

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

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

DATE: October 9, 2025

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the October 20, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

Read for Your Rights: Banned Books Week 2025



From October 6 to 10, IVC participated in the national Banned Books Week, a movement that defends the freedom to read and raises awareness of ongoing censorship efforts. The Library, the English Department, and the student editors of “The Ear” collaborated to host a series of engaging events, including a community book drive, a “Make a Zine” workshop, and the 12th annual Banned Books Read-Out and Book Tasting on the Library Patio. Students, faculty, and staff shared passages from challenged books and personal reflections on the importance of access to a variety of voices and stories. The week’s events underscored the vital role of libraries and education in protecting intellectual freedom and fostering open dialogue.

IVC Kicks Off Filipino American History Month



IVC launched its [Filipino American History Month \(FAHM\)](#) celebration with two engaging cultural workshops. Students participated in a Baybayin Calligraphy Workshop hosted by [ELEVATE AAPI](#) and the Mabuhay IVC club, where they learned the pre-colonial Filipino writing system and practiced writing their names using traditional ink. The festivities continued on October 7 with Lumpia & Learn: Parol Making, where students crafted colorful lanterns that symbolize unity and the holiday season within Filipino communities, all while enjoying a shared meal.

IVC Expands Partnership with Philharmonic Society of Orange County



IVC has strengthened its partnership with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, enhancing arts education and community engagement opportunities for students. This collaboration offers IVC students access to professional performances, masterclasses, and cultural experiences that complement their academic studies in the arts. An integral component of this partnership is the opportunity for students to attend world-class performances. The first event in this initiative took place on October 7, when students participated in an evening concert by the renowned soprano Renée Fleming at the Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. This collaboration underscores IVC’s dedication to enriching arts education through community partnerships and connecting students with Orange County’s vibrant cultural landscape.

IVC Students Celebrate Diwali with ELEVATE AAPI



The [Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer, and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders \(ELEVATE AAPI\)](#) program hosted a Diwali celebration on October 6. IVC students Arshroop Kaur, Aryan Saha, and Ronny Bharadwaj led the event, which highlighted the history and traditions of the holiday while fostering cultural exchange and community. Students engaged in creating colorful Rangoli art, a traditional decorative practice, and enjoyed light refreshments as part of the festive experience. The celebration offered everyone an opportunity to connect, learn, and appreciate the significance of Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

Manufacturing Day at IVC Inspires Future Innovators



On October 3, IVC hosted Manufacturing Day at the state-of-the-art Integrated Design, Engineering, and Automation (IDEA) facility at ATEP in Tustin. The event welcomed 160 high school students from Tustin and Irvine Unified School Districts for an immersive day of hands-on learning and career exploration in modern manufacturing, engineering, and technical fields. Students engaged in live demonstrations, interacted with local industry professionals at the resource expo, and learned about IVC programs, including Engineering and Drafting Technology, MESA, and the Irvine Valley Promise. Faculty and industry experts highlighted pathways in advanced manufacturing, rapid prototyping, and electronics, showcasing the practical skills and cutting-edge technologies available through IVC's programs. View photos [here](#).

IVC Foundation Hosts Fourth Annual Retiree Reunion



On October 3, the Foundation welcomed former faculty, classified professionals, and administrators back to campus for the Fourth Annual Retiree Reunion. The morning provided retirees with the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, celebrate shared memories, and hear updates on the college's ongoing growth and student success initiatives. President John Hernandez shared remarks during the event, providing retirees with a meaningful look at how the college continues to evolve while remaining true to its core mission. The event fostered a strong sense of community among past and present members of the IVC community, reflecting the enduring impact of those who helped shape the college's legacy. View photos [here](#).

IVC Men's Soccer Secures 5–3 Victory Over Saddleback



The IVC men's soccer team claimed a 5–3 victory over Saddleback College on October 3 in an Orange Empire Conference matchup. The Lasers scored four goals in the first 16 minutes of play to take early control of the match. Sophomore forward Armin Tehrani netted a hat trick within the opening 12 minutes, while freshman forward Andrew Roldan added another goal off an assist from Tehrani to extend the lead to 4–0. Saddleback responded with goals late in the first half and midway through the second, but IVC sealed the win in the 78th minute when freshman forward Adam Scales scored the fifth goal. Freshman goalkeeper Sansiro Murata recorded five saves to help preserve the victory. The win improved IVC's record to 4–4 overall and 2–0 in conference play, highlighting the team's strong start to the season and competitive momentum within the Orange Empire Conference.

