

HORIZON

OUR DISTRICT. OUR FUTURE.

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

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Getting Ready to Return

With COVID vaccination rates going up and infection rates and fatalities going down, the District is looking toward a return to normal operations. The board of trustees and the chancellor have extended remote work orders until August 13, 2021. But in preparation for the return to campus, the District has prepared a 27-page booklet on best practices for a safe work environment.

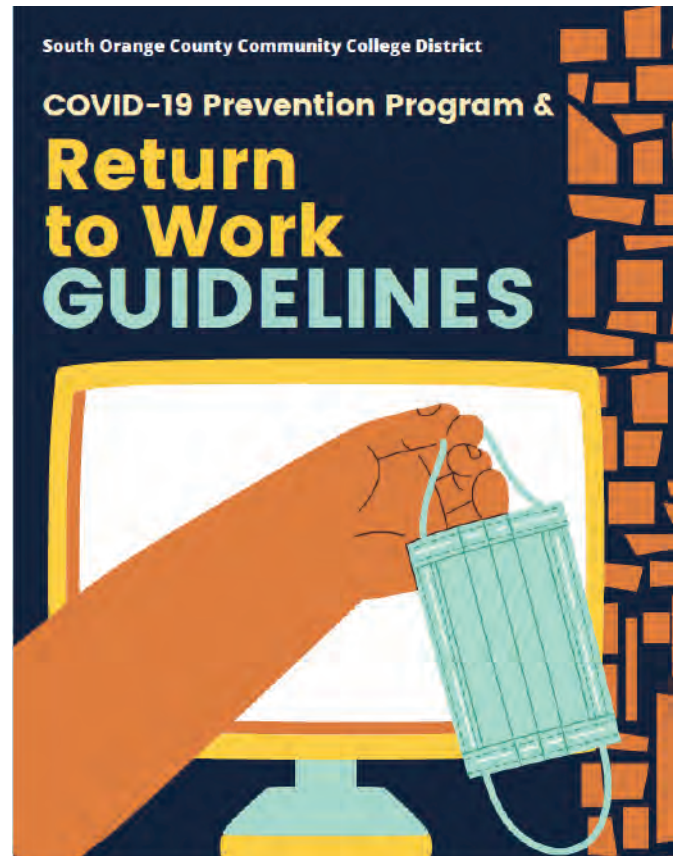
The primary concern is to ensure the safety of all employees and students in the campus environment. With the circumstances of the return to campus uncertain at this time, the guidelines will be modified as the situation changes. In short, the District is following federal, state, and county health and safety guidance with our return to campus plans.

Some of the topics covered in the "Return to Work Guidelines" include:

- Monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms; it is important that employees who exhibit symptoms do not come to campus – or leave if they feel sick while at campus.
- Face covering guidelines are evolving, including circumstances when they are no longer required.
- Maintaining physical distance as much as practical, including limiting meetings in close proximity.
- Cleaning protocols are outlined, although we are aware that evidence suggests the virus is mostly transmitted through air, not on surfaces.

To read the booklet, please click

[Return to Work Guidelines](#)



[CLICK ABOVE TO SEE GUIDELINES](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination information:

The CDC has created a web site for vaccination locations near you. Just put in your zip code and several options, including which type of vaccine is available, will be shown. [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)

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SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

We're Moving in the Right Direction

It's been over a year since we first closed our campuses and we are now in a portion of this journey that seemingly feels like the light of the end of the tunnel. Throughout the stay-at-home orders, you have remained flexible and nimble in upholding excellent services and education to our campus community.

I recall when we first evacuated our campuses in March 2020. There were many unknowns at the time and we made the best decisions possible based on the limited information available. I asked for your patience then and I cannot tell you how much I appreciated your support. I ask for your continued patience so that we can take the time to gather and prepare accurate information and plans to share with you about the next steps in moving forward.

Governor Newsom recently announced a conditional plan to open all segments of California and eliminate the color tiers by June 15, including the education sector. We do not yet know the full details of his plan and we are working to understand the requirements so that we can make informed decisions. We are working quickly to gather information and adjust plans as necessary.

Simultaneously, we have been carefully planning and preparing for reopening over the past few months. There are complex issues involved in our decision-making during this time, but the health and safety of

our campus community has been and continues to be our top priority across all planning areas.

