

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

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

DATE: November 6, 2025

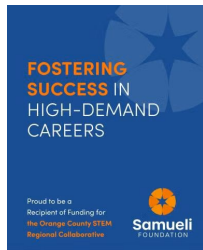
SUBJECT: **President's Report for the November 17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

The Aspen Institute Names IVC as a Top 200 U.S. Community College Eligible for the 2027 Aspen Prize



The Aspen Institute has recognized IVC as one of the top 200 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's premier acknowledgment of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The Aspen Prize identifies colleges that demonstrate strong and improving student outcomes in retention, completion, and transfer rates, as well as post-graduation success. IVC now joins roughly 20 percent of U.S. community colleges invited to advance in a rigorous review process that will culminate in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in 2027. Read the full story [here](#).

Samueli Foundation Awards \$3 Million Grant to IVC to Strengthen STEM Pathways



IVC has been awarded \$3 million from the Samueli Foundation to expand access and opportunities for students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees. The funding will enhance undergraduate research experiences, strengthen faculty-student engagement, and expand tutoring, mentoring, and transfer preparation for STEM students. Additionally, the Samueli Foundation has launched the Orange County STEM Regional Collaboration, a three-year, \$4 million initiative bringing together IVC, Fullerton College, Orange Coast College, and Cal State Fullerton. The

collaboration aims to reduce barriers, increase transfer success, and strengthen STEM career pathways for community college students. Read the full story [here](#).

Study Finds IVC has \$738.4 Million Economic Impact



In a recent regional labor market study commissioned by the Orange County Regional Consortium in collaboration with Lightcast, an Economic Impact Study underscored IVC as a robust economic engine in Orange County. The study highlighted IVC's substantial \$738.4 million impact on the local economy in Fiscal Year 2023–24, representing approximately 0.2% of the county's total Gross Regional Product (GRP). Read the full story [here](#).

ASIVC Joins Citywide Volunteer Effort for Love Irvine Serve Day



On November 8, members of the Associated Students of IVC (ASIVC) joined volunteers across the city for the fifth annual Love Irvine Citywide Serve Day. The event, hosted in partnership with the City of Irvine and Love Irvine, connected residents, community groups, and organizations with service opportunities supporting local nonprofits, schools, and government entities. Volunteers participated in more than 25 projects throughout the city, including harvesting produce at Harvest Solutions Farm, sorting food for Families Forward, making blankets for the 2/11 Marine Battalion, supporting pollinator habitats at the Farm + Food Lab, and packing 30,000 meals for children in need.

IVC Hosts 3rd Annual Real Estate Summit



IVC hosted the 3rd Annual Real Estate Summit on November 7, providing students with firsthand exposure to key sectors shaping the real estate industry. The event opened with a welcome from Professor Rick Boone and featured three focused breakout sessions exploring real estate agency and brokerage, lending, and investment, development, and franchises. Each session was led by industry professionals who shared current market trends, career pathways, and practical insights. The summit fostered valuable connections between students and experts, equipping future professionals with a broader understanding of the evolving real estate landscape and the skills needed for success.

Honoring Veterans Through Shared Experience and Service



IVC hosted its annual Veterans Day Celebration on November 6 honoring the courage, sacrifice, and continued contributions of our nation's heroes. This year's theme, "Bridging the Gap: The Value of Your Experience in a Changing World," celebrated how military experience shapes success in civilian life. The event featured keynote speaker Brent Theobald, a U.S. Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance veteran, followed by a student veteran panel and a special ceremony commemorating the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps with a traditional cake cutting. Theobald, who served three combat deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa, shared his journey from active duty to advocacy in higher education. A proud community college alumnus, he helped establish Veteran Resource Centers across California and now serves as Executive Director of the Military and Veterans Center at Azusa Pacific University. His message underscored the importance of translating military discipline, leadership, and resilience into lifelong success and service.

