



**South
Orange
County**

**Community
College District**

Board of Trustees Goals 2024-2025 Progress Report

SOCCCD Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members elected to four-year terms by the voters in the District. Each member of the Board of Trustees must reside in the area that they represent.

Terms are staggered with elections being held every two years in connection with the general election. The Board oversees all academic programs and educational services by establishing policies to assure the quality, integrity and effectiveness of the student learning programs and services, and the financial stability of Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College and the Advanced Technology & Education Park.

The Board welcomes open discussion. Regular monthly meetings are open to the public and opportunities are provided for members of the public and staff to address the Board. Board policies, meeting schedule, agendas, board meeting highlights and streaming video of meetings are all available on the District website.

The student trustee is elected by the students of Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College and serves a one-year advisory term of office from May through the following April.

Each year the SOCCCD Board of Trustees conducts an evaluation of its performance in order to continually assess its effectiveness. The process includes surveys of board members and employees, discussion of the surveys, and a workshop to review outcomes and set goals.

Board of Trustee Goals for 2024-2025

Goals for Institutional Effectiveness

1. Ensure the Organizational & Fiscal Health of the SOCCCD

Priority Objectives:

- 1. Ensure a Healthy Campus Climate Districtwide with the following activities:**
 - Conduct district-wide climate survey
 - Support recruitment and retention of employees (staff, faculty, admin)
 - Support Mental Health Activities
- 2. Continue the development of ATEP and collaborators**
- 3. Continue to prioritize student housing**
- 4. Create an annual budget workshop for trustees**

2. Maintain and Improve the Educational Quality of the SOCCCD

Priority Objectives:

- 1. Advocate for bachelor's degrees**
- 2. Support advances in technology**
- 3. Support instructional development**
- 4. Support guided pathways**
- 5. Monitor strategic plan progress**

3. Support equitable student access and success

Priority Objectives:

- 1. Support programs that increase internship work in the community (e.g. College Corps)**
- 2. Support instructional programs to meet student needs**
- 3. Support programs that assist students financially (e.g. Learn to Earn)**
- 4. Set a strong direction for DEIA efforts**

4. Support enhanced district marketing and communications and external engagement

Priority Objectives:

- 1. Continue to increase marketing of SOCCCD to community (e.g. social media, publications)**
- 2. Increase community engagement opportunities for trustees (e.g. local city events)**
- 3. Explore shortening of SOCCCD acronym for branding**
- 4. Support Chancellor in annual State of the District event**

Goals for Board Effectiveness

5. Strengthen Engagement with Internal and External Stakeholders

Priority Objectives:

- 1. Create opportunities for board engagement with public (i.e. coffee with the trustees, etc.)**
- 2. Explore options to publicize when trustees will be present at various events**
- 3. Continue advocacy for district stakeholders**
- 4. Increase attendance at district events**

6. Advance Board Governance & CEO Relations

Priority Objectives:

- 1. Continue to meet and talk with legislators**
- 2. Build in more opportunities for trustees interaction with chancellor**
- 3. Continue to build capacity for effective board governance**

7. Establish and review policies to assure quality, integrity, and effectiveness

Priorities Objectives:

- 1. Include national legislative policy discussions and decisions in district-wide communications**
- 2. Continue to improve understanding of board ethics**

Board of Trustee Goals for 2024-2025

Progress

GOAL 1: ENSURE THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND FISCAL HEALTH OF THE SOCCCD

Priority Objective 1.1: Ensure a Healthy Campus Climate Districtwide with the following activities

Activity: Conduct district-wide climate survey

SOCCCD regularly administers campus climate surveys to assess workplace conditions and inform strategic planning. The following key highlights summarize survey administration, dashboard features, and future plans for continued improvement.

