



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: September 12, 2024

SUBJECT: **President's Report for the September 23, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

IVC Sets All-Time Enrollment Record with 15,848 Students



IVC is proud to announce a historic milestone in its four decades of serving Irvine and the surrounding community. As of September 10, IVC's fall census enrollment headcount has reached a record 15,848 students, the highest number since the college's founding in 1985. This figure represents the total number of unduplicated students currently enrolled in courses at the college. The achievement reflects IVC's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality education and meeting the needs of its growing student population.

Irvine Valley Promise Program Breaks Record Two Years in a Row



The Irvine Valley Promise Program has reached a new milestone, welcoming a record 1,930 incoming students for its seventh cohort in Fall 2024. This achievement highlights the program's continued success in promoting equitable access, with 63 percent of cohort members classified as economically disadvantaged, based on financial aid applications. For the second consecutive year, Hispanic/Latinx students represent the largest racial/ethnic group in the program, comprising 32.7 percent of the new cohort. Additionally, the proportion of first-generation students has risen to 21.6 percent, reflecting a two percent increase compared to the previous year.

IVC Named Great College to Work For Third Year in a Row



IVC was recognized for the third consecutive year as one of the best colleges in the nation to work for by the Great Colleges to Work For® program. The results released September 20 on GreatCollegesList.com are based on a survey of 216 colleges and universities. In all, 75 of those institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with IVC included among the large universities with 10,000 or more students. This year, 42 institutions are on the Honor Roll, recognized as standouts in their size categories. IVC made the Honor Roll for the third year in a row.

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

The Hub: IVC's New Center for Professional Learning



On September 12, the Partnership Resource Team (PRT) for IVC's Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) grant visited the college for the third time. During this visit, the PRT reviewed the college's progress over the past year in preparing to launch [The Hub, IVC's new Center for Professional Learning](#). Built on the philosophy that all classified professionals, faculty, and managers are educators, The Hub emphasizes every staff member's essential role in supporting student success. The center aims to streamline professional development and foster collaboration across campus, equipping the entire IVC community with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to meet the evolving needs of our diverse student body. The Hub offers a dynamic range of programs as a collaborative learning space for all campus constituents. Its current offerings include an AI workshop series, engaging workbook and book clubs, student services open houses, a Culture of Care community of practice, and a Lunch and Learn series.

9/11 Day of Remembrance Hosted at IVC



On September 11, IVC Campus Police and local first responder agencies hosted a 9/11 memorial ceremony to honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Chief of Police Scott Kennedy began the ceremony with a few words and then led participants through a moment of silence. Officers Jason Mann and Timothy Gutierrez performed a flag-folding ceremony. The Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs provided a bagpipe performance of "Amazing Grace" during the event. A memorial table was staged in the center of the ceremony with vases symbolizing the Twin Towers, the plane that crashed into the Pentagon, and the fourth plane that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

Club Day at IVC: Celebrating Community and Connection



On September 4, the Office of Student Life and the Inter-Club Council hosted Club Day, attracting nearly 600 students and featuring 50 student organizations. This event offered students an opportunity to dive into campus life, connect with peers, and build a sense of community at the college. By joining student organizations, students can form lasting friendships, enrich their academic experiences, develop leadership skills, and explore potential career paths and interests. Attendees visited club booths, participated in various activities, and enjoyed a meal. Photos of the event can be found on [IVC's Flickr](#).

Professor of English Kurt Meyer Celebrated for 20 Years of Service as Honor Society Chapter Advisor



On September 4, President John Hernandez and Dean of Liberal Arts Brooke Bui surprised Professor of English Kurt Meyer with a pin acknowledging his 20 years of service as IVC's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter advisor. The PTK honor society sent Meyer a letter and the pin as a token of gratitude for his dedication and years of service. Meyer has served as the Alpha Omega Mu chapter advisor for 20 years. PTK expressed their appreciation for Meyer's work and acknowledged that advisors are the lifeblood of their organization.

