned businesses, community partners, and on-campus organizations, offering opportunities for connection and engagement. Women's History Month traces its origins to March 8, 1857, when women working in New York factories protested against poor working conditions. In 1981, Congress established National Women's History Week, which expanded to a month in 1987.

ASIVC President Clarice Encarnacion was Elected as Delegate for the California Democratic Party



ASIVC President Clarice Encarnacion has been elected as a delegate to represent Assembly District 73 for the California Democratic Party. This significant achievement showcases her commitment to civic engagement and leadership beyond the campus community. As a delegate, Encarnacion will play a vital role in shaping party policies, voting on key endorsements, and advocating for issues that impact students and higher education. Her election emphasizes IVC students' dedication and active involvement in public service and political engagement, reinforcing the college's commitment to fostering future leaders.

IVC Student Zifang Shi Earns Two Prestigious Scholarships



Zifang Shi has been named a 2025 All-USA Academic Team Scholar and a New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar, earning two competitive academic honors. From a pool of over 2,100 applicants nationwide, Shi is one of only 20 students selected for the 2025 All-USA Academic Team. As an All-USA Academic Team member, Shi will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, a special medallion, and recognition in various media outlets. In addition, Shi has been named a 2025 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar, an award given to the highest-scoring applicant from each state in the All-USA Academic Team competition. Sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, this honor comes with an additional \$2,250 scholarship. It recognizes Shi's academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to significantly impacting the community. Shi will be honored at Phi Theta Kappa's Presidents' Breakfast during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Convention on April 15 in Nashville, Tennessee.

IVC Student Thuong Nguyen Named 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Scholar



Thuong Nguyen has been recognized as a 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar, earning a \$1,000 scholarship for academic excellence, leadership, and service. Selection for this award is based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition, which received nearly 2,100 applications nationwide. Sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Coca-Cola Academic Team recognizes outstanding community college students for their achievements. Nguyen will also receive a commemorative medallion and be honored at various events throughout the spring. Phi Theta Kappa will recognize all Coca-Cola Academic Team Scholars on stage during the Parade of Scholars at PTK Catalyst on April 3-5 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Two IVC Students Announced as Semifinalists for Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship



Two IVC students, Fernanda Velasco and Yasaman Nassab, have been named semifinalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, one of the largest and most prestigious private scholarships for community college transfer students in the country. According to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's [press release](#), this year's 467 semifinalists were chosen from a pool of more than 1,600 applicants attending 212 community colleges in 43 states. Cooke Transfer Scholars are selected based on their exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, service, and leadership. The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship recipients will be announced by early May.

Mendoza Family Distinguished Lecture Series Features Lalo Alcaraz



The Puente Program hosted the Mendoza Family Distinguished Lecture Series on March 12, featuring award-winning editorial cartoonist and writer Lalo Alcaraz. Students and employees engaged in a lively discussion on culture, identity, and advocacy. Alcaraz, the creator of the nationally syndicated comic strip "La Cucaracha," has been a leading voice in political satire and Latinx representation in media. His thought-provoking work has earned him two Pulitzer Prize finalist nominations, six Southern California Press Awards for Best Editorial Cartoon, and the prestigious 2022 Herblock Award. His illustrations have been showcased in museums, galleries, and major publications worldwide.

IVC Foundation Awards Dinner: Celebrating Excellence



On March 7, the IVC Foundation hosted over 280 guests during its annual Celebrating Excellence Awards Dinner at the Marconi Automotive Museum. The dinner brings together community leaders, students, faculty, staff, and supporters to recognize outstanding individuals making an impact at IVC. The evening honored the following award recipients: Community Partner of Excellence, Stephen Rochford; Faculty Award of Excellence, Professor of Humanities Stephen Felder; Classified Staff Award for Excellence, Custodian Robert Flournoy; Manager Award for Excellence, Director of Outreach and Strategic Partnerships Frank Rivera. The occasion showcases the transformative power of education and the vital role of community partnerships in supporting student success. Click [here](#) to learn more about the IVC Foundation or contribute to scholarships and programs that change lives. View photos [here](#).

