



April 28, 2025

# Board of Trustees Resolution

## *Honoring Sylvia Henel*

### *Irvine Valley College 2025 Part-Time Teacher of the Year*

*Whereas*, Sylvia Henel's journey in teaching English to speakers of other languages has taken her across the globe, demonstrating her unwavering dedication to education and linguistic development; and

*Whereas*, Sylvia, born in New York and raised in Europe and the Middle East, returned to the United States to continue her education, ultimately earning degrees from Connecticut College, Harvard University, and the University of Hawai'i in the field of applied linguistics; and

*Whereas*, Sylvia has devoted her career to teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), first at Mt. San Antonio College, then at California State University, Fullerton, where she was recognized in 2016 for her outstanding teaching achievements; and

*Whereas*, Following the closure of her previous program, Sylvia found a new home at Irvine Valley College (IVC), where she became an invaluable member of the unparalleled adult ESL program, sharing her expertise and passion for teaching with both her colleagues and students; and

*Whereas*, Sylvia's commitment to education extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by her participation in regional and state conferences, contributing to the advancement of ESL education; and

*Whereas*, Sylvia is widely regarded by her students as an exceptional educator who is passionate, patient, organized, and engaging, fostering a welcoming and active learning environment that builds student confidence and proficiency in English; and

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*Whereas*, students consistently praise Sylvia's dedication, enthusiasm, and ability to create a structured and interactive curriculum that encourages participation and growth, with many considering her the best professor they have ever had; and

*Whereas*, Sylvia's unwavering commitment to her students and the field of ESL education has left a lasting impact on the lives of those she teaches, helping them achieve their language goals and academic success; now, therefore,

*Be it resolved*, that we, with profound admiration and gratitude, honor Sylvia Henel for her exemplary service, dedication, and contributions to the Irvine Valley College community and the students she so passionately serves; and

*Be it further resolved*, that the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the South Orange County Community College District do hereby commend and congratulate Sylvia Henel for her exemplary contributions as the 2025 Part-Time Teacher of the Year at Irvine Valley College.

Carolyn Inmon, President

T.J. Prendergast III, Clerk

Timothy Jamal, Member

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