President Hernandez Welcomes Incoming Puente Cohort



On August 30, President Hernandez met with the incoming Puente cohort as they concluded their second week of the semester. He greeted the students with a heartfelt welcome, sharing his personal story of family, heritage, and academic journey as an immigrant and first-generation college student. President Hernandez spoke candidly about the challenges he faced, the support he received, and the sense of community he found while starting at a community college and later transferring to a university. This annual class visit has become a cherished tradition, serving as an emotional touchstone that continues to inspire students throughout the year.

President John Hernandez Featured on Higher Education Podcast



On August 28, president John Hernandez was featured in Episode 219 of the [Student Affairs Now](#) podcast. The episode "Serving Minoritized Students (and the Staff Who Support Them)" dives into how higher education institutions can better serve minoritized student populations. During the discussion, President Hernandez and other experts explored the unique challenges faced by institutions increasingly responsible for providing access to higher education for minoritized groups. They examined the ways in which these institutions can adapt and innovate to meet the needs of students. The episode can be viewed or listened to [here](#).

President Hernandez Visits ELEVATE Learning Community



On August 27, IVC's Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer, and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ([ELEVATE AAPI](#)) program hosted a special Lunch and Learn event featuring President Hernandez. Over 30 students from the ELEVATE Learning Community and certificate track participated in the event. Dr. Hernandez met and interacted with the ELEVATE AAPI students and shared elements of his educational and professional journey with them. The informal setting provided meaningful interactions, allowing students to connect with the president personally. Many expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to hear his story and to engage in open dialogue. The event concluded with a thoughtful gesture, as each student received a card featuring an inspirational message from Dr. Hernandez.

ELEVATE New Student Orientation



On August 16, IVC's Equitable Learning Experience Valuing Achievement, Transfer and Empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ([ELEVATE AAPI](#)) program hosted a new student orientation in the Center for Asian American Native American and Pacific Islanders (CAANAPI). Over 50 ELEVATE AAPI students from the learning community and certificate track attended the event. Students received their textbooks and learned more about the program and services available at IVC. The orientation featured a student panel, activities, and a campus tour. Attendees provided immediate feedback and are looking forward to programming surrounding cultural identity development, career exploration, and service-learning opportunities.

Dylan Bender Presents During California Community College Veteran Symposium



On July 30-31, Director of the Veterans Services Center Dylan Bender presented at the California Community College Veteran Symposium. The presentation “The Warriors Dilemma; Understanding the Difficulty and Complexity of Coming Back into Civilian Life” highlighted community colleges’ vital role in aiding veterans’ transition from military to civilian life. Bender’s presentation addressed the challenges veterans face, such as loss of military identity and the need for career and mental health support. Community colleges provide veterans with essential educational opportunities, career guidance, and mental health resources that help them with these challenges. The presentation also discussed successful strategies involving academic support, counseling, and peer mentorship, encouraging institutions to adopt or enhance these services. The presentation underscored the importance of tailored holistic support systems to enhance veterans’ reintegration into civilian life significantly.

OC United Way and IVC Continue to Offer Free Tax Services to the Community



IVC and OC United Way have a long-standing partnership offering the community free tax services. In 2024, the college hosted 10 free tax prep days, and participants filed more than 330 federal and state tax returns. Taxpayers saved \$85,000 in tax preparation fees and received over \$448,000 in total tax refunds. The average adjusted gross income for the taxpayers served was \$29,874, highlighting the importance of providing these services to those who need them most. IVC is proud to support the community through OC United Way’s Free Tax Prep program, with the School of Business Sciences efficiently managing logistics for the college’s involvement. IVC has been a vital site for this service for many years and looks forward to continuing this meaningful partnership in the future.

Upcoming Events

Walk of Hope: Suicide Awareness

September 24

Instrumental Music Area Benefit Concert

September 29

Dance Master Class – Contemporary with Nikiya Palombi

September 26

Latinx Heritage Month Event

October 2

A Choral Kaleidoscope

September 27

Filipino American History Month Event

October 9

Keyboard Series – Robert Thies

September 28

Undocumented Student Action Week: Resource Fair

October 16

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hernandez". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "H" and "Z".

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President