Key Highlights:

- **Survey Administration**
 - Conducted in 2021 and 2023 using a consistent instrument for longitudinal comparison.
 - Results inform progress on indicators in the SOCCCD Strategic Plan.
- **Dashboard Features**
 - Interactive dashboard available at SOCCCD Climate Survey Dashboard.
 - Filters include work location, employee type, and survey year.
- **Dashboard Sections**
 - Section 1: Introduction, Dashboard Design, Demographics, and Working Environment
 - Section 2: Working Relationships, Administrators, Interactions between District Services
 - Section 3: Interactions between Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College
 - Section 4: Work Culture, Communication, Planning, and Professional Development
- **Dissemination and Engagement**
 - Results are shared broadly, including a District Services forum hosted by the Chancellor to discuss findings and improvements.
- **Future Plans**
 - A revised survey will be launched in alignment with Inspire 2035 Strategic Priority 1: “Workplace Culture and Growth.”
 - Collaboration between District and college research offices to develop new surveys assessing climate for both students and employees.

Activity: Support recruitment and retention of employees

Recruitment Efforts

SOCCCD continues to refine its recruitment practices to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. Recent efforts focus on removing barriers, enhancing transparency, and tracking progress through improved data systems.

Key Highlights:

- **Streamlined Application Process**
 - Removed requirements for letters of recommendation.
 - Eliminated irrelevant supplemental questions.
 - Adopted blind resume reviews to reduce bias.

- **Data and Monitoring**
 - Transition to a new ERP platform resulted in temporary data loss, making it difficult to correlate efforts with applicant pool diversity.
 - The District is actively cleaning and organizing data and developing a data warehouse to monitor hiring practices for fairness.
- **Inclusive Language in Job Announcements**
 - Added DEIA-centered language inviting applicants who reflect California’s diversity and demonstrate sensitivity to varied backgrounds.
- **Policy Revision**
 - Revised Board Policy 7121 (Management Hiring Policy) to require at least one DEIA-focused supplemental question for all applicants, reviewed by screening committees.

Retention Efforts

SOCCCD supports a strong and stable management team through competitive compensation, professional development, and leadership programming. These efforts contribute to long-term retention and institutional success.

Key Highlights:

- **Management Team Longevity**
 - Average tenure is 8.07 years.
 - Over 33% of managers have served 10 or more years.
 - Longevity is linked to institutional success and strong student outcomes.
- **Support Structures**
 - Competitive salary and benefits supported by the Board.
 - Access to professional learning opportunities and leadership development programs.
- **EXCEL Program**
 - Designed to nurture leadership skills within the existing workforce.
 - Spring 2025 cohort included unit members from the POA.
 - Participation over the years:
 - **2023:** 27 participants
 - **2024:** 33 participants
 - **2025:** 23 participants
 - Total of 83 graduates since inception, strengthening the District’s leadership pipeline.

Activity: Support Mental Health Activities

Progress from Irvine Valley College

Irvine Valley College’s Health and Wellness Center (HWC) continues to expand its services to meet the growing medical and mental health needs of students. Through clinical care, education, and campus-wide initiatives, the HWC plays a vital role in supporting student well-being.

Key Highlights:

- **Comprehensive Services**
 - Provides medical and mental health services to currently enrolled students.
 - Staff includes a director, medical director, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, mental health therapists, social workers, support staff, and student workers.
- **Campus Engagement**
 - Hosts educational events, classroom presentations, and collaborates on student issues.

- Promotes safety initiatives such as distributing fentanyl/Narcan and spike drink kits.
- **Major Wellness Events**
 - Annual Health Fair and Walk of Hope (suicide awareness) each attract over 350 visitors.
- **Service Growth**
 - Primary care services show steady year-over-year growth.
 - Mental health appointments increased by 138% from January 2024 to January 2025.
- **Flexible Access**
 - Services offered in-person and via Zoom.
 - Providers support both internal and external clients.
- **Peak Usage Periods**
 - Highest demand during midterms, finals, and graduation.
- **Referral and Expansion**
 - Therapists determine visit frequency based on student needs.
 - Students requiring specialized care are referred to case management.
 - Plans to expand services to meet increasing clinical demands.

Progress from Saddleback College

Saddleback College's Student Health and Wellness Center continues to provide essential mental health services to students, both in-person and via telehealth. The center also engages in campus-wide mental health awareness efforts through training and collaboration.