IVC Women's Volleyball Team Rallies for a Comeback Victory Over Cypress



IVC women's volleyball team delivered one of its most impressive performances of the season with a hard-fought comeback win over Cypress College in an Orange Empire Conference match on October 3. After narrowly dropping the opening set, the Lasers regrouped to dominate the next three, earning a victory at home. The win improved IVC's overall record to 3–7 and 3–2 in conference play. Sophomore outside hitter Alya Mersin led the team with 16 kills and seven digs, hitting an efficient .387. Freshman middle blocker Jazlynn Fu added 15 kills, eight digs, and four blocks, while setter Daiah Rivero contributed 14 assists and six kills. Key defensive plays from Samantha Schellenberg and a powerful serving run by Emi Velasco helped secure the final set, during which the Lasers opened with a commanding 14-point streak.

Closing Events of Latinx Heritage Month Celebration



The final events of [Latinx Heritage Month](#) brought the IVC community together through culture, dialogue, and connection. “Paletas with the President” welcomed students for an afternoon of conversation with President John Hernandez while enjoying paletas, a traditional fruit popsicle. On October 2, the Health and Wellness center hosted a workshop addressing the mental health impact of immigration trauma on first- and second-generation Latinx students. The heritage month concluded with the [Fellowship Exchange of Lessons Learned & Academic Support \(FELLAS\)](#) Fall Mixer, where students, staff, and faculty came together for games, pizza, and meaningful discussions. View photos [here](#).

IVC Hosts 4th Annual Pathways to Success Fair



IVC welcomed more than 460 students to the 4th Annual Pathways to Success Fair, hosted by Guided Pathways on October 1. Guided Pathways is designed to provide students with clear, structured academic and career routes, helping them stay on track to achieve their educational goals while accessing the support they need along the way. The event showcased IVC’s 10 Guided Pathways interest areas and connected students with vital academic and career resources. Students also participated in presentations led by the Career and Transfer Centers, designed to help them plan their next steps with confidence. Volunteers from the campus community supported the fair, ensuring students had meaningful opportunities to explore pathways and engage with resources. Also joining the event was Trustee Marcia Milchiker. View photos [here](#).

IVC Rising Scholars Experience Transformative Weekend Retreat



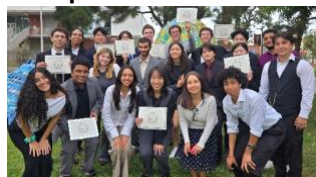
In September, Irvine Valley College Rising Scholars students participated in a weekend retreat at Camp Eaton, designed to foster personal growth, connection, and renewal. For many participants, it was their first experience in such an immersive outdoor setting. The retreat offered opportunities for self-reflection, teamwork, and community building through group discussions, problem-solving activities, and recreation. Students described the experience as both meaningful and restorative, returning with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to self-awareness, positivity, and resilience. The success of this retreat underscores IVC’s dedication to creating transformative experiences that nurture student well-being and belonging.

Performing Arts Center Showcases Student and Faculty Talent in Fall Concert Series



From September 26 to 29, the Performing Arts Center hosted “A Choral Kaleidoscope,” “Echoes & Dialogues: Masterworks for Cello and Piano,” and the “Instrumental Music Area Benefit Concerts.” “A Choral Kaleidoscope” featured the IVC Chorale performing works ranging from Palestrina and Gershwin to contemporary composers Hye-Young Cho, Imant Raminsch, and Marty Robbins. “Echoes & Dialogues” brought together cellist László Mező and pianist Derek Chiu for an evening of masterworks for cello and piano. The “Instrumental Music Area Benefit Concerts” showcased performances by the Symphony Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, and Wind Symphony on the first evening, followed by the Concert Jazz Band, Studio Jazz Band, and Lab Band on the second night. Both concerts presented a wide-ranging repertoire of classical and jazz works. Ticket proceeds supported the Bruce M. Jewett Instrumental Music Area Endowment, with contributions doubled through a PRO IVC match.