Women Veteran Networking Forum: Re-Igniting Values



IVC's Veterans Services Center hosted the 3rd Annual Women Veteran Networking Forum on March 6, an event dedicated to fostering meaningful connections among women veterans. This year's theme, "Re-Igniting Values," encouraged participants to reflect on the core principles shaping their personal and professional paths. The forum featured engaging discussions and interactive workshops designed to help attendees reconnect with their values, reinforcing a strong foundation for growth and leadership. View photos [here](#).

Students Connect with Universities at the Spring College Fair



On March 6, the Transfer Center hosted the Spring 2025 Transfer and Graduate School College Fair. Representatives attended from over 35 universities, including some graduate programs. Students explored transfer options, learned about academic programs, and asked questions about admissions and campus life. Representatives included the California State University and University of California systems and private institutions such as USC, Chapman, Pepperdine, La Verne, and Azusa Pacific. The event provided students with opportunities to engage with college representatives, aiding them in making informed decisions about their educational and career paths. View photos [here](#).

Northern California College Tour and Advocacy Trip Expands Student Opportunities



The Office of Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) took 12 students on a college tour and advocacy trip, visiting four universities across Northern California in March. The group toured UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State University, and CSU Sacramento. The students also participated in the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SCCC) Advocacy Day and March, demonstrating support for student programs, including EOPS, CARE, and NextUp. This civic engagement opportunity allowed students to participate in educational advocacy and influence policy decisions.

IVC Guided Pathways Recognized by Community College Research Center (CCRC)



IVC's Guided Pathways Completion Teams were recently recognized by the CCRC at Columbia University. Continuous Learning Institute Founder Dr. Al Solano highlighted the Humanities Completion Team during an interview for its Grading Practices Guide, a precursor to

Promising Pedagogical Practices. Dr. Solano pointed to key factors behind IVC's successful Completion Teams: Part-time faculty inclusion, dedicated team time and space, strong facilitation, management support, student voices, and a coalition of the willing. Dr. Davis Jenkins of Columbia University previously included IVC Completion Teams in his case study research on Guided Pathways implementation. Read the full story [here](#).

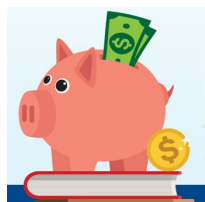
IVC Circle K International Brings Home Awards



The IVC Circle K International Club excelled at the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Convention from February 28 to March 2. Members from colleges across the district gathered for educational workshops, leadership training, regional elections, and service projects to celebrate the past year's accomplishments. The IVC chapter brought home the following awards: Kristy Nguyen for Outstanding Club Media, Rey Hoshi for Distinguished President, Jill Nguyen for Distinguished Secretary, Rey

Hoshi received the Governor's Award, Nancy Ikeda named Faculty Advisor of the Year, and Jill Nguyen for 100% Monthly Report Forms on Time. Several members were honored for their outstanding service to the community, with Bronze (30 hours of service) awarded to Vibhas Ippili, Euis Muljono, and Kristy Nguyen; Gold (90 hours of service) awarded to Nhi Pham; and Platinum (120 hours of service) awarded to Rey Hoshi and Jill Nguyen. The club collectively contributed more than 700 hours of community service over the past year and will celebrate its 20th charter anniversary on April 14.

Financial Aid Community Support Lab Provides Critical Assistance Ahead of Priority Deadline



On February 27, the IVC Financial Aid Office hosted its Financial Aid Community Support Lab, offering prospective and current students a dedicated space to complete their FAFSA or CADAA applications ahead of the California priority deadline. Students and their families received one-on-one support navigating the financial aid process.

The office provided goodie bags filled with snacks, water, and IVC Financial Aid promotional items before guiding attendees to the computer lab, where staff answered questions and assisted with applications. Volunteers from various departments assisted 52 students and family members in multiple languages, including 43 high school seniors from 11 local schools and nine current IVC students. Several prospective students submitted their CCCApply applications, taking the first step in their college journey.

