



May 19, 2025

Board of Trustees Resolution

Irvine Valley College Classified Employee of the Year Larisa Korepanova

Whereas, Larisa Korepanova has served Irvine Valley College with unwavering dedication, exemplifying the mission and values of the institution through her compassionate, student-centered approach; and

Whereas, Larisa's steadfast commitment to student success goes beyond application and registration assistance—she is a critical support for students facing personal and academic challenges, often going the extra mile to connect them with food, transportation, counseling, and other essential resources; and

Whereas, Larisa has played a pivotal role in the English Language Center (ELC), where she serves as a source of encouragement and belonging for Adult English as a Second Language (AESL) students, many of whom are experiencing college for the first time and navigating a new country and culture; and

Whereas, Larisa's empathy and insight make her a trusted and inspiring presence on campus, as reflected in the testimonials of students, faculty, and staff who describe her as a role model, advocate, and cornerstone of the Caring Campus culture; and

Whereas, Larisa's service to Irvine Valley College extends across departments—including Basic Needs, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Outreach, Financial Aid, Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), and the Student Success Center—offering multilingual support, warm hand-offs, and culturally sensitive care that directly contributes to student persistence and achievement; and

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Whereas, Larisa consistently contributes to the success of IVC events, including commencement, the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Center Grand Opening, and IVC Cares distributions, greeting guests, comforting anxious students, and even baking her signature cake to celebrate student milestones; and

Whereas, Larisa's deep connection with immigrant communities across Orange County, and her outreach at events such as Fiesta Latina, the Global Village Festival, and the Adult Education Pathways Fair, have positioned her as a trusted ambassador of IVC and a bridge to higher education for many newcomers; and

Whereas, Larisa continually seeks professional growth through conferences and trainings such as National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), and uses these experiences to advance equity, inclusion, and access at IVC, particularly for underserved English as a Second Language (ESL) populations; and

Whereas, Larisa is often the first point of contact for new AESL students—many of whom go on to enroll in credit-bearing programs—and her welcoming spirit, multilingual skills, and student-first attitude have transformed the lives of hundreds of learners and their families; and

Whereas, Larisa's guidance of ELC student workers helps them gain their first professional experience in a nurturing and empowering environment, making her a mentor and role model whose impact extends across generations of learners; and

Whereas, Larisa's language skills—including fluency in Russian, proficiency in Spanish, and her efforts to learn key phrases in Chinese and Farsi—have built lasting connections with diverse student populations, particularly supporting students from Ukraine and Russia who have faced trauma and upheaval; and

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Whereas, Larisa's talent for photography, used to beautifully capture the diversity and joy of IVC's ESL community, enhances the college's outreach and messaging, helping current and prospective students see themselves as part of the IVC family; and

Whereas, Larisa embodies the principles of equity, excellence in student service, and the Caring Campus initiative in every aspect of her work, making her a transformative figure both on campus and in the community; now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Irvine Valley College Classified Senate, and the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees recognize Larisa Korepanova as the 2025 Irvine Valley College Classified Employee of the Year, and express their heartfelt appreciation for her extraordinary contributions to the college, its students, and the broader community.

Carolyn Inmon, President

Ryan Dack, Vice President

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Lisa A. Bartlett, Member

Timothy Jemal, Member

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Terri Rydell, EdD, Member

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