

# HORIZON

OUR DISTRICT. OUR FUTURE.

A quarterly newsletter from the office of Chancellor Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.

Spring 2020 / Issue No. 5



## Zoomed In

How Zoom is helping our colleges to enhance online learning

The era of COVID-19 created a reality that has forced us to stay connected to each other without being in close physical proximity. Our new normal consists of much more robust online transactions and communication. Although many of us dipped our toes or swam in the shallow ends of e-commerce and virtual communication waters, COVID-19 has forced us to take deep dives head first, and surprisingly, most of us are enjoying the warm waters and inviting others in for a swim.

The transition to online learning within the South Orange County Community College District has had expected challenges, but overall, students, faculty, and administrators are making the best out of the situation and adapting with the online platform to make authentic connections and provide engaging learning opportunities.

Luckily, with the availability and district-wide purchase of Zoom, our

community has benefited from the intuitive service. To date, thousands of course sections have been transferred online. Recent board meetings have been held via Zoom and the college commencement speeches are in production, all being recorded through personal devices for an online celebration.

Additionally, while the selection of the next Irvine Valley College president was well underway before the Stay-at-Home order was in effect, the process has been able to continue with the inclusiveness and access that Zoom provides. Three consecutive public forums were held online with record attendance. The public form also allowed for an online survey to accept feedback, adding to the transparency and engagement level of the selection process.

Zoom has experienced its share of criticism about the level of privacy and cybersecurity, however, for the most part, Zoom has been the

darling of the applications available to keep us connective, productive and engaged. We hope to be transitioning into the next stages of reopening our communities and campuses soon, but until then, we can find comfort knowing that we have learned to use this vital platform for future communication needs.

Accolades have come from faculty and students, alike. Here's what one Saddleback College student said:

**"Thank you so much for your time doing these live Zoom meetings. I found it a lot more helpful than just the YouTube lectures and I'm super thankful that you're teaching it live! I appreciate all your efforts in making this class run as normal and smoothly as possible.**

**Please continue to do the Zoom meetings! You're awesome!"**

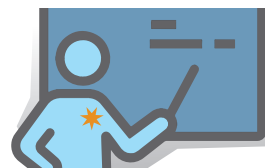
– Student of Saddleback College  
Professor Marcelo Pires

**2** Chancellor's Note

**3** Helping Students During COVID-19

**5** Professors of the Year at Saddleback and IVC

**6** Emeritus Institute and Lifelong Learning



# We're Going to Get Through This Together

**W**e are now several weeks into the Stay-at-Home order and I know that our students, faculty, and staff are doing what they can to make the best of this time. I also understand the great frustration and grief that is taking place within us all. Given the current situation, and as we await each day for new information about the plans to proceed forward, I write today, not with an operational message, but one of encouragement and solidarity as we continue to navigate the coronavirus and its profound effect on our daily lives. My sincere wish is that in reading this message, you find some comfort, solace, and reassurance during these incredibly challenging times.

As each day unfolds, we see new examples of how the impact of this pandemic is felt across the globe. I recognize that each of our circumstances differs depending on the details of our lives. For so many individuals and families, this experience is frightening, confusing, and certainly inconvenient. For others still, it is downright devastating. I feel for each and every one of you, no matter where you are on this continuum.

Nevertheless, here is what I know:

**We will get through this.** We will do it together, across whatever time and distance is necessary for the continued safety of us all. I know this because I've seen the very best of who we are and what we have to offer come to life in full force, since the first day of closure on March 19. Extraordinary efforts were made by our faculty, who valiantly shifted all of our in-person courses to remote instruction in a matter of days. The determination of our students has never been more clear, as they remain committed to their studies despite changing living arrangements, modes of instruction and much more. Our dedicated staff has gone above and beyond to find innovative ways to support students and essential services, such as advocating for basic needs, behavioral health, police and facilities services, and many others. It has all been remarkable.

Please know that the Board of Trustees and I see you. We support you and are in awe of you. Most importantly, we thank you. Each of your actions exemplifies something that can give us all great comfort during this time: The human spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it. History shows

us this is true. COVID-19 may be novel, but strife and challenge are not – and yet throughout the span of time, humanity forges on. Through war, famine, poverty, prejudice, and other untold and unspeakable tragedies, we remain. We rise up, come together, and persevere.