Key Highlights:

- **Mental Health Services**
 - Provided 2,511 mental health therapy visits between August 12, 2024, and July 16, 2025.
 - Served 508 unique students.
 - 2,136 visits were in-person; 375 were via telehealth.
 - 148 visits were walk-in crisis appointments.
- **Campus Collaboration and Training**
 - Partnered with the Wellness & Prevention Center to offer *Stronger Together* mental health awareness training.
 - Training sessions held on June 18 and July 9, 2025.
 - A total of 33 students and employees participated

Priority Objective 1.2: Continue the development of ATEP and collaborators

Progress from Saddleback @ ATEP

Development at Saddleback College's Advanced Technology & Education Park (ATEP) continues to advance, with several key projects nearing completion or entering new phases. These efforts reflect strong partnerships and strategic planning to maximize the potential of the ATEP property.

Key Highlights

Campus Development

- **Saddleback @ ATEP Construction**
 - Nearing completion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for August 11, 2025.
- **Advantech Corporation**
 - Headquarters construction underway; estimated completion July 2026.
 - Warehouse construction also in progress; estimated completion December 2025.
- **PJRIPA (Goddard School)**
 - Now open for business.

- Offers discounts for faculty and staff at the District.

New Agreements and Partnerships

- **Top Tennis Management**
 - Signed an Access and Option Agreement.
 - Next step: Negotiating the Ground Lease.
- **Victory AI Academy**
 - Signed an Access and Option Agreement.
 - Next step: Negotiating the Ground Lease.
- **Strategic Impact**
 - Partnerships with Top Tennis and Victory AI Academy support the District's goal for the ATEP property.

Ongoing Collaboration

- **City of Tustin**
 - Continued work on the Development Agreement to support long-term planning and growth.

Priority Objective 1.3: Continue to prioritize student housing

- On April 29, 2024, the Board approved the recommendation to incorporate student housing into the Facilities Master Plans for both colleges.

Priority Objective 1.4: Create an annual budget workshop for trustees

- Budget Retreats for Board members were scheduled for July 15, July 16, and August 12, 2024.
- The 2025 Budget Retreat for Board members is scheduled for August 25, 2025.
- The process for developing the Tentative and Adopted Budgets was discussed along with revenues and expenses. Board members were encouraged to ask questions.

GOAL 2: MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL QUALITY OF THE SOCCCD

Priority Objective 2.1: Advocate for bachelor's degree

Legislative Advocacy for Community College Baccalaureate Expansion

SOCCCD has prioritized the expansion of community college baccalaureate degrees, particularly in nursing, as part of its 2025 legislative agenda. Through advocacy efforts at the state level and strategic partnerships, the District continues to push for broader access to four-year degrees within the community college system.

Key Highlights

State-Level Advocacy

- **SB 895 (Roth)**
 - Proposed a pilot program for community colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).
 - SOCCCD Board members actively advocated for its passage in Sacramento.
 - The bill was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.
- **AB 1400 (Soria)**
 - A new BSN bill set for a floor vote in 2025.
 - SOCCCD continues to advocate for its passage through meetings, committee involvement, and legislative advocates (Townsend).
 - The District is prepared to apply quickly should the legislation be approved.

Saddleback College Nursing Program

- **National Recognition**
 - Saddleback's Nursing Program is ranked #1 in the country based on national board pass rates.
 - Positioned as a strong candidate for offering a BSN.
- **Nursing Expansion Grant**
 - Received a state grant to expand class size to a record high.
 - Enhances program efficiency and prepares a robust pool of ADN graduates for future RN to BSN pathways.
 - Nursing remains 5–6 times more expensive to operate per FTES compared to general education programs.

Future Baccalaureate Opportunities

- **Beyond Nursing**
 - SOCCCD continues to advocate for broader baccalaureate expansion across community colleges.
 - The "CSU veto" remains a key legislative barrier that the District seeks to address.
- **Upcoming Programs**

- Saddleback is actively exploring additional baccalaureate degrees.
- Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program is expected to move forward in 2025–2026.

