

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

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

DATE: May 8, 2025

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the May 19, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Men's Tennis Team Wins State Championship



The Men's Tennis team captured the 2025 CCCAA State Championship in Ventura with a thrilling 5-2 comeback victory over Foothill College. After falling behind 2-0 in doubles play, the Lasers rallied to win the final doubles match and four straight singles matches to clinch the program's fourth state title. Key performances included a decisive doubles win by sophomore Sufyan Ashraf and freshman Lucas Diaz, who also dominated in singles with Diaz recording a 6-0, 6-0 victory. Sophomore Luis Moros and freshman Nevin McCann secured additional singles points, with McCann sealing the championship on court six. Ashraf's commanding 6-2, 6-1 singles performance added to the team's momentum. The Lasers, led by Head Coach Ross Duncan, entered the postseason as Southern California's No. 4 seed and defeated No. 1 Ventura and No. 3 Riverside en route to the title. They concluded the season with a 13-2 record, showcasing their resilience and competitive spirit throughout the playoffs.

Employee Recognition Ceremony Honors IVC Faculty and Staff Excellence



Hosted in the Performing Arts Center, the annual Employee Recognition Ceremony brought together colleagues to celebrate the achievements and dedicated service of IVC's outstanding faculty and staff on May 6. The program recognized honorees across several categories, including years of service, Classified Professional of the Year, Manager of the Year, Teachers of the Year, and Caring Campus Ambassador. The ceremony concluded with a special acknowledgment of faculty members newly granted tenure, set to begin in Fall 2025. Tenure-track faculty were commended for their exemplary performance, student-centered teaching, and contributions to the academic community. This annual tradition reflects IVC's ongoing commitment to cultivating a culture of excellence, appreciation, and professional growth across all areas of the college. View photos [here](#).

IVC Veteran Services Center Director Leads Statewide Training on Civilian Transition



On May 2, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office hosted a virtual training session titled "The Warrior's Burden: The Truth About Veterans' Transition into the Civilian World" conducted by IVC Director of Veterans Services Center Dylan Bender. The webinar offered an in-depth exploration of the psychological and emotional challenges that veterans face as they shift from the military's performance- and honor-based culture to civilian society. Bender is a former Marine with eight years of service and more than 20,000 hours of clinical experience as a combat readjustment therapist with the VA's Vet Centers program. His work at IVC focuses on empowering veterans to rediscover purpose and build lasting success beyond their service.

ELEVATE AAPI and Spanish Department Host Flamenco Field Trip to UCI



On May 1, ELEVATE AAPI and IVC Spanish professors Karla Lemari and Beatrice Tseng led a cultural field trip to UCI's Barclay Theater, where 22 students experienced a captivating live flamenco performance by Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana. Flamenco, deeply rooted in Andalusian heritage, is an emotionally expressive art form that fuses music, dance, and storytelling. Students had the opportunity to witness this tradition through an immersive experience that brought classroom learning to life. The dynamic performance blended traditional flamenco with innovative choreography, rhythms, and rich cultural significance.

Over 300 Students Complete Fast Friday Pre-Registration Workshops



The Office of Enrollment Services hosted the final Fast Friday workshop of Spring 2025 on May 2. The series of workshops welcomed a total of 318 students representing from high schools. These pre-registration events help incoming first-time college students complete multiple enrollment steps in a single day. Students received hands-on support with applying to IVC, completing orientation, meeting with counselors for academic advisement, completing guided self-placement for math and English, and developing their first-semester education plans. In addition, participants explored the campus and engaged with IVC students, faculty, and staff, helping them build early connections to the college community.

GAP4+1 Business Leader Speaker Series Features Theresa Thomas



IVC's Guaranteed Accounting Program (GAP4+1) welcomed Theresa Thomas as the featured guest for its Business Leader Speaker Series. A certified expert in business etiquette with more than two decades of experience, Thomas shared invaluable insights on the importance of self-presentation, networking, and confidence-building in today's competitive workforce. Her interactive session taught students practical strategies to stand out in global and multigenerational environments. The event also included a Recruitment Fair, offering students a direct connection to employers and opportunities to explore career pathways. View photos [here](#).

