

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

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

DATE: November 7, 2024

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the November 18, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Student Serah Fayad Reaches New Heights through Program with NASA



IVC student Serah Fayad, an aerospace engineering major, recently joined NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars Program. As part of Mission 2, she collaborated with a national team to develop solutions for a simulated mission to the Moon and Mars, mirroring NASA's workplace dynamics. Fayad hopes to advance to Mission 3, an immersive, three-week hybrid experience that includes a week onsite at a NASA Field Center, where she'll tackle real-world challenges, network with NASA experts, and explore the world of aerospace engineering firsthand. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC Hosts Annual First-Generation College Student Celebration



On November 14, IVC hosted its annual [First-Generation College Student Celebration](#), organized by the Guided Pathways Classified Completion Team. The event featured engaging activities such as a First-Gen Student Gallery, First-Gen Advice Wall, First-Gen Experience Walk, games, and a mini resource fair. This year's inspiring lineup of speakers included First-Generation Student Club Clerk Chris Rodas, ASIVC Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Candy Velazquez, MESA Program Interim Director César Montenegro, and Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald. The celebration concluded with a presentation from the Transfer Center titled

"Transfer and University Opportunities for First-Gen College Students."

IVC Honors Native American Heritage Month



On November 13, the Office of Student Equity hosted an event celebrating Native American Heritage Month (NAHM). Students explored local vendors and cultural displays highlighting the heritage and traditions of Native American communities. Native-led nonprofits and community organizations, including the San Onofre Parks Foundation and Natives4Nature, were present alongside local small-owned Native businesses selling art and beaded jewelry. The Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum & Acjachemen Center, along with the California Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance, showcased artifacts and provided insights into the history of the Juaneño/Acjachemen people, their traditions, and the influence of Spanish colonization. NAHM is dedicated to raising awareness of injustices native persons face, both historically and contemporarily, and how we can support tribal citizens, conserve natural land, and honor the traditions and values of native people

IVC Honors Veterans Day with Commemoration and Resource Fair



On November 7, IVC hosted its annual Veterans Day Commemoration. Director of the Veterans Services Center, Dylan Bender, began the event with a land acknowledgment and a speech that explored the origins, significance, and impact of Veterans Day. During the ceremony, IVC honored its employees, who are veterans, recognizing each by name for their service. The event concluded with a special cake-cutting ceremony in honor of the U.S. Marine Corps' 249th birthday. Earlier in the week, the Veterans

Services Center organized a resource fair with 40 booths representing nonprofit and community partners, each offering benefits and support services for veterans.

College Fair Returns for Fall 2024



On November 6, IVC's Fall 2024 College Fair welcomed representatives from 45 colleges and universities, providing students with valuable insights into transfer pathways, program offerings, admissions, and scholarship opportunities. This event underscores IVC's dedication to supporting students as they prepare for four-year institutions. With a diverse range of academic institutions in attendance, the fair highlighted the many options available to students, empowering them to make informed choices about their educational journeys.

IVC Financial Office Sets Record with Historic Financial Aid Disbursement



On November 5, IVC's Financial Office disbursed a record-breaking total of \$9,055,172 in state and federal financial aid to 2,715 students. This distribution is the largest disbursement of financial assistance in IVC's history, reflecting the

college's commitment to supporting students' economic well-being as they work toward their academic goals. Financial aid provides students with essential resources for tuition, textbooks, transportation, housing, and other expenses.

ASIVC Joins Annual Love Irvine Serve Day



On Saturday, November 2, fifteen members of the Associated Students of Irvine Valley College (ASIVC), Inter-Club Council, and their families joined 120 community volunteers for Love Irvine's City-Wide Service Day at Crean Lutheran High School. The IVC team helped create 150 no-sew blankets for the 2/11 Marine Battalion at Camp Pendleton. This annual event, organized by the 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee in partnership with the City of Irvine, highlights community solidarity in support of Irvine's adopted Marines. IVC is proud to be part of this impactful initiative and looks forward to continued collaboration with Love Irvine in service of our local military community.

Dr. Martha McDonald Named a 2024 Veteran of the Year



On November 1, Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris hosted the fifth annual Veterans of the Year ceremony at IVC, celebrating the sacrifices and achievements of three veterans who have strengthened their communities and nation. Among the honorees was IVC's Dr. Martha McDonald, Vice President for Student Services, recognized as a 2024 Veteran of the Year for her distinguished military service in the U.S. Marine Corps and dedication to educational equity. At IVC, Dr. McDonald oversees Student Services supporting minoritized and low-income students through initiatives to close achievement gaps. Also honored were Victor Bakkila, U.S. Army and Michael Carter, U.S. Marine Corps. Reflecting on her award, Dr. McDonald said, "Being recognized among such distinguished veterans is a profound honor. This award reflects my journey—from being the first woman to complete and teach at the Marine Corps Security Forces School, to supporting a diverse community of students and veterans at IVC."