As we at SOCCCD continue on, I want to remind and encourage you to please be kind to yourselves and to each other. Take good care. Follow the social distancing measures that serve to keep not only ourselves, but our families, our communities, and our healthcare systems safe and intact. Reach out when you need to. Use technology, creativity, and your own unique gifts to lift each other up in ways that cut across distance.

Finally, thank you for showing me what I believe during this time to be the absolute truth – **apart does not equal alone**. I hope you'll remember this in the days and weeks to come. We are all in this together.



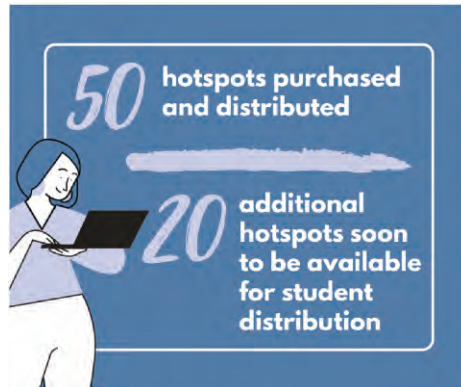
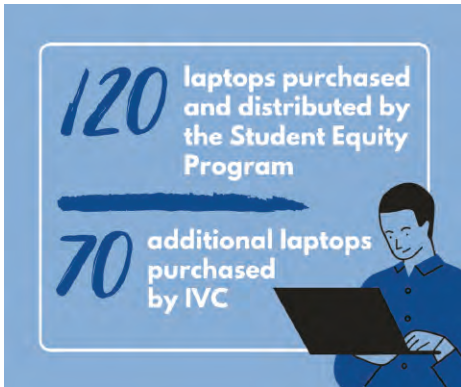
## IVC Theatre Department Making Masks for College Staff

In response to the protective mask shortage, a small crew from IVC's Theatre Department took action to help by making masks. The industrious trio consists of IVC's costume/makeup designer Nancy Bracken, dance costume seamstress Nancy Taylor, and student Swede Mont. The group quickly got to work sewing masks for IVC staff, particularly staff still working on campus, such as the facilities department, IT, and campus police.

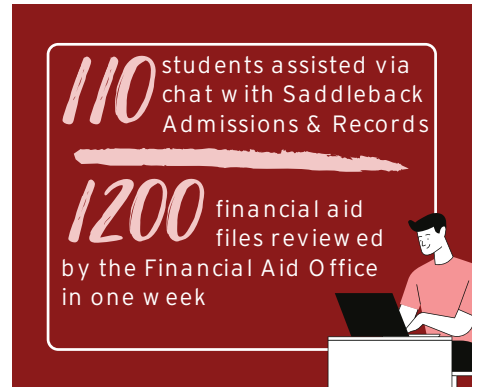
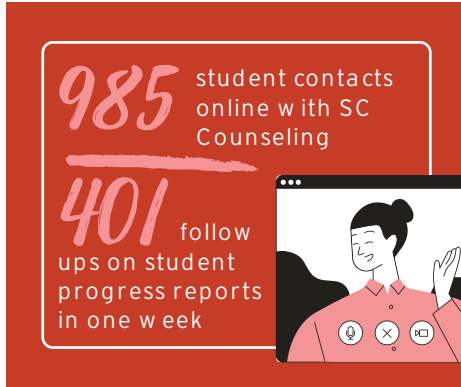
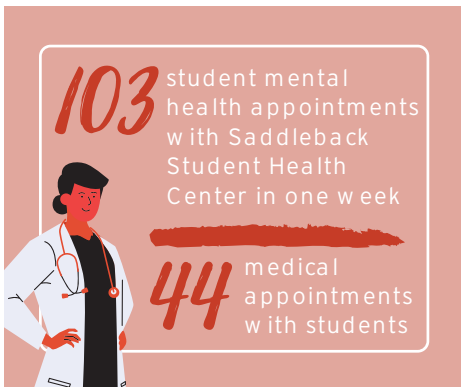
Working from home, the project started at the beginning of April and they have successfully delivered over 275 masks. Each mask takes about 25 minutes to complete. The biggest hurdle was gathering supplies, but they are now able to deliver about 50 masks per week. The District thanks Nancy Bracken and her crew for creating masks to protect the well-being and health of those who are not able to work remotely.



