

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

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

**DATE:** March 12, 2026

**SUBJECT:** **President's Report for the March 23, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting**

### IVC Student Ofelia Veisalov Earns Three Prestigious National Academic Honors



IVC student Ofelia “Lia” Veisalov has received national recognition after being selected for three highly competitive Phi Theta Kappa honors: the 2026 All-USA Academic Team, New Century Transfer Scholar, and Guistwhite Scholar awards. These distinctions recognize outstanding community college students for academic achievement, leadership, and campus engagement and include more than \$10,000 in scholarship support for her continued studies. A chemistry major and campus leader, Veisalov serves as President of the International Students Club, Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, and a peer mentor in the Honors Program, while also contributing to research initiatives with the IVC Library. Her achievements reflect her dedication to academic excellence, leadership, and supporting fellow students. Read full story [here](#).

### Spring 2026 Transfer and Graduate School Fair Expands Pathways for IVC Students



More than 25 universities gathered at IVC on March 10 for the Spring 2026 Transfer and Graduate School College Fair. The Transfer Center event brought together representatives from the California State University and University of California systems, as well as private institutions including USC, Chapman University, Pepperdine University, the University of La Verne, and Azusa Pacific University. Students engaged in one-on-one conversations with admissions representatives, asked detailed questions about transfer requirements and graduate pathways, and learned more about academic programs, campus culture, and support services. By providing direct access to university partners in an accessible, on-campus setting, the Transfer Center strengthened IVC’s culture of supporting students as they move confidently toward their bachelor’s and advanced degrees. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Women’s Basketball Advances to 3C2A State Championship Tournament



IVC’s women’s basketball team secured a place in the 2026 3C2A State Championship Tournament after earning a victory in the regional finals on March 7. Ranked No. 4 in the state during the regular season, the Lasers advanced alongside the other top-ranked programs, including Mt. San Antonio College, San Joaquin Delta College, and Folsom Lake College. With the regional win, IVC joins eight elite teams competing for the state title at College of the Sequoias from March 12–15. In the tournament quarterfinals, the Lasers are set to face Laney College as they continue their postseason run. The team’s advancement reflects the dedication, talent, and hard work of IVC’s student-athletes and coaching staff, showcasing the college’s continued excellence in intercollegiate athletics and commitment to supporting student success both on and off the court.

### IVC Esports League of Legends Team Advances in CLOL Western Division Playoffs

IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE



IVC's Esports League of Legends team secures first victory in the Collegiate League of Legends (CLOL) Western Division Playoffs. As the only community college competing in the playoff bracket, the team is facing top collegiate programs from four-year universities including the University of California, Irvine; University of Southern California; California State University, Fullerton; and the University of California, San Diego. On March 7, the team secured a 3–1 victory over UCLA, advancing further in the tournament. Their next match will be against the University of California, Santa Cruz, where they will compete for a spot in the quarterfinals. With no official broadcast available for the match against UCLA, the IVC Esports team streamed the competition live on the [IVC Esports Twitch channel](#), allowing the campus community and supporters to follow along and cheer on the team. The team's success highlights the growing strength of IVC's Esports program and the dedication of its student competitors.

### IVC Foundation Awards Dinner: Celebrating Excellence



On March 6, the IVC Foundation hosted its annual Celebrating Excellence Awards Dinner at the Marconi Automotive Museum, welcoming more than 300 guests. The event brought together the broader IVC community to recognize individuals and programs whose contributions have significantly advanced student success and institutional excellence. The evening honored William "Bill" Hewitt with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Donald Rickner with the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing their enduring commitment and meaningful impact on the college and its students. The Hub: Center for Professional Learning received the Excellence in Innovation Award for its transformative work in advancing professional growth and fostering a culture of continuous improvement across campus. The annual celebration showcases the transformative power of education and the vital role of philanthropy and community partnerships in expanding opportunities for IVC students. Click [here](#) to learn more about the IVC Foundation or contribute to scholarships and programs that change lives. View photos [here](#).

### IVC Student Named Semifinalist for the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship



On March 5, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced that IVC student Chanali Henagama is a semifinalist for the highly competitive Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The prestigious scholarship recognizes the nation's top community college students who plan to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university. Henagama was selected from a pool of more than 1,300 applicants nationwide. This year's 485 semifinalists represent 224 community colleges across 37 states and were chosen through a rigorous evaluation process assessing academic achievement, perseverance, and leadership. The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship offers last-dollar funding of up to \$55,000 per year for two to three years, helping remove financial barriers for high-achieving community college students pursuing advanced education. The final recipients of the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship will be announced in May.