IVC Breaks Ground on New Student Services and Student Union Buildings



On April 30, IVC held a groundbreaking ceremony for two major construction projects, the new Student Services Center and Student Union. The event, marking the largest capital development in the college's 40-year history, brought together college and district officials, students, and community members for a symbolic turning of the soil with gold shovels. The ceremony also included a land blessing by Mark Mendez, a tribal leader from the Acjachemen Nation, who was joined by his son and IVC student, Mark Mendez Jr. The two buildings will add over 77,000 square feet of dedicated student-centered space. All components are being built to LEED Gold equivalency. Read the full story [here](#) and view photos [here](#).

IVC Leaders Participate in Regional ACCJC Convening on Transparency and Student Outcomes



On April 29, a team from IVC joined peers from across Southern California at the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' (ACCJC) Regional Convening hosted at the Palomar College Rancho Bernardo Center. The event brought together campus stakeholders to explore the ACCJC 2030 Strategic Goals, emphasizing transparency, storytelling, and value literacy in accreditation practices. Attendees representing IVC included SOCCCD Board President Carolyn Inmon, IVC President John Hernandez, Vice President for Instruction Rick Miranda, Academic Senate President Rebecca Beck, and Director of Research, Planning, and Accreditation Loris Fagioli. The convening was designed to foster collaborative dialogue around institutional outcomes, including graduation, persistence, retention, and transfer.

Sexual Assault Awareness Week 2025 Promotes Education, Advocacy, and Support



From April 28 to May 2, IVC hosted [Sexual Assault Awareness Week \(SAAW\)](#), to educate, empower, and engage the campus community in efforts to prevent sexual violence and support survivors. The week began with a virtual call to action, encouraging students to learn more about the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Day of Action. Events included a Mental Health Resource Fair that provided a safe and supportive space to explore the intersection of mental health and trauma recovery. Local organizations and campus partners offered resources and information to support the campus community. The college also observed Denim Day, an international movement that challenges victim blaming and promotes solidarity with survivors. Students wore denim and participated in awareness activities, giveaways, and raffles. The Office of Student Rights and Grievances hosted back-to-back Open Houses, inviting students, faculty, and staff to learn more about the office's role in upholding student rights and ensuring due process.

IVC Students Present Research at the Bay Honors Symposium at UC Berkeley



On April 26, 2025, 21 IVC Honors students presented 14 research projects at the prestigious [Bay Honors Symposium](#), hosted by the Bay Honors Consortium at UC Berkeley. IVC students' topics included the decolonial potential of spontaneous musical expression, the cognitive benefits of multilingualism, and systemic bias in reproductive care for Black women. Victoria Sun, Nick Petrushin, and Tim Nguyen were named finalists for the Symposium's most prestigious Heslet Award for their project "It's Not That Deep — Or Is It? Determining Material Density Using Cosmic Ray Muons." The Symposium was also attended by English Professor and Honors Coordinator Emily Liu and Math Professor Lan Pham, who mentored student research and served as faculty moderators at the Symposium.

President Hernandez Visits with Model United Nations Students



On April 22, President John Hernandez met with IVC's award-winning Model United Nations (MUN) students for a meaningful conversation about the transformative power of co-curricular engagement. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to share how participating in MUN has shaped their academic and personal growth, helping them build diplomacy, leadership, and global awareness skills. Students reflected on recent accomplishments, including top honors at national conferences, and discussed the lifelong impact of representing IVC. The college extends its deep appreciation to MUN faculty advisors Professors Shirin Sahani and Jon Rossiter for their unwavering dedication and mentorship.

IVC Students Celebrate Cambodian New Year Through Games, Food, and Cultural Connection



In April, IVC celebrated the Cambodian New Year. The celebration, organized through the [ELEVATE AAPI](#) program, invited students, faculty, and staff to explore Khmer culture through traditional games, cultural insights, and food sampling. Khmer refers to the ethnic majority in Cambodia, as well as the official language of the country. The event provided students with the opportunity to connect in the community while learning about the significance of the Cambodian New Year, which is rooted in Buddhist traditions and marked by celebration, reflection, and renewal.

President Hernandez Participates in Statewide LGBTQ+ Summit Panel



President John Hernandez served as a panelist on April 16 during the California Community Colleges 2025 LGBTQ+ Summit, held virtually under the theme “Leading with Pride: Advancing Your Career While Staying True to Yourself.” Dr. Hernandez joined a distinguished group of college leaders in an empowering conversation exploring the intersections of identity, authenticity, and leadership in higher education. Panelists shared their journeys and offered strategies for navigating professional advancement while remaining grounded in their values and experiences. Additionally, Director of College Equity, Inclusion, and Access Erin Pollard presented at the summit for the eighth year in a row. This year, she focused her presentation on the rights of LGBTQ+ students across policy, health, and education. Co-presenting with Pollard was Legislative Director of Equality California Craig Pulsipher and Director of the California LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services Network Dannie Cesena.

