



IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

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

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

DATE: November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the November 20, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Named One of 150 Community Colleges Eligible for the 2025 Aspen Prize



The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has named IVC one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving student success and equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds. Read more [here](#).

Intelligent.com Ranks IVC #3 in California



[Intelligent.com](https://www.intelligent.com) included IVC in their list of Best Community Colleges in California for 2024. IVC ranks #3 out of the [Top 50 Community Colleges](#), scoring 98.04. The research identifies top schools in the state based on a variety of factors, including cost, academic quality (such as retention rates defined as the rate of students who return after their first year), graduation rates, and student resources such as online resources, libraries, and other available student support services.

IVC Receives \$25,000 Allstate College Service Grant



IVC has been awarded a \$25,000 Allstate College Service Grant in recognition of the college's work bringing service and leadership opportunities to its students through the Aspen Institute Leadership Development Index and Aspen Index Fellowship. This esteemed grant opportunity was made possible through the college's partnership with the Center for Expanding Leadership Opportunity (CELO), through which IVC developed a tangible framework to advance access to and the quality of student developmental experiences through service, leadership and engagement opportunities. This grant will operationalize a robust, youth-led, service-oriented collegiate experience that supports student success in college and beyond.

IVC Foundation Breaks Giving Day Record Second Year in a Row



The IVC Foundation hosted its fourth annual [Giving Day](#). The event surpassed last year's record by raising more than \$105,000 from 220 donations, which is 58% more than last year. The event occurred in conjunction with the 38th anniversary of the founding of IVC. Participants were encouraged to stop by the Giving Day booths for treats, giveaways, photo opportunities, and more. PRO IVC matched over \$28,300 during the event. The funds contributed will be invested in the students and programs of IVC through scholarships and enhanced learning opportunities. More photos are available [here](#).

Outdoor Learning Labs Win 2023 Professional Design Award



IVC won the 2023 Professional Design Award by the Community College Facilities Coalition (CCFC) for its innovative Outdoor Learning Labs. The project boasts two distinct outdoor classrooms encompassing a 15,000-square-foot lawn. Emphasizing flexibility and community access, the design promotes ecological sustainability by integrating local materials, native habitat expansion, recycled irrigation water, and the use of natural shading and gabion walls reducing the design's carbon footprint. Recognizing the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility the project also includes a Land Acknowledgement Sign, paying homage to the Indigenous heritage of the community.

Honoring Veterans and Their Stories at IVC's Annual Veterans Day Commemoration



On November 9, the annual IVC Veterans Day Commemoration featured the presentation of colors, the national anthem, and the pledge of allegiance by IVC students. The ceremony included launching the IVC Veterans Services Center "Sound Off" project, where veteran and military-connected students shared their experiences through a [photo-story blog](#) and comic book. Lead for the project, Faculty Tutor Max Evans, spoke about the importance of the students telling their stories and the impact of visual representation. Student veteran Jorge Henriquez shared his journey, and Isabela

Cortes talked about her experience as a military-connected dependent. President John Hernandez acknowledged the student participants of the "Sound Off" project during the ceremony, recognizing that their stories will long be remembered, and their impact will benefit those who read them for many years to come. The event included a resource fair with important services for student veterans and a luncheon provided by Cox Cable Company and the IVC Foundation.

The College Fair Returns for Fall 2023



On November 8, IVC's Fall 2023 College Fair brought together representatives from 50 colleges and universities, enabling students to explore transfer opportunities and gain essential knowledge about programs, admissions, and scholarships. The fair demonstrates IVC's commitment to supporting students during their transition to four-year institutions. The diverse representation of academic institutions showcased the array of pathways available to students, helping them make informed decisions about their academic futures.

IVC's Health Fair Promotes Community Health and Well-Being



The IVC Health and Wellness Center hosted a Health Fair on November 7, bringing local community organizations together for an event that promoted community health and well-being. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and connect with various departments at the college that offered resources to support good health. The event was an excellent opportunity for individuals to learn, engage with their community, and take proactive steps toward a healthier and happier life.

UCI Health and IVC Partner for Another Life-Saving Blood Drive



On November 7, IVC Health and Wellness Center, in collaboration with UCI Health, hosted a life-saving blood drive that ran simultaneously with the college's Health Fair. This is the second time this year the UCI Health Blood Mobile has been on campus to collect donations from the campus community. The blood drive is critical in bolstering the blood supply for patients at UCI Health, Orange County's sole Level I Trauma Center. This collaborative effort not only supports the trauma center but also engages the local community, enabling individuals to make a direct impact on the well-being of their neighbors.