### SEM Adult Learner Initiative Presentation Highlights Strategies to Support Adult Students



On March 3, IVC hosted a campus presentation highlighting the college's Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) initiative focused on better supporting adult learners. More than 45 faculty, classified professionals, and administrators attended the session to learn about ongoing research and strategies designed to strengthen access, persistence, and completion for adult learners. The presentation shared insights from a year-long, team-based effort aligned with Vision 2030 that examined the experiences and needs of adult learners across the college. Through surveys, focus groups, and data analysis, the team identified key barriers such as work and family obligations, challenges navigating college systems, and the need for flexible course formats. The initiative also introduced an enhanced Adult Learner Data Dashboard, which tracks enrollment patterns, persistence trends, and application-to-enrollment milestones to inform institutional decision-making. These initiatives reflect IVC's continued commitment to using data-informed strategies to improve the student experience and ensure that adult learners have the resources and pathways needed to achieve their educational and career goals.

### IVC Program Helps Future Teacher Find Her Path



IVC student Rebecca Pineda is pursuing her goal of becoming a kindergarten teacher through the college's Teacher Preparation Pathway. Inspired by the impact of her own kindergarten teacher, Pineda enrolled at the college in 2024 and quickly became an active campus leader. She serves as president of the Aspiring Educators Club, represents students on the Teacher Preparation Pathway Workgroup, and is a voting student member on the California Teachers Association Aspiring Educators Board. Through classroom volunteering and program support, Pineda has already identified kindergarten as the grade level where she hopes to make a lasting difference for young learners. IVC's Teacher Preparation Pathway is helping students like Pineda navigate the steps toward teaching credentials while building a strong pipeline of future educators to address California's teacher shortage. Read full story [here](#).

### Languages Department Hosts Spring Cultural Workshop Series



Throughout February and March, IVC's Languages Department hosted a series of cultural workshops designed to immerse students in global languages and traditions through hands-on learning experiences. Organized by faculty in the Languages Department, the workshops invited students to engage with cultural practices including Chinese calligraphy, Chinese paper cutting, and Japanese origami. The events provided opportunities to explore the artistic traditions and historical significance associated with languages studied at IVC, while encouraging cross-cultural understanding and creativity.

### Performing Arts Center Showcases Dynamic Student Performances



IVC's Performing Arts Center presented a lineup of concerts and showcases highlighting the talent of IVC's music students and faculty from February 27 through March 3. The performances began with the IVC Chorale's Spring Sing, featuring folksongs from around the world. The Symphony Orchestra Concert offered an evening of classical masterworks by Mozart, Dvořák, and Shostakovich. Audiences also enjoyed the Wind Symphony Concert, which featured works by Nokuri, Balmages, Ito, and Biedenbender, with a highlight performance by faculty soloist John Hallberg on Yukiko Nishimura's "Summer Triangle." The events concluded with the Big Band Concert and IVC Jazz Combos in Concert, led by Anibal Seminario and Steve Wade, showcasing the talents of the Studio Jazz Band, Concert Jazz Band, Jazz Band Lab, and student ensembles.

### **Transfer Center: Career Panels, University Visits, and Degree Completion Support**



Throughout February and March, IVC's Transfer Center hosted several initiatives to support students in their transfer journeys. In collaboration with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the center organized an Engineering Career Information Panel where students engaged with engineering professionals who shared insights on their transfer pathways, university experiences, and careers in the field. In March, students visited California State University, Fullerton, where they learned about the admissions process and explored campus resources.

The Transfer Center also supported students completing their Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) requirements. Following the release of a list of more than 650 students who indicated earning an ADT on their CSU applications, transfer counselors reviewed eligibility and conducted outreach to ensure students completed the necessary steps to receive their degrees. These initiatives reflect IVC's continued commitment to guiding students through the transfer process and ensuring they have the resources and support needed to achieve their academic and career goals.

### **IVC Women's Basketball: OEC Championship, Coach of the Year, and Multiple All-Conference Honors**



IVC's women's basketball team celebrated a remarkable season after capturing the Orange Empire Conference (OEC) title with a 10–2 conference record and finishing the regular season with a 24–4 overall mark in February. The team's success earned multiple individual honors, highlighting the exceptional performance and leadership of several student-athletes and coaches throughout the season. Head coach Claire Gocke was named OEC Coach of the Year in recognition of

her leadership in guiding the Lasers to a 24-win season and conference championship. Sophomore guard Symantha Barnett was named the OEC Most Valuable Player and a First Team All-Conference selection. Sophomore wing Alexis Price also earned First Team All-Conference honors for the second consecutive year. Sophomore forward Kivonni Williams was recognized as the OEC Defensive Player of the Year and a First Team All-Conference selection, while sophomore forward Gianna DeForest rounded out the honors as a Second Team All-Conference selection. The team's achievements reflect the dedication, teamwork, and competitive spirit of IVC's student-athletes and coaching staff, further strengthening the college's tradition of excellence in athletics.

### **Writing Faculty Symposium on Critical AI Literacy**



On February 27, IVC's English Department co-sponsored a writing faculty symposium on "Critical AI Literacy" in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine's (UCI) Humanities Writing Core and the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation. The event brought together writing educators from Orange County high schools, Irvine Unified School District, UCI, and IVC to explore the evolving role of generative artificial intelligence in writing instruction. Participants engaged in collaborative discussions to develop strategies for the ethical and critical use of large language models in academic writing. The symposium fostered cross-institutional dialogue and strengthened pathways that support students as they transition from high school to college, while developing thoughtful and responsible approaches to emerging AI technologies.