With summer approaching, we are updating plans for resuming in-person classes and operations with health and safety commitments guiding our decisions and the shared responsibility we have in adapting to the temporary changes that will be in place during the fall term.

It is important that we all continue to take seriously the ongoing risk and threat of COVID-19. We must do our part as a multi-campus community to help effectively manage through the recovery of COVID-19. Caring for one another, attending to the unique needs and risks of individual members of our campus community, and reducing the

disparate impacts that the virus has had on underserved communities, communities of color, and the marginalized is a shared responsibility that goes to the heart of our mission and values.

Regardless of how we return and in what mode, care for the individual student and excellence in service remains a priority. Again thank you for your patience, ingenuity, commitment, and compassion during this time. We continue to lean on each other to navigate through this time.



An example of the many ways our colleges have reached out during the pandemic, IVC hosted a drive up event on April 16 that gave meals and health supplies to more 800 students.

SOCCCD Establishes Guidelines for Creating “Affinity Groups”

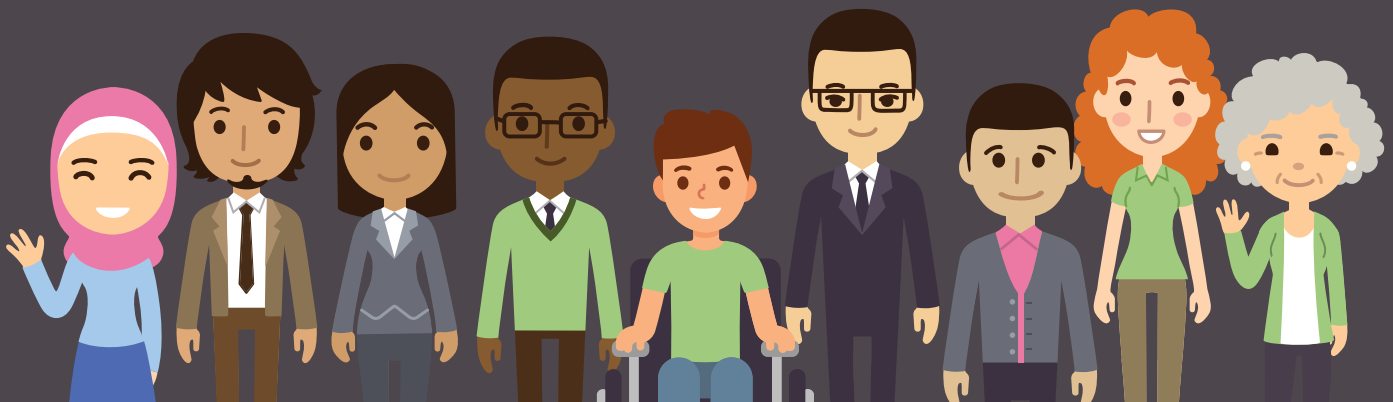
Affinity Groups are a way for advocates to advise the District on operations – such as planning, hiring, or funding – that promotes and supports diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the District.

To become a recognized SOCCCD Affinity Group, the following must be completed:

- District form to officially establish an Affinity Group.
- Creation of a trust account with the District Foundation if funds are collected.
- Agree and commit to the following shared principles:
 1. Promote unity, connectivity, and empowerment of underrepresented students and employees.
 2. Promote effective communication between and among college/District groups working on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts.
 3. Promote and support college/District efforts to address diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 4. Promote and support district and college goals for progress as stated in long-range planning.

Affinity Groups are supported by the District with the following resources:

