

SUCCESS STORY AD SERIES

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While a student at Irvine Valley College, Sean Joyce never imagined that someday he would be working as City Manager of Irvine, one of Orange County's most dynamic and successful "new" cities. He's now responsible for the rapidly growing community of more than 200,000 people and a city government of more than 1,200 employees – spread over 65 miles.

The sixth of seven children, Sean credits IVC for opening up his world to unlimited possibilities. His first college course, Introduction to Western Civilization, made him passionate about learning – while capturing his imagination and inspiring him to succeed. He felt free to pursue new interests, such as art appreciation, which would later become a lifelong pleasure. Sean also had the opportunity to explore economics, and classes in humanities allowed him to discover classic books. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science, as well as a master of public administration degree from CSU Fullerton. He was recently named IVC's 2007 "Alumnus of the Year." Irvine Valley College is honored to call Sean Joyce one of its own.



5500 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine CA 92618 • 949.451.5100 • www.ivc.edu
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Irvine Valley College student Michelle Uribe-Garcia was a soldier stationed in post-Taliban Afghanistan when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a devastating illness that cut short a promising career in military intelligence and sent her back home to Orange County. Having joined the Army right out of high school, she suddenly found herself having to completely re-think her life plan and goals for the future.

Michelle decided to enroll at Irvine Valley College. Her new goal—medical school and a future spent working with disabled children as a pediatric neurologist. To help achieve that goal she is studying full-time, taking a second level sign language class at IVC and working part-time for Irvine-based Families Forward, a support organization for low-income homeless families. Michelle is grateful for the support services IVC offers its disabled students, as she concedes her new life can be challenging. While she was always a good student, Michelle credits the military for the discipline that now allows her to cope with the daily rigors of MS and college.

Last November, when IVC held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony, Michelle was asked to speak and honor veterans past and present. Although officially retired from the military, she was proud to don her Army uniform once again. Irvine Valley College is honored to call this inspiring veteran one of its own.



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Twelve years ago Lori Serrato Olin wasn't quite ready to go away to college, but was eager for a taste of independence. Saddleback College was the logical choice—it was close to home and her boyfriend was on the college football team. Since then she has traveled the world, married the football player, started a family, and opened up her own consulting business.

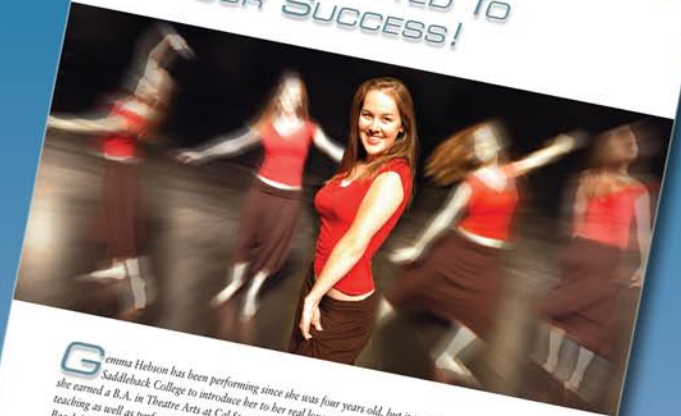
"In my career, I can honestly say that every single day I have used something I learned at Saddleback," says Lori. "Saddleback totally prepared me for studying at a university." What really made a difference for Lori was her Saddleback College journalism Professor Mike Reed. "I still consider him to be a mentor," she says. After earning an associate degree in general studies at Saddleback, Lori transferred to Concordia University in Irvine, majoring in English with a minor in communications. After graduating, with Professor Reed's support, she landed a dream job in international media relations with Fluor Corporation.

Lori eventually left the corporate world to open her own communications consulting business. She also lectures on mass communications and public relations at local colleges and universities. "While teaching, I learned first-hand that the education and instructors available at Saddleback are equal to any four-year institution. "Saddleback College is proud to call this multitasking communicator one of its own."



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Gemma Hebron has been performing since she was four years old, but it took a musical theatre class at Saddleback College to introduce her to her real love—stage movement. After leaving Saddleback College, she earned a B.A. in Theatre Arts at Cal State Fullerton, then decided to give back to a new generation of students by teaching as well as performing. She has spent the last eleven years doing just that at local elementary schools, Laguna Beach High School, Rancho Capistrano Christian School, the Performing Arts Lab and Mission Viejo Dance and Performing Arts Center—even returning to the Theatre Arts Department at Saddleback College.

Gemma also teaches dance, acting and musical theatre at the Orange County High School of the Arts, Her choreography was showcased in Macy award-winning productions of "Working" and "Seasonal the Musical", and she was also thrilled to contribute to recent productions at the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Not only did Gemma discover her "path to the top" by studying musical theatre at Saddleback College, she is now passing on her passion for movement and dance to Orange County's most talented young performers.



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At the age of 15, Kent Healy and his brother introduced Reactor™ skin boards to New Zealand. When the brothers moved back to California they wrote a top-selling teen motivational book that has touched thousands of lives around the world titled, "Cool Stuff" They Should Teach in School. Since then, this young entrepreneur has written several more books, gives presentations around the country, and regularly appears on TV and radio shows. Currently he is co-authoring books with outdoors life Jack Canfield of the Chicken Soup for the Soul® Series.

While managing his company, "Cool Stuff" Media, Inc., full time, Kent, now 24 years old, attends Saddleback College to focus on what he says is the most direct correlation to success—learning. "Learning is the best way to accomplish goals and get what you want out of life," he says. "We can't improve our lives without improving ourselves. I believe that investments in oneself always yield the greatest returns."

While attending Saddleback, Kent has taken advantage of the many great programs available to students. "Saddleback has given me an unforgettable, athletic experience and an education that has laid a strong foundation for my success." Saddleback College is proud to call this "entrepreneur of cool" one of its own.



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At the colleges of South Orange County Community College District, we have numerous success stories to share about our students and former students. Our ongoing series of ads have appeared in OC Metro and Today's Woman magazines, and have made an impact on motivating new student enrollment.