13th Annual IVC and Saddleback Student Research Symposium Showcases Student Innovation



On November 1, the IVC and Saddleback Honors Programs hosted their 13th Annual Student Research Symposium. Of the 111 research projects that were presented, 83 were from IVC students. Topics ranged from sleep deprivation and the impacts of loneliness and social isolation to the evolving capabilities of Artificial Intelligence language models. The event featured an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Kristen Skjonsby, Professor of English at IVC, titled "The War on Terror and Me: Research as a Method of Interrogation." The Symposium celebrated the achievements of student scholars and the invaluable mentorship provided by faculty who guided them throughout their research journeys.

IVC Hosts "Día de Los Muertos" Community Celebration with Campus Altar



On October 30, IVC students, faculty, and staff gathered to honor "Día de Los Muertos," Spanish for the Day of the Dead, with a community altar and live performance by Mariachi Toro. The celebration was co-hosted by the Puente Program, the Latinx Student Association, and the Office of Student Equity. Central to "Día de Los Muertos" is the "ofrenda," an altar adorned with photos, favorite foods, beverages, and cherished mementos of departed family members. This sacred tradition invites the souls of loved ones to return, guided by heartfelt prayers and messages from those they left behind. IVC's community altar allowed everyone on campus to come together in remembrance, celebrate shared heritage, and reflect on the legacies of those who have passed. View photos [here](#).

Discovering Career Paths: Adult English as a Second Language (AESL)



On October 28, the AESL Department held an event highlighting noncredit to credit pathway opportunities for students. Nearly 130 intermediate-high and advanced AESL students gathered to learn about career-focused pathways in Entrepreneurship, Computer Information Management, and Real Estate. The event also introduced students to valuable resources and support services available through the Career Center. The presentations concluded with an engaging Q&A session, allowing students to ask questions and gain additional insights into their academic and career options.

IVC Hosts the Annual College Corps Orange County Consortium Symposium



On October 26, IVC College Corps hosted the Annual Orange County Consortium Symposium, bringing together students from IVC, Concordia University Irvine, and Vanguard University. The event opened with remarks from College Corps Grant Project Manager David Mendoza, followed by speeches from Chancellor Julianna Barnes, President John Hernandez, and Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald. Throughout the day, participants engaged in workshops covering LinkedIn, financial literacy, and essential professional skills. Incoming College Corps fellows enjoyed lunch with a panel discussion led by fellows from the program's first cohort, sharing valuable insights and experiences. View photos [here](#).

IVC at ATEP Hosts Manufacturing Day 2024



On October 25, IVC at ATEP welcomed nearly 120 students and educational partners from Tustin and Irvine Unified School Districts for Manufacturing Day 2024. Students received a welcome message from President John Hernandez before exploring diverse career paths available in manufacturing. The event featured hands-on demonstrations led by IVC faculty in Design Model Making and Rapid Prototyping, Drafting Technology, Electrical/Electronic Technology, and Engineering. Students had opportunities to connect with industry-leading companies like Edwards Lifesciences, Applied Medical, and TAE Technologies. This annual event continues to inspire the next generation to pursue careers in manufacturing and engineering across various industry sectors.

Cyber Day: A Dive into the World of Cybersecurity



On October 25, IVC's Computer Information Management department hosted Cyber Day, an event focused on cybersecurity trends and challenges. Students had the opportunity to learn from industry experts, gain insights into evolving cybersecurity threats, and engage in discussions about real-world security applications. The event featured four distinguished speakers: Cybercrime Specialist and Digital Forensic Examiner with the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office Terry Ginsburg; Cybersecurity Director at Montrose Environmental Group and IVC Adjunct Professor AB White; Distinguished Engineer at Optum Mohan Reddy; and President of the Cloud Security Alliance OC Jackie O. Kalter. Each session concluded with an interactive Q&A, allowing students to dive deeper into these critical topics.