Unveiling French Romance: History & Handmade Valentine's Cards



On February 11, the Languages Department presented a workshop exploring France's cultural identity as the epicenter of romance. Students learned about the historical evolution of France and Paris as symbols of love, examining their literary, artistic, and societal influences. The workshop included a hands-on activity, crafting Valentine's Day cards using French phrases and artistic techniques. The workshop blended historical insight, cultural appreciation, and creative expression while fostering community engagement.

Supporting Students Through Essential Resources: EOPS Workshops



In February, the Office of Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) hosted two workshops to support students in accessing critical financial and basic needs resources. The “Fostering Success” meeting was presented in collaboration with Foster Love, a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming how youth navigate the foster care system. The event provided Guardian Scholars and NextUp students valuable information on scholarships and services tailored to their unique needs. EOPS also partnered with The Spot, a center for basic needs, to host a CalFresh workshop, offering students an overview of the program and its eligibility requirements. The session provided guidance on application tips and prescreening services, helping students successfully apply for CalFresh benefits.

Former IVC Professor’s Legacy Showcased in Art Exhibit at Old Orange County Courthouse



An art exhibit at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana highlights the legacy of IVC founding faculty Jeffrey Horn. Organized by the Southern California Plein Air Painters Association, the exhibit features work from artists who trace their roots to IVC. According to a recent news article, the association was founded in 2001 by a small gathering of artists from Horn’s painting class at IVC. The news story covering the exhibit was written by journalist Sarah Mosqueda, who, after earning her degree from California State University, Fullerton, sought to refine her craft by taking a creative writing class at IVC with Professor of English Lisa Alvarez. Mosqueda has remained engaged with the IVC community, recently appearing as a guest on “The Eardrum” podcast. Her feature on the exhibit spotlights the far-reaching impact of faculty and alumni in the local arts and journalism community. Read the full article [here](#).

IVC Soccer Stars Continue Athletic and Academic Journeys at NCAA Division II Programs



IVC men’s and women’s soccer standouts Luke Newman and Jordan Madison have committed to NCAA Division II universities, continuing their athletic and academic careers. Team captain and standout forward Madison has committed to Fort Lewis College in Colorado. Madison was pivotal in leading IVC to a 10-10-1 record last fall. She topped the team’s scoring charts with 12 goals and 18 points and was recognized as a first-team All-Orange Empire Conference selection. Madison showcased her scoring ability with multiple two-goal performances, including a five-point game in IVC’s victory over Grossmont. She also recorded six game-winning goals and four assists throughout the season. Newman, a star midfielder/forward, will join the West Chester University men’s soccer team in Pennsylvania. This past season, Newman was a key player for the Lasers, earning first-team All-Orange Empire Conference honors. He led the conference in assists with nine and ranked third in total points with 27. He netted eight goals, four of which were game-winners. Both athletes leave IVC with impressive accomplishments and will look to make an impact at the next level.

IVC Professor Massimo Mitolo's Poem Published in Strange Horizons



Professor Massimo Mitolo, from the School of Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation, had his latest poem published in the literary journal "Strange Horizons" on January 13. Titled "The Quantum and Temporal Properties of Unresolved Love," the poem combines his literary ability and academic expertise. Strange Horizons is a distinguished venue for speculative fiction and poetry, known for showcasing innovative and thought-provoking works from diverse voices. The poem is available [here](#).

Upcoming Events

PAC-DEIA Invites you to watch CRIP CAMP!

March 26

Glass Menagerie

March 27 – April 6

Special Guest Performance – Nois

March 28

Dance Master Class – Bharatanatyam

April 1

DEIA Day

April 4

Chinese Calligraphy Writing Workshop

April 8

Community Rising Premier Event: The Power of Rising Together!

April 11

IVC Preview Night

April 16

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President