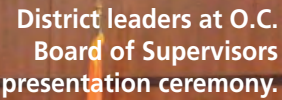


OUR DISTRICT. OUR FUTURE.

Summer 2019 / ISSUE #3



## 6 Saddleback College updates

**SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# Matters of Civility

**W**hile living in a tense political climate – matters of civility continue to rise to the top of lists when addressing solutions grounded in collaboration and cooperation. The exercise of simply defining civility, can be a point of contention.

The Harvard Business Review found that in January of last year, 98 percent of workers surveyed over the past 20 years, experienced rude behavior and 99 percent have witnessed it. And the situation seems to have worsened. In 2011 half said they were treated badly at least once a week – up from a quarter in 1998.

So what can we do to ensure that our students, staff, and faculty treat each other well? I believe it begins with our students.

## Civic Learning Partnership

On April 11, I attended the Civic Learning Partnership Kickoff hosted by Superintendent Al Mijares of the Orange County Department of Education. The event entailed a student panel and remarks from

**"It's our job to continue to stress the importance of civility and model that behavior as often as possible."**

local Orange County Judges to promote matters of civility and stronger civics education in middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

The O.C. Civic Learning Partnership is part of the California Supreme Court Power of Democracy Initiative, led by California Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye. In 2019, Orange County received two of the three statewide awards for civic learning in schools, and three of the six Awards of Distinction went to

Orange County schools.

Attending the event provided reassurance that civility may be on the upswing in our society again. In Orange County, we can find solace in knowing that our current students and future leaders will come to our colleges equipped with the knowledge of democracy, liberty, civic engagement, and civility. It's our job to continue to stress the importance of civility and model that behavior as often as possible.



**Chancellor Kathleen Burke and Superintendent Al Mijares at the launch of Civic Learning Partnership.**



# District Legislative Priorities

**T**he district experienced great success at the state level during this year's legislative session. Due to the support of local legislators and partnerships with organizations, such as the Community College League of California, our advocacy efforts were amplified and made a difference. Students, staff, faculty and trustees visited our legislators in Sacramento several times to voice our concerns and offer support of bills related to the student success at our colleges.

Our priorities this session were focused on:

- **Clinical placement for nursing students**
- **College affordability and financial aid reform**
- **Funding of college facilities on both campuses**
- **Protecting and expanding dual enrollment**
- **Addressing non-academic barriers for students**

Accomplishments and updates will be available on the SOCCCD Public Affairs page of the district website, once the session is complete and bills are signed by Governor Newsom.







Members of the Student Design Team at work.



# Designing Programs for Students, Look to the Experts

**W**hen it was time for administrators to adopt new technology for students to register for classes, Dr. Bob Bramucci and his colleagues turned to the subject matter experts – the students. “College is hard,” says Dr. Bramucci. “But registration doesn’t have to be.”

Students of various backgrounds, ages, areas of study, and career goals are hired to be professional “inputters” on the Student Design Team. They provide input about the operation of the class registration software SmartSchedule. From design architecture to the wording of each section, students have direct input on the software that impacts much of their college experience.

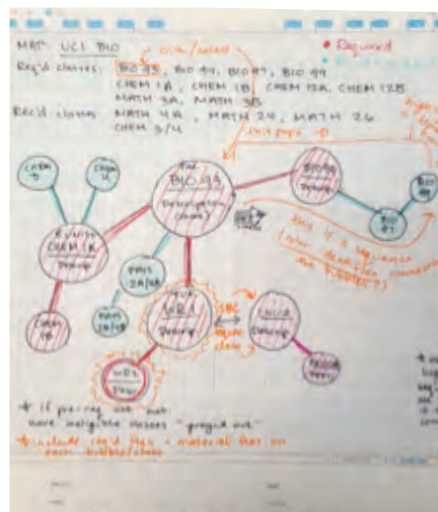
The SmartSchedule update started with a review of class schedules from other community colleges, followed by team brainstorming sessions with faculty and staff, that eventually led to sketches of how the software would work for hypothetical personas – such as Olivia the Overachiever, Uri the Undecided, Abby the Adult Learner, and Ed the Emeritus Student. Among the various phases in the software’s development were focus groups led by the Student Design Team. Team member Tony Bautista, a veteran, returned to college looking to make a professional change. As a returning student, Tony served as a great asset to the team. “Not only can I provide input as a non-traditional student, but I can identify with other students like me who meet roadblocks when navigating

through college later in life.”

Kelsey Lillie, a cosmetology student on the team, had little interest in tech development, but thought serving on the team would be a good experience. “I plan to open up a salon after earning my bachelor’s degree and then possibly starting my own makeup line,” says Kelsey. “Being a member of the team allowed me to work with others and learn how to speak the language of administrators.”

Team member Sam Seifollahi used the experience to not only meet people, but to develop new skills. Sam recorded the “how to” video tutorials – a key tool that ensured students used the full potential of the SmartSchedule.

Team member Bitu Gheibi felt that being on the team not only provided a great job, but exposure to a professional environment. She also thought that the access to high level managers and administrators would help prepare her for the next stages of her college and professional life. “As a member of a team that helps develop student success tools, I feel it will be a great resume builder,” said Bitu. SOCCCD’s Student Design Team can be an example to other institutions about how the student voice, when included early, can serve as an invaluable tool to help ensure that the work of staff and faculty meet the needs of students. The added advantage is that students gain hands-on experience in a professional environment and learn transferable skills that can be used in their careers.



**Student Design Team sketch of  
SmartSchedule online layout.**

# "The Ear"

## The History. The Legend.

Late afternoon, near semester end, two Irvine Valley College (IVC) English faculty members – Virginia Shank and Lisa Alvarez – joined in a sun-kissed office within the Liberal Arts Building for a conversation about "The Ear."