Exploring Industry Insights at IVC's 2nd Annual Real Estate Summit



On October 25, IVC welcomed students to the 2nd Annual Real Estate Summit. The event offers a platform to explore the latest trends and insights in the real estate industry. The day began with a welcome message from Professor Rick Boone. Students had the opportunity to join three distinct breakout sessions, each focusing on critical areas within the industry: real estate agency and brokerage, real estate lending, and real estate investment, development, and franchises. The summit provided a well-rounded look into these sectors, empowering students with actionable insights and connections to advance their careers.

IVC Hosts Pathways to Law Mini-Conference



On October 25, the IVC Career Center and the Pathways to Law program hosted a dynamic mini-conference for students aspiring to careers in the legal field. Students engaged in targeted resume workshops and explored the art of professional branding by creating personalized digital business cards. They also gained insight into IVC's Pathways to Law program, a comprehensive framework designed to guide students through a clear legal academic and career pathway.

Students Connect with Prominent Employers and Career Resources at IVC's Fall 2024 Job Fair



On October 22, IVC hosted the Fall 2024 Job Fair, where students connected with some of the region's leading employers. The event allowed students to explore full-time and part-time job opportunities, network with recruiters, and learn about the vast array of career paths available in the local community. With over 20 organizations in attendance, students had access to a diverse mix of employers looking to connect with emerging talent. Among the organizations present were the City of Irvine, the Irvine Unified School District, and the Orange County Department of Education. Each employer shared valuable insights about their industry and the range of roles available, with many seeking interns, entry-level employees, and seasoned professionals alike.

Students Explore Legal Careers in Central Justice Center



On October 22, IVC students interested in law took an educational tour of the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana. The tour was guided by IVC Paralegal Studies alumnus Miles Madison, who now works with a local law firm. During the tour, students met with professionals across various legal roles, including a judge, a public defender, an assistant district attorney, and a court bailiff, each sharing insights into their roles and unique career journeys. The tour's highlight was a firsthand experience in the courtroom, where students observed a civil jury trial focused on a product liability case. As they watched a defense attorney cross-examine the plaintiff, students gained a practical understanding of trial procedures and advocacy techniques, making this visit an invaluable step in exploring legal careers.

President John Hernandez Featured on Podcast Discussing Hidden Homelessness



On October 21, President John Hernandez was featured on "Around the Table with South County Outreach." The podcast episode dives into the topic of community, highlighting how collaboration and support can address pressing local issues like hidden homelessness, a challenge many face but few recognize. Dr. Hernandez sheds light on the struggles of community college students from underrepresented backgrounds, including refugees, foster youth, and first-generation students. Many of these students fight to complete their education while balancing jobs, caregiving roles, and financial obstacles with the added challenge of hidden homelessness. Watch the episode [here](#).

ACCJC Recognizes IVC Among Institutions Selected for U.S. Department of Education Recognition



On October 17, the ACCJC congratulated 11 accredited member institutions, including IVC, for being invited to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's Postsecondary Student Success Recognition Program. The Department's [Raise the Bar Initiative](#) spotlights colleges committed to advancing student success. IVC stands among 100 two-year institutions recognized for improving equitable access, student success, and post-graduation outcomes based on key performance indicators.

IVC Foundation Shatters Giving Day Record for Fifth Consecutive Year



On October 17, the IVC Foundation celebrated its fifth annual Giving Day. Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters, more than \$132,000 was contributed, a 26% increase from last year. The event coincides with IVC's Founding Day when the college became independent in 1985. The donations are amplified each year through the IVC Foundation Board of Governors PRO IVC matching incentive. PRO IVC contributed \$1 for every \$2 donated, up to a \$500 match per foundation account. All funds benefit IVC students and programs, supporting scholarships and enriching learning opportunities. View photos from the event [here](#).

Campus Community Raises Awareness During Undocumented Student Action Week



IVC commemorated [Undocumented Student Action Week \(USAW\)](#) from October 14 to 18 with events and workshops organized by IVC and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. USAW is a time dedicated to honoring and uplifting student voices who are undocumented, DACA-mented, and from mixed-status families. This week is a powerful reminder of undocumented individuals' contributions to our campus, enriching the community with culture, resilience, and unique perspectives. Among the highlights of USAW was an Undocumented Resource Fair, where portraits of undocumented individuals were displayed, sharing personal stories that gave insight into their lived experiences.