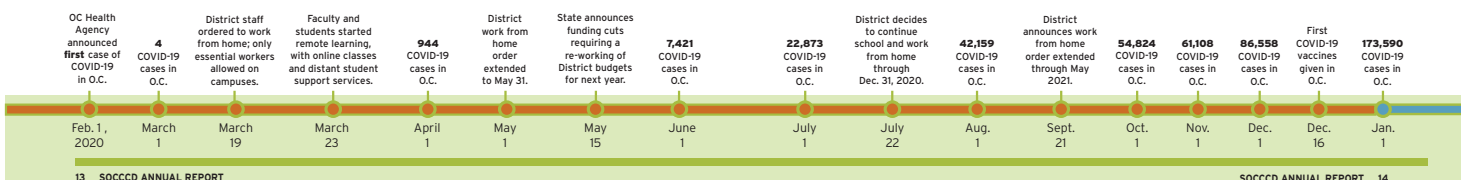
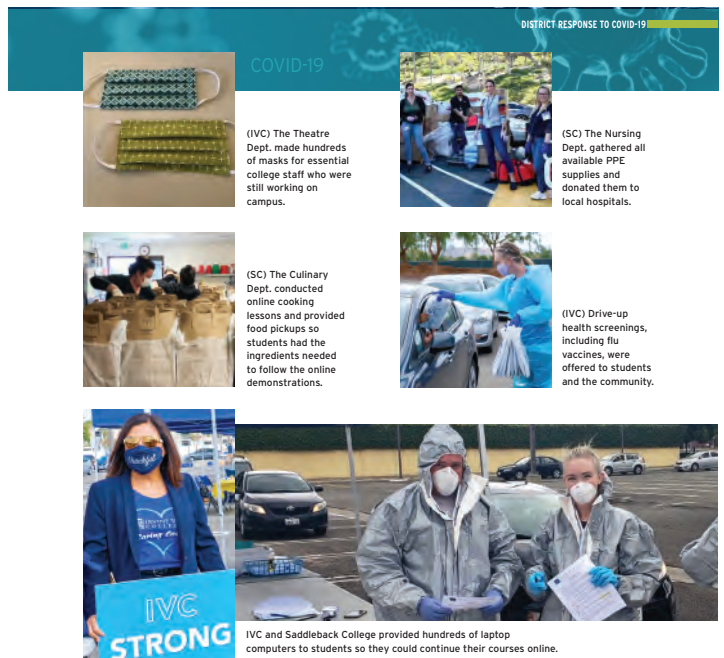
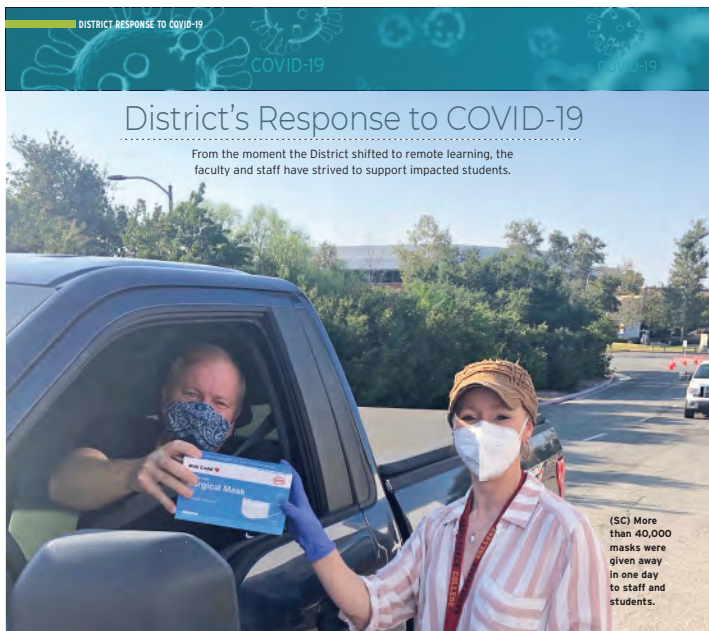
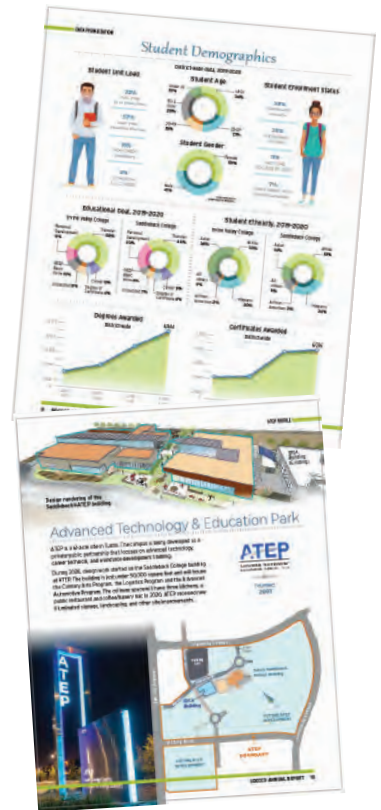
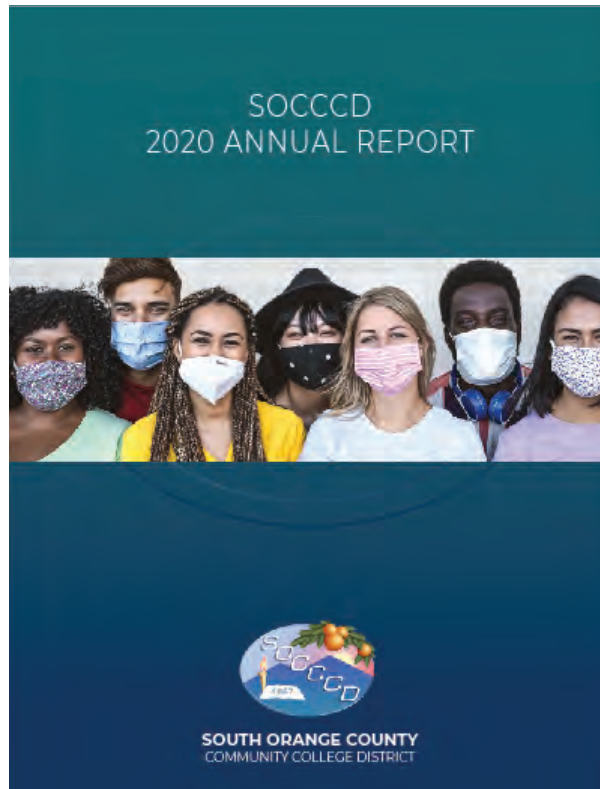
- Formal recognition on the District’s website.
- An advisory seat on the District’s Equal Employment Opportunity and DEI Committee.
- An advisory seat on the Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College DEI Councils.
- Ability to share goals and advocacy directly with college presidents and the Chancellor.
- Ability to reserve meeting rooms on campus through the offices of the VP Administrative Services.



