South Orange County



April 28, 2025

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Honoring Thomas Cullen Irvine Valley College 2025 Teacher of the Year

Whereas, Thomas Cullen, as a dedicated full-time faculty member in the School of Physical Sciences and Technologies, consistently demonstrates exceptional enthusiasm and commitment to teaching, fostering an engaging and supportive learning environment for his students; and

Whereas, his ability to break down complex chemistry concepts with clarity and enthusiasm builds student confidence, encourages curiosity, and inspires a passion for science; and

Whereas, Professor Cullen's inclusive and welcoming approach ensures that all students, regardless of their background or prior experience, feel supported and empowered to succeed in their academic pursuits; and

Whereas, his dedication extends beyond the classroom through his service on the Academic Affairs Committee, the Physical Sciences Completion Team, and as co-coordinator of the Student Learning Outcomes Committee, helping to enhance student learning and institutional effectiveness; and

Whereas, his leadership as co-advisor of IVC's Chemistry Club, ChemUnity, has fostered a strong sense of community among students, providing hands-on experiences, mentorship opportunities, and meaningful connections in the field of science; and

Whereas, his passion for science education reaches beyond IVC, as he actively engages with the broader community by organizing the Science and Engineering Fair and STEAM Night at his children's elementary school, inspiring future generations of learners; and

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Community College District

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Board of Trustees Resolution

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Whereas, his students consistently recognize his impact, describing him as "dedicated, patient, and supportive," with one student sharing, "His class reignited my passion for science and reassured me that I am capable of exceeding my own expectations"; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the South Orange County Community College District do hereby commend and congratulate Thomas Cullen for his exemplary contributions as the 2025 Outstanding Full-time Teacher of the Year at Irvine Valley College and honor his service as this year's Commencement Keynote Speaker.

Carolyn Inmon, President

T.J. Prendergast III, Clerk Th

Timothy Jemal, Member

Inlianna M. Asperin Barnes, EdD, Chancellor

Ryan Dack, Vice President

Jose A. Budlett

Sharla Clemente, Student Member