EOPS/CARE/NextUp Advisory Meeting Highlights Student Voices and Impact



Student Voices



On April 10, the Spring 2025 EOPS/CARE/NextUp Advisory Meeting brought together program partners and stakeholders to hear directly from students about these programs’ transformative power. Featured speakers Paula Padilla and Jordan Castaneda, both Guardian Scholars, shared personal testimonies about how NextUp and Guardian Scholars have been pivotal in their academic journeys. Once uncertain about their future in higher education, both students credited the programs’ financial assistance, counseling, and strong sense of community, empowering them to envision and pursue ambitious goals.

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop Offers Students Cultural and Artistic Immersion



On April 8, 2025, the Languages Department hosted a Chinese Calligraphy Workshop led by Professor Joanne Chen. The event began with a historical overview of Chinese calligraphy, setting the stage for the hands-on learning that followed. Twenty students participated in the workshop, practicing brush techniques to write Chinese characters using traditional tools. Students expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to engage with Chinese culture through this artistic medium, and the interactive format fostered a deeper appreciation for

the discipline and mindfulness involved in calligraphy. One of the department’s missions is cultivating global awareness and supporting cross-cultural understanding.

IVC Students Advocate for Foster Youth at Statewide Education Summit



From April 6-8, Guardian Scholars Serah Fayad and Paula Padilla attended the California Foster Youth Education Summit in Sacramento, accompanied by IVC counselor Lizett Bobadilla. The summit brought together foster youth, educators, and advocates across the state to explore best practices supporting current and former foster youth in higher education. Fayad and Padilla participated in various impactful sessions, including workshops on student rights, navigating support services, and personal development. One of the summit's highlights was a keynote address by Anthony Trucks, a former foster youth turned NFL athlete and entrepreneur, who shared a powerful message encouraging attendees to “Make Shift Happen” by embracing change and unlocking their potential.

IVC MUN Returns to National Model United Nations Conference in New York



IVC's Model United Nations team participated in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York from April 5-11. The team won two Outstanding Delegation awards, which are awarded to 5% of schools in attendance for the stellar performance of the entire delegation, and one Position Paper Award for excellence in analysis, relevance, and writing. This marks a triumphant return for the team to the competitive international circuit after a 5-year hiatus. IVC was one of only two community colleges to receive two prestigious awards. The team of 15 students represented Solomon Islands and Dominica in five committees where students dealt with issues such as nuclear disarmament, sustainable production and consumption, the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and transforming food systems to prevent biodiversity loss. The team also had the opportunity to attend closing ceremonies at the General Assembly in the United Nations headquarters and sit where heads of state and UN representatives usually convene.

IVC Students Participate in the 25th Annual HTCC Community College Honors Research Conference



In April, 66 IVC students, supported by the IVC Honors Program, participated in the 25th Annual [Honors Transfer Council of California \(HTCC\) Research Conference](#). IVC students delivered 33 oral and 15 poster presentations, comprising 36 of the 218 research projects presented. Under the guidance of IVC faculty mentors, students worked hard to conduct research, write proposal abstracts, and prepare their posters or oral presentations. Amy Xie won an outstanding abstract award for her project “Small-Scale Supplements: Responsible Desalination in SoCal,” mentored by Professor Carrie Goulding; Sara Kabbara won an outstanding poster award for “Beyond the Diagnosis: Analyzing the Skyrocketing Costs of Cancer Care and Their Impact on Patients,” mentored by Professor Deanna Scherger; and Emily Oh, Nathaniel Cho, and Kareen Airood won an outstanding poster award for “Beyond a One-Night Stand: The Perpetual Relationship Between Hook-Up Culture and Dating Apps in the Spread of STIs Among American Youth,” mentored by Professor Lan Pham. Two IVC Honors students, Zifang Shi and Varsha Torpunuri, were awarded the HTCC Exemplary Achievement Award. Ten additional IVC students participated in the conference by volunteering to moderate Q&A during oral presentation sessions. IVC Honors Coordinator Emily Liu served as the conference's program chair on behalf of the Honors Transfer Council of California.