## IVC Provides Support to Students in Need



## Saddleback College Student Services Offers Help



## Saddleback Culinary Program Continues with Instruction

The Saddleback College Culinary Program used student course fees to purchase and assemble dozens of ingredients and distributed them to their students so they can continue their education at home. "Our intention was for our students to continue their learning at home, since we have been moved to 100% online. The students each paid material fees when enrolling, so we were able to utilize those funds for the food distribution."



## Introducing New Student Trustee Rose Esfandiari

**R**ose Esfandiari assumed the position of Student Trustee for 2020-2021 during the May Board of Trustees meeting on Zoom. Board President T.J. Prendergast administered a virtual oath of office, the first in District history.

Rose, an Irvine Valley College student studying political science, is the first Student Trustee to be elected by her peers from both Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College. The new process of receiving votes from both colleges was established last year to ensure greater district-wide representation.

**"I am honored to serve as Student Trustee for 2020-2021 by representing Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students' voices to the Board of Trustees. As the Student Trustee, I am enthusiastic to collaborate with both representa-**

**tive colleges and the Board of Trustees to ensure I continue this bridge,"** said Trustee Esfandiari.

As a member of the Effective Altruism Club, Financial Finesse Club, UNICEF, and the Honors Program, upon graduation, Rose intends to transfer to the University of Southern California or the University of California, Los Angeles to complete her political science degree and later pursue law school. Attributing her interest in the role of Student Trustee to her family upbringing, Rose explains, **"Living in a household that understood the importance of being informed about current events unlocked gateways for me to prosper in the exploration of politics and law."**

Rose's goals as Student Trustee include providing the students' perspectives at every board meeting



through ongoing collaborations. She also intends to educate students on the Board of Trustees' responsibilities. During the continued stay-at-home order and the projected months of online classes for the majority of students, the input from the Student Trustee about programs will be vital. Congratulations to Rose and best wishes on a successful term.

## Bidding Farewell to Student Trustee Martha Uriarte

**T**he District wishes the best for departing Student Trustee Martha Uriarte, who represented more than 42,000 students from Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and the Advanced Technology and Education Park. She was an active Student Trustee in the district and in the community, attending events on and off campus during her term. She worked hard to bring recognition for the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff.

Trustee Uriarte was engaged in activities on both college campuses, as a member of the American Association of University Women and through her major of International Business. She worked to bring new

initiatives and activities to the district, such as district-wide meetings with ASG leaders and community issues such as food insecurity and homelessness.

Trustee Uriarte focused on the strength of the student voice and regularly held meetings with members of the Board of Trustees and college leadership. Additionally, she hosted open forums at both colleges to engage with students about campus and district-wide concerns. She was respected and admired by students, faculty, staff, and administrators for her work as 2019-2020 Student Trustee. At the April board meeting, the Trustees and the Chancellor expressed their recogni-



tion and appreciation of her many contributions as Student Trustee and wished her limitless success in her personal and professional endeavors.

## Leonard Lamp: IVC Professor of the Year

**M**ath instructor Leonard Lamp has been awarded IVC's Professor of the Year. He arrived at IVC after teaching mathematics for five years at both university and college institutions. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in mathematics at California State University, San Bernardino, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude.

While enrolled in his master's program, he taught two years at CSUSB and was involved in the development of remedial math courses, where students in the beginning algebra and intermediate algebra courses passed at an 80% rate. He was named Graduate Student of the Year and received an Outstanding Thesis Award.

While Mr. Lamp was a temporary full-time instructor at San Bernardino

Valley College, he was involved in the development of a non-credit pathway to increase students' probability of completing their transferable math requirement in their first year.

Since graduating, Professor Lamp has continued his academic research and has written a paper containing an original theorem and proof that will be published by the Mathematics Association of America.

Here are some comments by students regarding Professor Lamp:

**"Calc is a hard class, but Professor Lamp made it so much better than I thought. He is everything you want in a professor. Loves to interact with the class, makes steps to solving problems very clear, and funny!"**



**"Professor Lamp is a very nice guy. He works with students to accommodate their different circumstances."**

**"Professor Lamp is the best math professor at IVC. He cares about his students and makes sure everyone understands the material."**

## Emily Quinlan: Saddleback Professor of the Year

**E**mily Quinlan, a lawyer and a professor of business law, has been named Saddleback College's Professor of the Year. Professor Quinlan is praised for being an amazing teacher, who truly cares about every student and creates a fun learning environment that encourages students to network with their peers.