IVC Honors First-Generation College Students with Annual Celebration



On November 5, IVC hosted its annual First-Generation College Student Celebration honoring the achievements, resilience, and pride of IVC's first-generation student community. This year's program emphasized the importance of persistence and completion in math and English, with engaging activities hosted by the Math and Writing Centers to encourage connection with key academic support services. First-Generation Student Club Vice President Rustin Keshavarzian led the ceremonial portion of the event, welcoming attendees and introducing each of the day's speakers. Guest speakers included President of the First-Generation Student Club Sophia Diaz, Research and Instruction Librarian Brandee Idleman, NextUp and EOPS Program Coordinator Silvia Torrez Mendoza, and President John Hernandez. View photos [here](#).

Students Explore Transfer Opportunities at IVC's Fall 2025 College Fair



On November 4, IVC hosted its Fall 2025 College Fair, connecting students with representatives from 50 colleges and universities across California and beyond. The event provided a dynamic space for students to explore transfer pathways, academic programs, and scholarship opportunities while engaging directly with admissions experts. Organized by the IVC Transfer Center, the fair supported students in planning their next steps toward four-year degrees and highlighted the college's ongoing commitment to guiding students through every stage of their educational journey. View photos [here](#).

Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris Honors Local Veterans at IVC



IVC was honored to once again host Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris's Veterans of the Year Celebration on November 3. Now in its seventh year, the ceremony recognized three distinguished honorees: U.S. Army Specialist Charles Wolfe, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Harwood Garland II, and U.S. Air Force Captain Elizabeth "Libby" Buckley for their exemplary military service and continued leadership in their communities. The event convened dignitaries, community members, and representatives from UC Irvine, the Tustin Unified School District Board of Trustees, and regional veteran and nonprofit organizations. Also in attendance were SOCCCD Board Vice President Ryan Dack and Trustee Marcia Milchiker. The celebration reaffirmed IVC's proud tradition of supporting veterans and military-connected students while honoring those who have served our nation with courage, dedication, and integrity.

City of Irvine Councilmembers Tour IVC



On November 3, IVC welcomed City of Irvine Councilmembers William Go, Betty Martinez-Franco, and Kathleen Treseder for a campus tour highlighting the college's academic programs, student services, and recent campus improvements. The visit served as an opportunity to showcase IVC's innovative facilities and the impactful work being done to support student success. The college extends its deep appreciation to the City of Irvine and its elected leaders for their continued partnership and steadfast support of IVC's mission to provide exceptional educational opportunities for the community.

Puente Program Honors Día de los Muertos in Downtown Santa Ana



IVC's Puente Program joined the City of Santa Ana's annual Día de los Muertos community celebration on November 1, creating a stunning altar that paid tribute to loved ones and honored the cultural heritage of the holiday. More than 15 Puentistas participated in building and presenting the altar. IVC President Dr. John Hernandez and Rep. Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) were among the guests who stopped by to view the display and engage with students. Many attendees paused at the IVC canopy to share their own IVC stories and connections, reflecting the college's deep roots in the local community. This meaningful experience allowed students to celebrate tradition, strengthen community bonds, and represent IVC's enduring commitment to cultural engagement and student leadership.

Congressmember Dave Min Visits IVC Political Science Class



Professor of Political Science Joon Kil hosted U.S. Representative Dave Min (D-47) in his Political Science 1000: American Government class on October 30. Students engaged in a thoughtful question-and-answer session with the congressman and heard his reflections on the current state of government and public service. The interactive discussion offered students a valuable firsthand perspective on civic engagement and policymaking in action. This visit underscores IVC's continued commitment to connecting students with leaders shaping

today's political landscape.