Adorned with smiles on their faces, what was immediately evident was their passion, excitement, and love for this publication produced by IVC students and faculty since 1982.

What they described as a small, community college literary journal is actually much more of an annual production – shared with the IVC community, the Orange County arts community, and the world.

"The Ear provides a portal for students and faculty to connect with professional artists and writers," said Dr. Shank. "It exposes the college and district to the community outside of campus."

Production of the journal begins with a call for submissions from faculty, students, and outside artists. Staff of The Ear take the time to review each submission several times. According to Dr. Shank, a submitter can expect their work to receive tender love and care. "Unlike other journals, who 'slush' your work after only one reading, The Ear's staff give submissions as many chances to be loved as possible."

Staff members look for the eclectic characteristics in each submission, while also recognizing themes that would work well with other submissions. Each submission is considered "blind," with no knowledge about the author or artist. Final choices for the print edition are selected through a voting and discussion process.

The volunteer staff puts in more than 300 hours from start to finish as a labor of

love. Lisa Alvarez is one of the early faculty editors of The Ear and can attest to the sweat equity donated by faculty that contributed to the beloved publication's evolution.

First known as "The Elephant Ear," based on the original editor Elaine Rubenstein's dream about the eponymous plant, it began as a project by the Humanities Department. Eventually, the "elephant" was dropped, but the journal persisted until 2002. It was resurrected through the leadership of Virginia Shank.

Dr. Shank works with Lisa Alvarez to maintain the integrity of The Ear, solidifying broad visions of what it means to students today and for the community in the future.

Shank and Alvarez work collaboratively to ensure high-quality work, while leaving room for student involvement. In the early days, faculty members made a majority of the final decisions. Today, faculty train students to read and discuss the submissions. "Students handle everything from marketing to layout and copy-editing," said Dr. Shank.

Each submission is considered "blind," with no knowledge about the author or artist.

Through collaborative efforts, staff develops the layout, cover design, and

Lisa Alvarez (left) and Virginia Shank.



format before the draft is ready for professional printing and binding.

In May, the team comes together to celebrate the culmination of their hard work. Through their marketing, fundraising, and outreach efforts – the annual launch event is held on campus with linen tablecloths, fancy finger foods, and a supportive audience who listens attentively to live readings.

The future of The Ear is strong and continues to draw attention from artists and writers. It serves as a reflection of the world around us, sharing important issues in our society. While not absent of support, The Ear survives with a limited budget and could always use additional backing. Tax-deductible donations can be made by visiting the [IVC Foundation website](https://www.ivcfoundation.org/). To learn more about the publication, visit [The-Ear.org](https://www.the-ear.org/).





**“Through creative design, we possess the ability to not only have a lasting impact on our campus and environment, but to reflect who we are to students and the community.”**

**— Vice Chancellor Ann-Marie Gabel**



## IVC's IDEA Building Wins “Outstanding Project” Award

**T**he “Outstanding Project of the Year” award was presented to SOCCCD and IVC by the Southern California Chapter of Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) for the Irvine Valley College IDEA Building at ATEP. Selected in the higher education category for projects with a construction value of less than \$20 million—this award recognized professionalism and excellence in the management of the construction process.

“The IDEA Building at ATEP is home to IVC’s School of Integrated Design, Engineering and Automation (IDEA). As a college, we are particularly proud that the design of the building serves as a catalyst for our career education programs and also is a center of activity for the UCI-IVC Engineering Academy. Our three classrooms and six specialized teaching labs include an alternative energy lab, (indoor and outdoor), an optics/photonics lab, an electronics lab, an automation/digital manufacturing lab and an additive and subtractive Design Model Prototyping lab. At IDEA, IVC offers innovative programming and services

through its classrooms, outdoor learning areas, collaboration spaces, technology/infrastructure and faculty spaces. In addition, the unique large central lobby also serves as a hub and meeting space for faculty, students and the community,” said Glenn R. Roquemore, President, Irvine Valley College.

Ann-Marie Gabel, Vice Chancellor of Business Services, said, “We strive to develop buildings with our construction partners for the benefit of our students. Our hope is that a building’s design, architecture, and functionality help to inspire students to achieve their goals in an inclusive environment.”

Ann-Marie continued, “When our buildings receive recognition from our peers in the industry, it’s a welcomed reminder that we have the opportunity to create something every day. Through creative design, we possess the unique ability to not only have a lasting impact on our campus and environment, but to reflect who we are to students and to the community.”



# Nurses Light the Way

## Annual Candle Lighting & Pinning Ceremony

In May, the Saddleback College Nursing Program honored 50 graduating nursing students in a symbolic candle lighting and pinning ceremony. Each graduate received a time-honored pin, which serves

as a symbol of a nurse's service to others and their induction into the nursing profession. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the "passing of the flame" from Florence Nightingale to each new nurse.



### "Give SaddleBACK" Giving Challenge Campaign

In May, Saddleback College started a 50-hour fundraising campaign on social media to help students in need. Donors were asked to post a photo, video, or boomerang of them giving a high-five to demonstrate their support and to encourage others to give. The campaign was a great success and the first 50 gifts unlocked matching donations, increasing the aid available to students.



## Alumna Wins Academy Award

Rayka Zehtabchi (above, right), a former Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College student, won an Oscar at this year's Academy Awards for her documentary short film *Period. End of Sentence.* while also becoming the first Iranian-American woman to win an Oscar. The 25-minute documentary showcases Indian women who fight the stigma surrounding menstruation and begin manufacturing sanitary pads for social justice. Rayka said after receiving the prestigious award, "A period should end a sentence, not a girl's education." The entire district congratulates Rayka on this incredible achievement.