Dedicated to demystifying the law, Professor Quinlan engages her students on subjects that touch their lives every day and assists them with making personal connections with the U.S. constitution and the law.

Particularly following the 2016 and 2018 elections, students have become increasingly interested in topics such as judicial appointments and executive orders.

Professor Quinlan gives much of herself outside of the classroom. She facilitated early voting on campus by organizing the "Don't Ghost the Vote" event, served as the Pathway to Law School program director, and worked as the faculty advisor to the Pre-Law Society.

Here are some comments by students regarding Professor Quinlan:

**"Professor Quinlan is an outstanding teacher. The class covers numerous subjects, most of them you will encounter in your everyday life, but may not have realized it until you take this class!"**



**"Seriously, she is one of the best teachers I have had at Saddleback or anywhere. Professor Quinlan knows the law inside and out and she involves the class in her lectures, getting you to care about the subject."**

# Emeritus Institute – Lifelong Learning

By Trustee Marcia Milchiker



**What was your role in supporting the Emeritus program?**

I ran for the board because

I wanted to use my time and talents to help support our colleges. Our Emeritus Institute was established to create lifelong learning opportunities for older adults. I met many students who reported that the Emeritus Institute was their lifeline into a fulfilling life. They used what they learn to get good jobs, for enrichment, and to maintain their cognitive and physical abilities.

In 1984, in an attempt to save money, the California Legislature tried to eliminate Emeritus programs. I promised I would do everything in my power to save the Emeritus Institute! We took busloads of seniors to hearings throughout the state, speaking to the commissioners and legislators at these hearings. The students spoke from their hearts and the legislators listen!

As a research biologist, I had data showing how important these classes were for our senior's mental and physical well-being. We assisted in keeping our seniors healthy, keeping them out of nursing homes that were more expensive and less desirable to our seniors. We won! Emeritus programs continued under the 1988 community college reform law.

When these classes are threatened, such as in 2013, residents sent over 12,000 letters to state Senate and Assembly members asking them to serve all students. We thank all of you for your assistance in these battles!

**Why is the Emeritus program particularly important to the community?**

We have many retirement communities within our district, such as Laguna Woods Village with 20,000 seniors. In addition, demographics show that we have an aging population that will benefit from Emeritus classes.

District-wide, the Emeritus Institute serves more than 11,000 adults, with many students saying the classes are their lifeline to fulfilling lives. The classes are academically rigorous, mentally stimulating, and improve the health of students.

We created Emeritus Institute classes primarily for older adults. They want to learn and remain active. In most cases, they do not intend to work towards a diploma or certificate, so there are no midterms or finals. However, many of the classes do have homework. The students do their homework, come to class prepared and on time, participate in class, and stay until the class is over. They do it just for the love of learning.

**What are the benefits for Emeritus Institute students?**

Did I say I was a research biologist? For people to age successfully they need to be physically active, mentally active, maintain social contacts, and stay positive. The brain was once considered to be immutable. Now we know about neuroplasticity. Absent disease, people can mitigate cognitive decline. We help our students stave off cognitive and physical decline with the wide variety of classes we offer.

**What are the aspects you love most about the Emeritus program?**

I love taking Emeritus classes. My classmates are diverse, smart, energetic risk-takers who love life. I am learning all kinds of new things, like photography and rekindling previous talents, such as life drawing!

**How was the Emeritus Institute impacted by COVID-19?**

When our colleges moved to online only, the Emeritus Institute moved more than 200 classes online, with more than 80 faculty quickly learning how to use online instructional tools. I am so proud of all of them. Students are able to continue their academic pursuits and social engagement from their homes. Here's a recent Facebook post by an Emeritus Institute student:

*"Great job setting up online classes for the Emeritus program. Since we're all isolated in our homes, it feels good to get in touch with other people who are going through the same thing. The Zoom setup is easy to use and classes are fun. Thanks for including us."*