District Annual Report Released

In January, the District released its first annual report in eight years. Both printed and online versions were distributed to community stakeholders and members of the wider educational community. The 28-page report highlights the District's efforts to combat COVID-19 in 2020, including providing masks, testing sites, donating medical supplies, and giving computers to students so they can study from home. Besides COVID-19 information, the annual report reveals the District's student demographics and financial revenue and expenses in 2020. It also updates the current planning for Saddleback College's new building at ATEP in Tustin.

Click below to see the online version of the report





Meet the District's Newest Trustee

Trustee Carolyn Inmon joined the board in December 2020. She brings a 40-year history of teaching and academic leadership to her role. She taught K-12 in Irvine Unified for more than 20 years, then went on to be a professor at Cerritos College and Mt. San Antonio College for nearly 20 years.

One of Trustee Inmon's passions is competitive speech and debate. Her interest started at South High School in Torrance. It was a new school, and they had no debate team, so she and a few other students helped to form one. The students convinced the administration to find a teacher to supervise them at tournaments and Carolyn discovered she enjoyed the thrill of competing.

When she attended UCLA in the late 1960s, she found they did not have a competitive debate team either. This brought on a life-altering decision; although she knew she would train to be a teacher, she added the dedication of making extra-curricular academic activities possible for all students. That led her to becoming a speech teacher and coach. Carolyn graduated from UCLA with a bachelors in speech and English, along with a Lifetime Teaching Credential (K-14). She went on to earn a master's degree from CSU Northridge in speech.

Being fascinated with oratory skills, Trustee Inmon has admired many great civic leaders. Her senior project at UCLA was a full-hour presentation on Winston Churchill. She recalls,

"I love Winston Churchill because I love words and how effectively words can be used to motivate, uplift and help people. When I visited Churchill's home, we went to the basement and the guide said, 'Here's where he wrote his speeches.' It made me tear up as I thought about him creating those powerful and effective speeches that inspired people and gave them hope. My other two favorite orators are John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr."



As a college professor, Carolyn stayed committed to providing students with enriching activities. At Mt. San Antonio College, she served as Communication Department Chair, Director of the Honors Program, and Director of Forensics. She coached the national community college championship team and served as an advisor for Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honorary society for two-year colleges. She was honored as "2008 Teacher of the Year" by Mt. San Antonio College.

Carolyn estimates that she has taught more than 10,000 students from kindergarten to community college. One of her favorite parts of teaching was to watch students as they came to understand the subject matter. When she took complicated material and made it easier for students to understand, she loved to see the light go on in their eyes.

On a personal level, Carolyn has fond memories of attending UCLA. She enjoyed the leadership training and getting to know people from every race and religion from nearly 100 countries. During her time at UCLA, she was exposed to some significant guest speakers, including Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, and George Wallace.