### Black History Month at IVC Culminates in Campuswide Celebration



IVC concluded its month-long recognition of Black History Month with a campuswide celebration on February 25 that brought together students, faculty, classified professionals, and community partners. The culminating event provided students with the opportunity to engage with campus and community organizations committed to equity, empowerment, and cultural awareness. A highlight of the celebration included interactive dance lessons, where students and employees joined together to learn new moves and celebrate in community. The event reflected IVC's ongoing commitment to honoring the contributions, resilience, and cultural richness of the Black community while creating meaningful opportunities for connection, learning, and shared celebration. View photos [here](#).

### Puente Student Savannah Holguin Published in Golden State Report



IVC Puentista Savannah Holguin was featured as the lead story in the [Golden State Report on February 24](#). The publication is an emerging online news outlet widely distributed across California and the western United States. Holguin developed her essay during her participation in a University of Southern California bootcamp last fall, where she honed her storytelling skills and explored themes rooted in her lived experience. Her published piece reflects the power of mentorship, community, and authentic voice. In her essay, Holguin shares personal reflections that resonate deeply with many Latiné students, including a meaningful exchange from one of the many conversations held in a faculty office space that has become a regular gathering place for Puentistas seeking guidance and connection. Her success highlights the importance of creating accessible spaces where students feel supported, seen, and encouraged to share their stories.

### Classified Professional Lunch & Learn: Leadership+



On February 23, IVC's Classified Senate Professional Development Committee hosted Leadership+, a spring Lunch & Learn event at [The Hub: Center for Professional Learning](#), designed to empower and elevate classified professionals through leadership-focused dialogue and shared learning. The event featured a series of short, impactful roundtable discussions highlighting personal leadership journeys, lessons learned, and practical strategies that participants could immediately apply in their roles. Special thank you to SOCCCD Chancellor Dr. Julianna Barnes, Academic Senate President Rebecca Beck, and Director of Equity, Inclusion & Access at Saddleback College Dr. Susana Castellanos for generously sharing their time, insight, and leadership experiences with the campus community.

### Students Connect with Irvine Mayor Larry Agran During Economics Club Forum



The IVC Economics Club hosted a Q&A forum featuring Irvine Mayor Larry Agran on February 12. The forum provided students with a unique opportunity to engage directly with local leadership and explore how economic principles shape municipal decision-making. Mayor Agran shared how his academic background in economics informs key policy decisions, long-term city planning, and fiscal management for the City of Irvine. Students gained firsthand insight into the role of economic analysis in addressing community priorities, balancing budgets, and supporting sustainable growth. The interactive format allowed students to ask questions and connect classroom learning to real-world governance.

### **IVC Celebrates Lunar New Year, Welcoming the Year of the Horse**



On February 18, IVC commemorated the Lunar New Year with a campuswide celebration honoring the Year of the Horse. Over 300 students, faculty, classified professionals, and community members gathered for an afternoon of cultural enrichment, education, and engagement. The event featured a thoughtfully curated gallery walk highlighting traditional artwork and the symbolism associated with the Lunar New Year, offering attendees an opportunity to deepen their cultural understanding. In partnership with the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center and the Pan America Chinese Dance Alliance students also performed an interpretive dragon dance that had been taught and rehearsed in advance, showcasing cultural artistry and student engagement. The celebration fostered cross-cultural appreciation and connections across campus with various IVC student organizations, programs, and departments participating in the event. The celebration reflected IVC's continued commitment to honoring cultural traditions and cultivating an inclusive environment where students feel a strong sense of belonging and community. View photos [here](#).

### **Classified Senate Hosts "You Deserve This!" Wellness Workshop**



IVC Classified Senate hosted a professional development event on February 11 to uplift classified professionals and build community. The workshop welcomed 53 classified professionals and encouraged time for rest, reflection, and renewal in a supportive campus environment. Participants engaged in reflective art activities designed to spark creativity and calm. Wellness experiences incorporated aromatherapy and grounding practices, alongside a cozy, quiet space intentionally created for rest and reflection. Attendees also enjoyed self-care treats and goodies, reinforcing the importance of self-care while continuing to serve students and the broader campus community.

## Upcoming Events

### Major to Career Fair

March 25

### An Educator's Journey

April 2

### Urinetown

April 2

### Scholarship Benefit Concert

April 3

### DEIA Day

April 3

### Student Composers' Concert

April 11

### Anti-Blackness in California Community Colleges

April 15

### Preview Night

April 15

### Employee Recognition Ceremony

April 16

### GAP4+1 Resource Fair & Speaker Event

April 24

### Guitar Ensemble

May 1

### Jazz Picnic

May 2

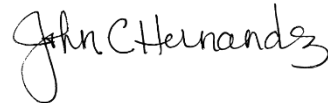
### Ear Launch Party

May 5

### Love and Information

May 7

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.

President