IVC Holds Annual First-Generation College Student Celebration



On November 6, IVC held its annual [First-Generation College Student Celebration](#) organized by the Guided Pathways Classified Completion Team. Participants engaged in activities including a First-Gen Student Gallery, First-Gen Advice Wall, Career Center drop-in workshops, games, and a mini-resource fair. Attendees heard from guest speakers First Generation Student Club Vice President Yair Rivera, Academic Senate President Rebecca Beck, and President John Hernandez. The event concluded with an optional presentation, "Transfer and University Opportunities for First-Gen College Students," provided by the Transfer Center. View photos [here](#).

12th Annual IVC/Saddleback Student Research Symposium



The IVC and Saddleback Honors Programs held their [12th Annual IVC/Saddleback Student Research Symposium](#) on November 3. Students from both colleges convened at IVC to share 59 oral and poster presentations of their research on topics including inequitable access to public transportation among community college students, AI-driven prediction for early detection of diabetes, and college students' use

of disposable vapes. The event featured a keynote address by Dr. Anthony Szczurek, Professor of Political Science at Saddleback College, entitled "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Academic Research." The Symposium was an exciting celebration of student scholarship and faculty mentors who have supported students in their research.

IVC Honors Filipino American History Month



During the month of October, IVC honored [Filipino American History Month \(FAHM\)](#), a time dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the many achievements and contributions of the Filipino American community. Campus events included a film screening of the documentary "Delano Manong," which tells the story of Filipino farmworkers in the United States and their struggle for justice and dignity. The events culminated with a quad event where the campus community enjoyed a traditional Kulintang music performance, explored local community resources, and ate delicious food to learn

more about Filipino American culture. View photos [here](#).

Securing a Byte of Knowledge: IVC's Cybersecurity Month



Throughout the month of October, the Computer Information Management department, Professor Michael Franklin, and [IVC's Cyber Security Club](#) hosted a series of events in observance of Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The month's events included Cyber Generations, a series of free hybrid workshops to raise cybersecurity awareness for senior citizens. Additional workshops were Microsoft Azure Fundamentals, Artificial Intelligence, and Security Compliance. The month concluded with the Cyber Day Fair, an event that featured cybersecurity challenges, information about cyber law, exploring cyber education, workshops, and an interactive discussion with industry experts.

Inaugural Real Estate Summit Hosted at IVC



Professor Rick Boone organized the inaugural Real Estate Annual Summit, which debuted on October 27. The conference served as a platform for learning about the current state of the real estate industry and its diverse niche markets. Professor Boone extended a warm welcome to all attendees and set the tone for an informative day ahead. The event included a keynote speaker, Dan Peart, who shared insights on their experience with real estate. Participants had the option to attend three breakout sessions, each dedicated to a specific area in the industry: real estate agency and brokerage, real estate lending, and real estate investment, development, and franchises.

IVC Alumnus Recognized as California Community Colleges 2023 Distinguished Alumni Honoree



On October 27, IVC alumnus Advait Thampi was named one of three recipients of the prestigious California Community Colleges (CCC) 2023 Distinguished Alumni Honorees. The award recognizes individuals whose attendance at a CCC assisted them in achieving their educational goals and professional aspirations. Serving as the Stakeholder and Engagement Liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs and on the Board of Veterans Appeals, Thampi is a dedicated advocate who embodies the military ethos "got your six." Following 9/11, Thampi joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2005. After his service, he faced the challenge of transitioning to civilian life and found solace and support at the IVC Veterans Services Center. Thampi earned an associate degree in U.S. History at IVC, a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of California, Irvine, and a juris doctorate from Chapman University.

State Senator Dave Min's (D-CA) District Representative Matt Kern Visits IVC



On October 27, District Representative Matt Kern and District Intern Ethan Gay visited IVC. They met with College Corps Interim Grant Project Manager David Mendoza and Marketing and Creative Services Executive Director Diane Oaks. Mendoza highlighted College Corps and showcased the expansion of the Food Resource Center since Min's visit in Fall 2021.

Students Connect with Prominent Employers and Career Resources



On October 25, IVC's Job Fair returned for Fall 2023. Over 20 employers were on campus recruiting students for a variety of employment opportunities. Some employers in attendance included the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the City of Santa Ana, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, and the Internal Revenue Service. The Orange County Workforce Solutions Mobile Unit was also on-site, offering free access to personalized career guidance, tools for job searches and applications, and educational and training opportunities. View photos [here](#).