ASIVC Hosts Outdoor Halloween Movie Night



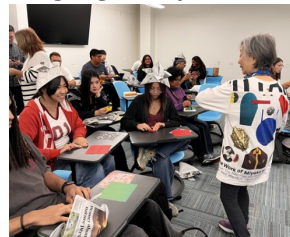
On October 30, the Associated Students of IVC (ASIVC) invited students to the Live Oak Terraces for an outdoor screening of “The Nightmare Before Christmas.” Attendees brought blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the festive evening, which featured free popcorn and Halloween-themed treats. The event created a fun and welcoming space for students to connect, unwind, and celebrate the holiday season together. This gathering reflected ASIVC’s ongoing commitment to fostering student engagement and building community through inclusive campus events.

Inspire 2035 Town Hall Launches Collegewide Strategic Planning Phase



On October 29, IVC hosted the Inspire 2035 Town Hall, marking the next phase of the college’s strategic planning process. Faculty, classified professionals, and administrators gathered to collaborate on shaping college-specific goals and strategies that align with the districtwide Inspire 2035 framework. The interactive session included presentations, a live Q&A, and online discussions, fostering broad engagement across campus as participants explored the future direction of the college. This collaborative effort reflects IVC’s ongoing commitment to inclusive planning and shared governance in advancing student success.

Languages Department Hosts Cultural Workshops Celebrating Global Traditions



Throughout October, IVC’s Languages Department hosted a series of hands-on cultural workshops celebrating the artistic traditions of Japan, France, and China. The series invited students, faculty, and community members to engage with global cultures through art and creative expression. Professor Fumiko Ishii led the Japanese Origami Workshop, where participants learned the intricate art of paper folding, while exploring the cultural significance of origami in Japanese festivals and customs. The following week, the French Art Appreciation Workshop immersed attendees in the aesthetics and influence of French artistic movements. The month concluded with the Chinese Calligraphy Workshop, allowing participants to experience the elegance of traditional brushwork and its role in Chinese heritage. The workshops fostered intercultural appreciation and strengthened IVC’s commitment to promoting language and cultural education through immersive learning experiences.

IVC Honors “Día de Los Muertos” with Community Altar and Cultural Celebration



IVC celebrated “Día de Los Muertos” on October 29, with a community gathering. The event featured a traditional altar, or “ofrenda,” and a live musical performance. Hosted collaboratively by the Puente Program, the Latinx Student Association, and the Office of Student Equity, the celebration invited students, faculty, and staff to honor loved ones who have passed while reflecting on the enduring connections between memory, culture, and community. The campus altar displayed photos, candles, marigolds, and symbolic offerings representing the cherished traditions of this holiday. Through shared remembrance and music, participants celebrated the beauty of life and the legacies of those who came before them. View photos [here](#).

A Look Back at Four Decades of Growth and Impact at IVC



On October 28, IVC concluded its 40th anniversary celebration with the premiere of “Little College in the Orange Groves: 40 Years in the Making,” a commemorative documentary highlighting the people and milestones that shaped IVC’s four decades of excellence. Produced by the Marketing and Creative Services team, the film features 24 in-depth interviews with faculty, classified professionals, and administrators, including ten retirees who reflected on the college’s early years. Watch the film [here](#). View photos [here](#).

Laguna Beach Unified School District Visits IVC to Strengthen Dual Enrollment Partnership



IVC hosted educational partners from the Laguna Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) on October 24 for a campus tour and discussion on expanding collaboration through the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment agreement. The delegation included Superintendent Jason Glass, Ed.D.; Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Chad Mabery, Ed.D.; and Laguna Beach High School Principal Jason Allemann. The visit showcased IVC’s state-of-the-art campus and reaffirmed both institutions’ shared commitment to advancing student success through early college experiences.

IVC Dedicates Commemorative Plaque Honoring College’s Founding Legacy



IVC hosted a special plaque dedication ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of its founding on October 22. Held among the orange trees outside Hart Gym, the event brought together students, faculty, staff, and district leaders to honor the college’s humble beginnings and lasting impact. Joining the dedication were South Orange County Community College District Board Vice President Ryan Dack and Clerk T.J. Prendergast III. President John Hernandez delivered remarks recognizing

the foresight of IVC’s founders and the enduring symbol of the campus’s original orange groves, inspiring the nickname “the little college in the orange groves.” The plaque, installed along the Arts Promenade, is one of two markers planned to celebrate IVC’s history, with a second site anticipated near Parking Lot 3 in coordination with the City of Irvine and the Jeffrey Open Space Trail project. View photos [here](#).