IVC Speech and Debate Team Earns Top Honors Across Multiple Categories



The IVC Speech and Debate Team made an impressive debut at the 2025 Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensic Association Warm-Up Tournament, held September 27 and 28 at El Camino College. The event brought together 17 colleges from across California, with 29 IVC students representing the college in debate, limited preparation events, platform speaking, and oral interpretation of literature. The team achieved exceptional success, earning 23 awards overall, including six in individual speaking, four in impromptu speaking, two in extemporaneous speaking, and five Certificates of Excellence in debate categories. These results highlight IVC's continued tradition of excellence in communication, collaboration, and competitive achievement.

AANAPISI Week Showcases Culture, Community, and Student Voices



IVC celebrated Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) week from September 22 to 28. The celebration featured Tea Time Talks, which encouraged students to build community through conversation and boba, as well as Vietnamese 101, where participants learned introductory language skills and gained cultural insights. A highlight of the week was a keynote presentation by Lee Herrick, Poet Laureate of California, who shared his poetry and reflections as part of IVC's 10th anniversary as an AANAPISI-serving institution. Additional programs included an information session on teaching abroad in Japan, a student-led panel sharing the impact of AANAPISI programs on their educational journeys, and a movie and game night hosted by the AAPI Club. The Mahjong Club also welcomed participants to a game night featuring mahjong, a traditional Chinese tile-based game that combines strategy, skill, and social interaction. View photos [here](#).

IVC Director of Veterans Services Center Represents College at National and State Conferences



Director of Veterans Services Center Dylan Bender represented IVC at two major conferences focused on veteran transition and success in higher education. At the 2025 Military Influencers Conference, Bender presented "The Warrior's Dilemma: Why Higher Education Is the New Front Line of Veteran Transition." This session highlighted the crucial role community colleges play as the primary point of contact for service members transitioning from active duty. Bender also presented "The Warrior's Dilemma: Understanding the Difficulty and Complexity of Entering Higher Education and What It Means for Professional Counselors" at the California Colleges Veterans Counselors' Consortium. This presentation equipped counselors statewide with strategies to support student veterans better. Bender's participation in these events further elevates IVC's reputation as a model for veteran success programming within California's community college system.

Showcasing Pathways from ESL to Career Success at CAEP Summit 2025



English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors Alice Lin, Savoyonne Steindler, and Jeff Wilson presented "From ESL to Career Success: Creating Contextualized Pathways Through Faculty Collaboration" at the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) Summit 2025. The CAEP Summit is an annual three-day professional development event that brings together more than 500 adult education practitioners to share innovative practices, strengthen collaboration, and improve educational outcomes for adult learners in California. Their session highlighted collaborative models in which ESL instructors work with vocational and academic colleagues to embed context and relevance into language instruction. This approach prepares students linguistically and vocationally for success.

Community Leaders Gather for Tustin Unified School District's Celebration of Schools



IVC sponsored a table at Tustin Unified School District's (TUSD) annual Celebration of Schools at Tustin High School. TUSD is a valued partner through IVC's dual enrollment program, which in the 2024–2025 academic year offered 94 course sections across all TUSD high schools. These opportunities served 1,288 unduplicated students, resulting in 3,062 course enrollments that expanded access to higher education and empowered students to begin their college journey while still in high school. President John Hernandez was joined by SOCCCD Board Vice President Ryan Dack, Board Clerk T.J. Prendergast III, Chief Communications Officer Letitia Clark, and members of the IVC community. This partnership demonstrates IVC's commitment to creating early college opportunities that support student success and foster community connections.

Grand Opening of The Hub: Center for Professional Learning



IVC celebrated the grand opening of The Hub, the college's new Center for Professional Learning on September 24. Designed to streamline and support collaborative professional development, The Hub will equip faculty, classified professionals, and administrators with the skills, knowledge, and resources to meet the evolving needs of IVC's student population. The vision for The Hub is to cultivate continuous and inclusive professional learning that is valued, accessible, and focused on fostering student success. The program featured remarks from Vice President for Instruction Rick Miranda, Classified Senate Past President Ace Caguioa, and Academic Affairs Chair Summer Serpas. Trustees in attendance included SOCCCD Board Vice President Ryan Dack, Marcia Milchiker, and Terri Rydell. This milestone highlights IVC's commitment to advancing a culture of learning and growth that strengthens institutional capacity and directly supports student achievement. View photos [here](#).