In her role as trustee, it is important to Carolyn that the District supports the variety of goals students have for attending college. She feels we can't focus on one aspect, such as transfer rates, and downplay such things as workforce development, certificates, personal development, and more. She feels the District should enable a wide range of educational goals.

Another area of interest for Trustee Inmon is showing support for foster youth. She started a foster youth scholarship at Mt. SAC and at IVC, and she hopes to do the same at Saddleback College. She never forgets that a variety of students have burdens, and she hopes the District can help ease those burdens across a wide range of issues. She says,

"I hope we can combat isolation, loneliness, and depression. For instance, the Emeritus program serves a unique and important elderly population who often feel isolated. COVID has foisted a special trauma onto students of all ages. The District needs to reach out, bring them back, and make sure students know our colleges are here for them."

Carolyn loves to spend her free time helping raise her two grandchildren, 12-year-old Bodie and 8-year-old Shannon. Since she lives in the same Irvine neighborhood, she has spent significant time with them, right from when they were born.

Another passion for Carolyn is travel. She even managed to combine her interest in competitive speech and overseas travel by leading groups to debate competitions, including visiting London seven times. She showed her commitment to serve others when she co-wrote a textbook on public speaking and used the proceeds to take Mt. SAC speech teams to international tournaments, including one in Prague.

Before COVID, Carolyn was able to combine her interest in theater productions and travel by going with her daughter, Michelle, to New York City to see Broadway plays. They might have done a little shopping and eaten a few pastrami sandwiches as well.

Of all her trips, the ones that stand out include a tour of the Soviet Union, including Red Square in Moscow, and two photographic safaris to Africa. Although she is currently dealing with significant health challenges for her husband, she hopes to be able to travel again soon.



Carolyn Inmon, left, at Red Square in Moscow in 1989, during a visit to the Soviet Union. Trustee Inmon, above, in 1994 with forensics colleagues at Mt San Antonio College.

Trustee Whitt Rydell Helps Vaccinate 130 Employees at Saddleback College

Photo and text by Jennie McCue

The Saddleback College Student Health Center was buzzing with activity in early April as 30 volunteers from across Orange County came to the campus to assist the health center to administer the Moderna vaccine to 130 Saddleback and District Services employees. All of those who received this first dose of vaccine will return in 28 days to the campus, when they will be given their second dose of the vaccine.

The volunteers did everything from administering the shots and checking-in participants to overseeing the post-shot waiting area.

Numerous people who have been associated with the college's health sciences and nursing programs were among the volunteers. These included Diane Pestolesi, the recently retired longtime employee and dean of Health Sciences and Human Services and a former nursing instructor. Also administering the COVID-19 vaccine was Trustee Terri Whitt Rydell. She is a former nursing instructor at Saddleback College and she volunteered to administer shots at the health center.



Trustee Terri Whitt Rydell, a former nursing instructor at Saddleback College, kindly volunteered as a vaccinator at the health center.

IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE NEWS

IVC Names PAC Main Stage “Rezanoor”

Irvine Valley College and the Irvine Valley College Foundation are proud to announce the first-ever naming gift for the IVC Performing Arts Center. Masoud Rezanoor, an Irvine resident, pledged \$250,000 to provide enrichment opportunities for the music department at IVC. To acknowledge Mr. Rezanoor's generosity, the main stage of the Performing Arts Center will be renamed the “Rezanoor Stage.”

Mr. Rezanoor is a longtime Irvine resident and retired CPA who loves the community he lives in. His connection with IVC started when his daughter graduated with her Associate in Arts degree in 2000. When the COVID-19 stay-at-home mandate was implemented, the campus became a special place where he took long walks to exercise and to calm his mind each day.

The gift will make a significant impact by establishing an endowment enabling the Department of Music to bring in guest artists, performers, and lecturers.

“The arts at IVC showcase our dynamic and talented students, faculty, staff, and community,” IVC President Dr. John Hernandez said. “This contribution further enhances IVC’s music program by providing resources to facilitate learning opportunities between our students and expert artists.

Regarding what inspired him to make the contribution, Mr. Rezanoor said,

“IVC means so much to the community. Over the years, IVC has provided so much for my family and me. This is our way to reciprocate, as well as leave a legacy of our own. I hope this will help the IVC Foundation to see more community involvement in its mission.”