IVC Fall 2025 Job Fair Connects Students with Regional Employers



On October 21, IVC hosted its Fall 2025 Job Fair, providing students and community members an opportunity to connect with some of the region’s leading employers. The event featured organizations offering full-time and part-time positions, internships, and networking opportunities. The Job Fair invited students to explore diverse career paths, gain insights from industry professionals, and strengthen their workforce readiness. This event reflects IVC’s continued commitment to supporting students’ career development and fostering strong partnerships with local employers to enhance community workforce engagement.

IVC Wins Gold and Silver Medallions at NCMPR District 6 Awards



IVC's Marketing and Creative Services department earned top honors at the 2025 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) District 6 Medallion Awards, receiving both a Gold and a Silver Medallion for excellence in marketing and communications. IVC received the Gold Medallion for its engaging video "The Best Places to Study at IVC" and the Silver Medallion for The Hub newsletter, the college's professional learning publication. The Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement among marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges across Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. This recognition highlights IVC's continued excellence in storytelling, creative content, and communications strategy.

IVC Model United Nations Team Makes History at PACMUN



On October 18, IVC [Model United Nations \(MUN\)](#) team attended the PACMUN Conference at Riverside City College and achieved a record-breaking performance. The 35-member delegation, the largest in team history, earned eight awards, more than any other college in attendance. Guided by faculty advisors Shirin Sahani and Jon Rossiter, IVC students debated global issues such as artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons systems, and the sustainable use of the world's oceans, earning top recognition in multiple committees. The event reflected IVC's strong tradition of academic excellence, collaboration, and civic engagement in global affairs. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

IVC Recognizes Undocumented Student Success Week



From October 13 to 17, IVC observed Undocumented Student Success Week, a statewide initiative dedicated to honoring and uplifting the experiences of undocumented, underdocumented, DACA-mented, and mixed-status students and their families. This year's theme, "Together in Purpose, Grounded in Belonging," called on institutions and educators to take equity-driven action in affirming students' identities and creating pathways to success. Throughout the week, IVC hosted a series of empowering workshops and events, including a resource fair that connected students with on-campus and community support services.

IVC Foundation Breaks Giving Day Record for Sixth Consecutive Year



The IVC Foundation hosted its sixth annual Giving Day on October 16, raising an unprecedented \$173,822 to support IVC students and programs. This marks the sixth straight year the Foundation has set a new record. The event coincided with IVC's Founding Day, celebrating the college's establishment as an independent institution in 1985. Donations were bolstered by the PRO IVC matching incentive, through which the IVC Foundation Board of Governors contributed \$1 for every \$2 donated, up to a \$500 match per Foundation account. All funds directly benefit students through scholarships, program support, and opportunities that enhance learning and student success. View photos [here](#).

IVC Presents Dr. Jon P. Higgins: Exploring Representation and Radical Self-Love



On October 16, IVC welcomed Dr. Jon P. Higgins, author of “Black. Fat. Femme: Revealing the Power of Visibly Queer Voices in Media & Learning to Love Yourself,” for a thought-provoking and empowering discussion. Through storytelling and cultural critique, Dr. Higgins explored how representation in media shapes identity, challenges stereotypes, and opens space for authenticity and community. Presented in collaboration with Pride

Scholars and Black Student Success Scholars, the event invited students, faculty, and staff to reflect on the power of visibility and the importance of embracing radical self-love in college and beyond. Dr. Higgins’ engaging dialogue encouraged attendees to celebrate diverse narratives and cultivate spaces of belonging within higher education. View photos [here](#).