A Conversation with Lee Herrick: Adoption, Identity, and Community



On September 23, California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick made his second appearance on campus that day, leading an evening program titled "A Conversation on Adoption, Identity, and Community." Students, faculty, and staff joined an intimate dialogue exploring Herrick's lived experiences as a Korean adoptee and how his identity has evolved within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and as a poet. The discussion highlighted the power of storytelling, self-discovery, and cultural belonging, providing students with a rare opportunity to learn directly from California's Poet Laureate.

Walk of Hope Raises Awareness for Suicide Prevention



IVC hosted its annual Walk of Hope for Suicide Awareness and Prevention on September 23. The event began with a welcome from President John Hernandez, followed by remarks from Chancellor Julianna Barnes and Vice President for Student Services Martha McDonald. This year's keynote speaker, Orlando Ambriz, Jr., a U.S. Navy and Green Beret Army veteran, scholar, and clinical social worker, shared his powerful journey of resilience, healing, and service. Following the keynote, the campus community united in a one-mile walk to promote education, awareness, and solidarity in preventing suicide. Joining the campus community for the event was SOCCCD Board President Carolyn Inmon. The event also featured a resource fair, where community partners provided vital information and outreach services. This impactful gathering highlighted IVC's commitment to supporting mental health and fostering hope across the college community. View photos [here](#).

Pride Scholars Represent IVC at OC Pride Festival



Last month, Pride Scholars represented IVC at this year's OC Pride Festival, where they were invited to table by Ladera Valley Pride. The event offered an opportunity to connect with local community partners and discuss potential future collaborations that support LGBTQ+ students and their allies. Throughout the day, students and alumni from both IVC and Saddleback College visited the booth, expressing their excitement and appreciation for the college's visible support of the LGBTQ+ community. Visitors were also invited to write encouraging notes to students, leaving messages such as "Never be afraid to be yourself. You are perfect just the way you are!" and "You are fabulous!" These heartfelt messages now hang in the Pride Scholars space on campus as a reminder of community love and belonging. The event highlighted IVC's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusion, affirmation, and pride across campus and beyond.

IVC Dance Performs at the 19th Annual San Pedro Festival of the Arts



IVC's Dance Department was selected to perform at the 19th Annual San Pedro Festival of the Arts, held on September 20, at Peck Park in San Pedro. Directed by Louise Reichlin & Dancers, this annual outdoor festival celebrates the Southern California's dance community and features artists and companies representing a range of contemporary, cultural, and fusion styles. IVC Dance joined 17 professional and collegiate companies in presenting original choreography to the public. Under the direction of Dance Instructor Jennifer La Curan, the department performed "Tethered," a contemporary work exploring interdependence, boundaries, and collective resilience. The piece examines how individuals find balance, freedom, and resistance while remaining connected to others. Seven IVC dancers performed in a connected-skirt costume designed by Christina Perez, symbolizing unity and shared momentum through movement. The festival offered students a valuable opportunity to engage with the broader dance community, gain professional performance experience, and represent IVC on a regional stage.

College Corps Cohort 4 Day of Service



Forty-three IVC College Corps Fellows participated in the College Corps Orange County Consortium's Day of Service at the Newport Back Bay on September 20. Hosted by the Newport Back Bay Conservancy in collaboration with IVC, Vanguard University, and Concordia University, the event brought together more than 150 student volunteers from across the region. Students removed litter and debris that had accumulated in the wetlands, much of it resulting from the rise in single-use plastics, disposable masks, and gloves since the start of the pandemic. Conservancy staff educated students on the environmental impact of waste, which threatens wildlife, pollutes local waterways, and poses risks to public health. Following 3.5 hours of cleanup, IVC students returned to campus for a working lunch and reflection session focused on environmental stewardship and civic engagement.

Upcoming Events

Alumni Concert

October 21

Annual Real Estate Summit

November 7

Job Fair

October 21

Take One Dance Concert

November 14, 16, & 22

Filipino American History Month Celebration

October 22

Take Two Dance Concert

November 15, 20 & 21

Antigone

October 16-26

Holiday Mingle

December 2

Día De Los Muertos Celebration

October 29

Ride the Cyclone

December 4-14

Respectfully Submitted,



John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President