

PATHWAY CHAMPIONS

**Celebrating California Colleges and
Universities Removing Barriers and
Accelerating Student Success:
IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE**



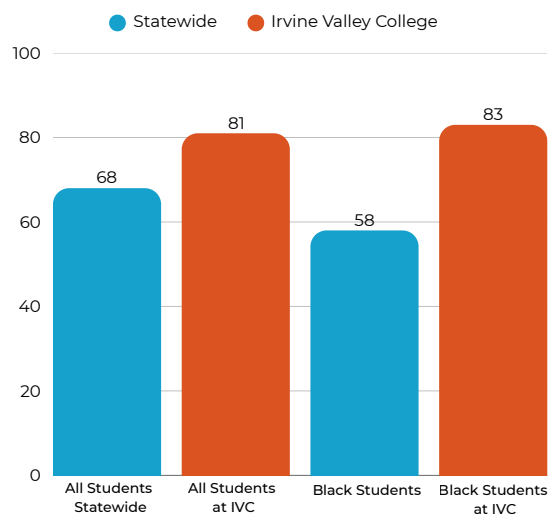
INTRODUCTION

The Campaign for College Opportunity is proud to spotlight **Irvine Valley College** as an honoree of the **2026 Pathway Champions Award** for their efforts to advancing Black student Success and campuswide success in transfer-level English courses. This recognition reflects the Campaign's mission to ensure equitable placement and completion policies deliver on their promise of expanding access to transfer-level coursework and closing racial equity gaps. AB 705 and 1705 are landmark policies requiring colleges to use multiple measures for placement and granting students direct access to transfer-level math and English courses that give them the best chance of completing a bachelor's degree. By removing outdated remedial barriers and investing in student-centered supports, Irvine Valley College has advanced this mission by ensuring more students enroll and succeed in transfer-level English within their first year.

Their success showcases how equity-driven implementation of equitable placement and completion can change lives and exemplifies the practices highlighted in the Campaign's Equity, Inclusion and Action (EIA) publication series.

WHY THIS COLLEGE

Irvine Valley College Transfer-Level English Completion Rates (2024–25)



Irvine Valley College (IVC) stands out for its exceptional success rates in transfer-level English completion. In the 2024-25 academic year, the college accomplished an **81% success rate** in transfer-level English, **13 percentage points higher** than the statewide completion rate. Just as remarkable, Black students at IVC achieved an **83% success rate** in transfer-level English, **15 percentage points higher** than the statewide completion rate for all students and **25 percentage points higher** than the statewide completion rate for Black students. Located in south Orange County, Irvine Valley College demonstrates that a network of campus support is the foundation for student success.

BEST PRACTICES

The key to Irvine Valley College's success lies in interdepartmental collaboration. A culture that began in the English department has now spread to the rest of the campus resulting in a campuswide culture of collaboration and continuous learning. Faculty and staff work in tandem to support students holistically and ensure they are connected with the necessary campus resources.

Faculty-led Writing Center: IVC's Writing Center is fully staffed by English faculty who provide students enrolled in Writing Conference courses with personalized, one-on-one support. At the heart of effectively assisting students with their writing, whether it be for an assignment or a transfer application, is relationship-building. By getting to know their students' stories and their needs, Faculty Mentors create a welcoming environment that many students consider to be their home away from home.

Black Student Success Scholars (BSSS) Program: Spearheaded by full-time counseling faculty, the BSSS Program cultivates a space where Black students feel supported and affirmed. Dedicated counselors, intentional workshops and monthly community forums known as "Porch Talks," offer students the opportunity to learn while building community and belonging. Additionally, annual Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) trips offer students an identity-affirming opportunity to explore nationwide transfer options.

Culture of Collaboration & Continuous Learning: Deeply caring for their students, drives faculty and classified professionals to collaborate interdepartmentally to meet their students' holistic needs. This practice is best encapsulated in The Hub, IVC's campuswide Center for Professional Learning that offers educators a sounding board for best practices. Prioritizing full-time and part-time faculty's continuous learning leads to more inclusive, student-centered classrooms.

CONCLUSION

The intentional work being done at Irvine Valley College to support Black student success and transfer-level English completion is aligned with our recommendations in [Ensuring College Access and Success for Black Students in Higher Education](#) and [Advancing Equity with Effective Community College Transfer Pathways](#) from the Campaign's EIA publication series. By fostering faculty and staff professional learning, Irvine Valley College is cultivating inclusive, equity-focused learning environments that exemplify EIA in practice.

The mutual exchange of data-informed best practices across departments has allowed Irvine Valley College to excel in meeting whole student needs. Their success is testament to the transformative potential of leading with genuine care for students. The Campaign for College Opportunity is proud to recognize Irvine Valley College as a model for English support and celebrates the community's dedication to advancing student success.

“Being recognized for Black Student Success in English and Campuswide Success in English is a wonderful reflection of who we are as a college and what we can accomplish together on behalf of our students. IVC has long been committed to creating a culturally responsive campus where students feel welcomed, supported, and able to see themselves as part of our community. I am especially proud of our faculty, who bring that commitment into the classroom every day and continually look for ways to help students succeed.

For our Black students, this means creating opportunities to develop their identities, build community and feel a strong sense of belonging at IVC. Our Black Student Success Scholars, student organizations, dedicated counseling, transfer opportunities and annual HBCU visit are examples of how we create connections and help students see what is possible for their futures. These recognitions are something our entire campus community can be proud of, and they encourage us to keep listening, learning, and working together to help every student thrive.”

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.
President
Irvine Valley College



Acknowledgements: Thank you to Deanna Scherger, Associate Professor of English & Writing Center Coordinator, Angel C. Hernandez, Ed.D., Dean of Counseling Services and Diane Oaks, Executive Director of Marketing and Creative Services for sharing the important work underway at Irvine Valley College.