Professor Summer Serpas Presents at Statewide Program in Texas



IVC Professor of English and Coordinator of The Hub: A Center for Professional Learning, Summer Serpas continues to impact the national conversation on equitable and effective English instruction. On October 15–16, she presented at the “Designing Corequisites Across Texas” program, sponsored by the Charles A. Dana Center, with which she has collaborated for the past two years. The program supports community

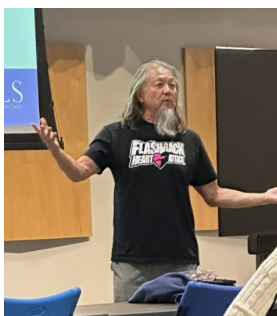
college faculty in developing evidence-based corequisite course structures that promote student success. Professor Serpas facilitated professional learning for English faculty through webinars, a community of practice, and the culminating in-person convening, where participants shared outcomes and planned next steps for implementation. Her ongoing work exemplifies IVC’s leadership in improving student outcomes through innovative, research-informed teaching practices, and professional development.

IVC Connects with Community at the Irvine Global Village Festival



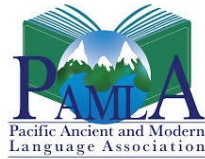
The 24th annual Irvine Global Village Festival on October 11 brought thousands of residents together at the Great Park to celebrate the city’s rich cultural diversity through live performances, art, food, and interactive exhibits. IVC welcomed visitors at its booth, where community members learned about opportunities to enroll in credit and noncredit courses, including free Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Representatives from Outreach and the ESL Department shared information about IVC programs, including College Corps, EOPS, Puente, DSPS, and the Irvine Valley Promise. As a sponsor of the event, IVC’s participation emphasized the college’s dedication to accessible education and its continuing partnership with the Irvine community.

Wahoo’s Fish Taco Founder Inspires Students at Business Leader Society Event



On October 9, the Business Leader Society (BLS) hosted Wing Lam, co-founder of Wahoo’s Fish Taco, as a guest speaker at IVC. Known for his community involvement and innovative approach to business, Lam shared valuable insights with students on effective business practices, starting and growing a business, building a strong brand, developing resilience, and cultivating meaningful relationships. Students learned about his firsthand experiences from the inception and growth of the Wahoo’s Fish Taco chain. His visit provided students with an engaging opportunity to learn about leadership, perseverance, and the importance of creativity and adaptability in achieving long-term success.

Dr. Bill Etter to Chair and Present at Conference



IVC Writing Center Coordinator and Professor of Introduction to African American Studies, Dr. Bill Etter, has been invited to chair the Comparative American Ethnic Literature session at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association (PAMLA) Conference in November 2025. In addition to his leadership role, Dr. Etter will present his paper titled “William Cooper Nell and the Construction of African American History.” Beyond his teaching and research at IVC, Dr. Etter also serves as the head of the Saul Bellow Society, a member society of the American Literature Association. In this capacity, he organizes and chairs the society’s panels at the 2024 and 2025 annual conferences and is currently preparing for the 2026 event.

Assemblymember Recognizes IVC Professor Lisa Alvarez for Contributions to Education and the Arts



On September 23, Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) honored Professor of English Lisa Alvarez with a Certificate of Recognition for her distinguished contributions to education and the arts. Alvarez was featured in “Catching Up with Cottie,” the assemblymember’s weekly update, highlighting her 33 years of service to IVC. As she retires from IVC, Alvarez embarks on an exciting new chapter as an author, continuing her passion for storytelling and cultural engagement. Her dedication to teaching and creative expression has profoundly shaped generations of students and left a lasting legacy that continues to elevate IVC’s reputation as one of California’s premier community colleges.

Upcoming Events

Take One Dance Concert

November 14, 16, & 22

Native American Heritage Month: “On the Backs of Our Ancestors” Film Screening

November 19

Take Two Dance Concert

November 15, 20 & 21

Holiday Mingle

December 2

Idea Pitch Competition: Final Round

November 18

Ride the Cyclone

December 4-14

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President