IVC and South Coast Chinese Cultural Association Celebrate Chinese Culture



On October 12, the South Coast Chinese Cultural Association (SCCCA) debuted its world premiere of "Legends" at the renowned Segerstrom Hall. IVC's World Languages Chair and Professor of Spanish Beatrice Tseng serves on SCCCA's Board of Directors. SCCCA is a non-profit organization promoting Chinese language and culture in the community through its Irvine Chinese School and Irvine Chinese Immersion Preschool. SCCCA collaborates with IVC, having recently provided an array of performances for the IVC Lunar New Year Festival. Attendees included South Orange County Community College District Clerk of the Board Carolyn Inmon, Trustees Marcia Milchiker and Ryan Dack, President John Hernandez, and Dean of Liberal Arts Brooke Bui.

IVC Financial Aid Office Kicks Off Irvine High School's Senior Day



On October 10, Student Services Specialist Erica Lehman was the opening presenter at Irvine High School's annual Senior Day event. Lehman provided an overview of federal and state financial aid programs, important deadlines to know when applying for financial aid, and information about the Irvine Valley Promise program. After the presentation, seniors transitioned into breakout sessions focused on their post-graduation goals.

Puente Program Celebrates Culture, Advocacy, and Community



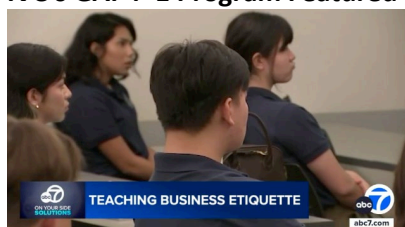
In October, the Puente program hosted various activities for students. October 10 was a movie night featuring the 1988 film "Stand and Deliver," highlighting Jaime Escalante's determination to bring AP Calculus to Garfield High School despite systemic barriers. On October 15, students traveled to UCI's Barclay Theatre to watch "A Song for Cesar," a documentary on Cesar Chavez and the UFW's labor justice movement. Following the film was a panel discussion with filmmakers, Chavez family members, and UFW representatives. On October 25, President John Hernandez welcomed the Puente cohort for the 4th annual Lunch with the President, fostering community as students shared insight on their academic journeys.

IVC Speech Team Wins 47 Awards Across Four Events



IVC Speech Team started the season with impressive results, earning 47 awards across four tournaments. They began at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association (PSCFA) Warm Up Invitational hosted by El Camino College on September 28-29, where 30 IVC students competed in various events, winning 14 awards. From October 11-13, the team participated in the Janesse Davidson Memorial Tournament at Concordia University, Irvine, securing 12 more awards, including a 1st Place Junior International Public Debate Association Speaker title for Alex Velez. On October 19, the team showcased their virtual speaking skills at the National Online Forensics Oak Synchronous Invitational, taking home six awards and sweeping the Extemporaneous Speaking medals. Their most successful showing came on October 25 at the Sunset Cliffs Invitational at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, where they won 15 awards in Poetry, Informative, Impromptu, and Extemporaneous Speaking. Eager to build on their achievements, the team looks forward to competing in the Griffin Invitational in November and the PSCFA Fall Championship Tournament in December. Read the full story [here](#).

IVC's GAP4+1 Program Featured on KABC7 News



IVC's Guaranteed Accounting Program (GAP4+1) program was recently featured on KABC7 news, spotlighting IVC's business etiquette training. Business Etiquette Consultant Theresa Thomas, RSM Finance and Accounting firm Andrea Jew, IVC Dean Traci Fahimi, and students Jesse Martinez, Kiana Lavasani, and Kai Washida shared how IVC equips young adults with essential workplace skills to navigate the post-pandemic workforce. Watch [here](#).

2025 Orange County Teacher of the Year Celebration



IVC was proud to participate in the 2025 Orange County Teacher of the Year (TOTY) gala, where Dr. Sanjai Gupta, IVC's 2024 Outstanding Full-time Teacher of the Year and dedicated Mathematics Instructor, was among those honored for his exemplary teaching and commitment to student success. Over 800 attendees, including teachers, administrators, and supporters, gathered in the Disneyland Resort Grand Ballroom to honor their achievements. The evening included a marching band, live performances, and video tributes recognizing the transformative work of educators. IVC was well-represented at the event. Dr. Gupta was joined by South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees President Timothy Jemal, along with Trustee Marsha Milchiker, IVC President Dr. John Hernandez, and Dean of Math, Science and Engineering Dr. Lianna Zhao, as well as guests of Dr. Gupta who were all there to celebrate his accomplishments and contributions to IVC.

Upcoming Events

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

November 17-23

Equal Pairs dance Concert

November 21-23

Idea Pitch: Final Round

November 19

Into the Woods

December 5-15

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President