Sharing the Success Story of the AESL Mini-conference



On October 24, IVC English as a Second Language Professor Susan Akhavan and Saddleback Counselor Kristia Lengyel-Leahu presented at the statewide [California Adult Education Program Summit](#) on their implementation of the in-house semi-annual Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) Mini-conference. The AESL Mini-conference began as an exclusive IVC event in February 2020. Since then, the mini-conference has expanded to include members of the [South Orange County Regional Consortium](#), creating rich opportunities for collaboration and community building.

Completion Team Hosts Cultural Workshops at IVC



The Languages and Learning Resources Completion Team hosted cultural workshops on October 24 and 25. The Chinese Calligraphy workshop and Japanese Sushi-making demonstration offered hands-on experiences that enrich students' understanding of various cultures. This approach effectively engages a broader spectrum of students and raises awareness of the Languages Department's programs. Additional workshops will take place in December.

IVC Welcomes Irvine Company Leadership for Campus Showcase



On October 19, IVC leadership welcomed Irvine Company Vice President for Public Affairs Steve Greyshock and Community Relations Director Peggy Cheng for a campus tour and thoughtful dialogue. IVC has a long history with the Irvine Company dating back to the founding of the college. The meeting allowed IVC to showcase the campus, instructional and support programs, and the many ways the college is positively impacting the community.

Campus Community Raises Awareness During Undocumented Student Action Week



IVC commemorated [Undocumented Student Action Week](#) (USAW) from October 16 to 20 with events and workshops offered by the college, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, and the Community College League of California. USAW began with an Undocumented Resource Fair that featured a display of undocumented portraits of individuals sharing their stories. USAW events help inform the campus community how they can build a strong ecosystem that breaks down silos and promotes a collaborative campus approach for undocumented students.

IVC Outreach Joins Irvine Global Village Festival



On October 14, IVC Outreach, the Adult English as a Second Language Department, Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, and the Languages Department, with support from Marketing and Creative Services, participated as Patron sponsors for the 22nd annual [Irvine Global Village Festival](#). Over 15,000 Irvine residents attended this community event at the Great Park in Irvine. The festival had live music, cultural exhibitors, local organizations, food, and games. The teams fielded general inquiries about the campus, including semester course offerings, free ESL courses, DSPS, College Corps, EOPS, Puente Program, Summer Bridge Program, Community Education and Emeritus, Irvine Valley Promise, and steps to becoming an IVC student.

Third Year in a Row IVC Professor Massimo Mitolo Named in Top Two Percent of Most-Cited Scientists



School of Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation Professor Massimo Mitolo is named on a [list published by Stanford University](#) that represents the top two percent of the most-cited scientists in the world. The updated list was compiled using Scopus citation information from millions of scientists classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields. The updated version is based on the October 1, 2023, snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of the citation year

2022. The database includes a range of metrics, such as citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, and more.

80% of IVC Honors Students Accepted to UCLA for Fall 2023 Admission



Similar to past years, IVC Honors Program students enjoyed a high transfer rate to UCLA through the UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), which offers Honors students priority consideration for admission to majors within the College of Letters and Science. For Fall 2023 admission, 80% of TAP-certified IVC Honors students were accepted to UCLA, while 22% of non-TAP IVC students were accepted. IVC Honors students benefit from transfer agreements with several other schools, including UC Irvine, Yale University, Pomona College, Amherst College, and Williams College.

IVC Professor Lisa Alvarez's Recent Literary Achievements and Publications



Professor of English Lisa Alvarez's poem "In the College Writing Center" was published this month in "So It Goes," the literary journal of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library in Indiana. Additionally, the Covid Monologues containing Professor Alvarez's monologue, "Joe, also known as Mossayeb," recently won the 2023 International Latino Book Award for Best Play. Professor Alvarez also wrote an essay about the LA Riots of 1992, "Parker Center," that was published this month in "Dear California: The Golden State in Diaries and Letters."

Upcoming Events

Collective Movement Dance Concert

November 30 – December 2

Collective Movement Dance Concert

December 1

Guitar Ensemble Winter Concert

December 1

Uncle Vanya

December 7-17

A Choral Benefit Concert

December 8

Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert

December 9

Wind Symphony Winter Concert Featuring Woodbridge High School

December 10

Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert Featuring Laguna Beach High School

December 11

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President