IVC Hosts 11th Semi-Annual AESL Mini-Conference to Share Innovative Teaching Practices



On April 4, 53 faculty members from IVC, Saddleback College, and the Irvine and Tustin Unified School Districts convened virtually for the 11th Semi-Annual Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) Mini-Conference. This collaborative professional development event spotlighted effective teaching strategies that promote student engagement and academic success in adult ESL instruction. Faculty members delivered presentations showcasing successful classroom activities and projects. Topics included leveraging art and music to build critical thinking and cultural literacy, enhancing student connections through “About Me” modeling, fostering analytical skills through Project Finding Truth, and using creative tools like recipe books and films to reinforce language skills and intercultural understanding.

Marketing and Creative Services Team Wins Big at CCPRO Awards



In April, the Marketing and Creative Services team received multiple honors during the 2025 Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) Awards. With a record 490 entries submitted by colleges across California, IVC secured four awards. IVC was awarded Silver in the [Campaign – Social Media category for its “IVC Voices/Under a Minute”](#) series and Silver for [Video: Special Message for its “Spark \(Holiday\)”](#) video. The team also earned Bronze in two categories: [Video – Quick Turnaround for the “Study Spaces/Library Closed”](#) video and Campaign – Promotional for the “GRAND OPENING OF THE ARTS VILLAGE”.

CARE/CalWORKs Students Bond Through Horticulture Therapy Workshop



On March 28, nearly 40 parenting students and their children participated in a hands-on Horticulture Therapy Workshop in the IVC BEES Garden. Organized by CARE and CalWORKs, in collaboration with the Biology Department, the event provided an opportunity for students and their families to engage in interactive outdoor activities such as painting flower pots, planting succulents, and sowing California Native seeds. Designed to foster emotional well-being and family connection, the workshop encouraged participants to “dig in the dirt” while soaking in the sunshine and building community. The workshop is part of a growing series of holistic initiatives to support parenting students.

IVC Students Explore Academic and Cultural Heritage During HBCU Tour



Eight students from the Black Student Success Scholars Program participated in the third annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Tour. The tour provided students with an opportunity to visit several renowned HBCUs, including Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Tuskegee University, Alabama State University, Albany State University, and Fort Valley State University. Students also engaged in cultural enrichment by exploring historic sites central to African American history. Stops included the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, the Rosa Parks Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the African American Panoramic Experience, and the Legacy Museum. A highlight of the tour was the visit to the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, where students located their family surnames on the National Monument of Freedom, honoring the names of formerly enslaved individuals recorded in the 1870 census.

IVC Standout Soccer Player Isaiah Ponce Commits to UC Santa Cruz



IVC men's soccer standout Isaiah Ponce has committed to continuing his academic and athletic journey at NCAA Division III UC Santa Cruz. Ponce, a two-year starter and scholar athlete for the Lasers, was named First Team All-Orange Empire Conference following a standout fall season. He played a key role as a holding midfielder, starting 16 games and providing consistent on-field leadership. Ponce's excellence extended beyond the pitch, as he maintained strong academic standing while preparing to major in engineering at UC Santa Cruz.

IVC Men's Soccer Team Volunteers at Local Elementary School



The Men's Soccer team demonstrated their commitment to community service by volunteering at Stone Creek Elementary School in the Irvine Unified School District. Under the leadership of Head Coach Conor Ward, the team organized and facilitated a soccer clinic that engaged young students in skill-building drills, games, and match play. Throughout the event, IVC student-athletes served as mentors and coaches, fostering physical activity, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the elementary students. Their presence brought excitement to the schoolyard and exemplified the values of community engagement and student leadership.

Performing Arts Center Spring Season Showcases Student Talent



IVC's Performing Arts Center is in full swing this spring, highlighting student talent across theatre, dance, and music. The Theatre Department's "THE GLASS MENAGERIE" production closed on April 6 to sold-out audiences and featured two student casts. "RENT," opened April 24 and ran through May 4, with a preview performance featured at March's Arts(in)Fusion showcase. The Dance Department debuted "AGAINST ALL ODDS" May 8–11 in the Studio Theater's immersive "in-the-round" format, featuring aerial choreography. The Music Department rounds out the season with the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Chorale, and Piano Feast from May 9–11. Beyond performances, the PAC has hosted major campus events, including DEIA Day and the Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Upcoming Events

Acting Showcase

May 20

Commencement Ceremony

May 22

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez".

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President