Priority Objective 2.2: Support advances in technology

The Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation and Equity

The South Orange County Community College District became a Founding Partner of the statewide Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation and Equity in partnership with the California Community Colleges system office innovative efforts. The partnership agreement was approved by the Board in February 2025. In addition to bringing prestige and visibility to the SOCCCD, there are several impactful benefits in serving as a Founding Partner:

Key Highlights

- **Leadership in Innovation and Equity**
 - SOCCCD is positioned at the forefront of shaping how generative AI and emerging technologies are integrated into education. This leadership role enhances the District’s reputation as a pioneer in equity-minded innovation.
- **Influence on Statewide Strategy**
 - As a founding partner, SOCCCD contributes to the development and governance of the Digital Center, helping align statewide efforts with local District priorities and Vision 2030 goals.
- **Access to Cutting-Edge Resources and Expertise**
 - The partnership provides early access to research, pilot programs, and tools that support digital transformation, workforce development, and student success.
- **Workforce and Economic Development**
 - By participating in initiatives that harness AI and advanced technologies, SOCCCD helps prepare students for the future of work, supporting regional economic growth and innovation.
- **Collaboration and Networking**
 - SOCCCD joins a statewide network of colleges, industry leaders, and academic experts, fostering collaboration and shared learning opportunities.
- **Support for Equity and Student Success**
 - The Digital Center is committed to reducing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to technology for all students—aligning with SOCCCD’s mission to serve diverse communities.

Banner Project: Supporting Technological Advancement

SOCCCD has reached a major milestone in its commitment to advancing technology and modernizing systems. The successful launch of all major components of the Banner project reflects the District’s strategic vision and the dedication of its campus community.

Key Highlights

Project Milestones

- **System Launch**
 - All major components of the Banner project are now live.
 - Students are successfully registering for classes.
 - First payroll was completed using the new system.
 - Project remains **on-time and on-budget**.
- **Team Collaboration**
 - Success attributed to thoughtful planning, problem-solving, and teamwork.
 - Contributions from classified professionals, faculty, and management were instrumental.

- Demonstrates the strength and commitment of the campus community.

Strategic Alignment

• **Board Vision**

- Reflects the Board's strategic goal to modernize systems and improve service delivery.
- Supports broader objectives including:
 - Streamlined IT governance
 - Enhanced data-driven decision-making
 - Scalable, student-centered technology solutions

Next Steps

• **Ongoing Development**

- Focus now shifts to deploying supporting applications and enhancing existing modules.
- Priorities include system stabilization, issue resolution, and continued user support.

• **Looking Ahead**

- The District remains energized by future opportunities to build a more innovative and responsive technology environment

Artificial Intelligence

IVC AI Task Force: Year in Review

In 2025, the Irvine Valley College AI Task Force made significant strides in establishing a comprehensive framework for responsible AI integration across campus. With broad participation from faculty, staff, and administrators, the task force focused on policy development, tool evaluation, professional development, and student engagement—all while maintaining a commitment to equity and academic integrity.

• **Policy & Best Practices Development**

- IVC Guide to AI Best Practices: Developed institutional guidelines for faculty, staff, and students on ethical and effective AI use.
- District Coordination: Collaborated with the SOCCCD-wide AI Task Force to ensure consistent policies across the District.

• **Professional Development & Training**

- AAC&U Institute Participation: Engaged in a year-long national institute focused on AI, pedagogy, and curriculum integration.
- Campus Presentation Series: Delivered AI education sessions to schools, senates, and administrative groups.
- AI Keynote Presentation: Hosted Rodrigo Gomez for a campus-wide workshop and keynote on understanding AI.
- Conference Attendance: Secured funding and attended leading AI and education conferences including ASU + GSV's *The AI Show* and ISTE.

• **Tool Evaluation & Implementation**

○ **Pilot Programs**

- *Brisk*: Student-focused tool for presentations, readability, and feedback.
- *BoodleBox*: Multi-AI platform for faculty exploration.
- *PlayLab*: Agent-based custom chats for targeted learning activities.

• **Major Tool Assessments**

- Evaluated enterprise tools such as ChatGPT for Education, Copilot, and Gemini.
- Prioritized platforms that meet FERPA/HIPAA compliance standards.

- **Research & Data Collection**
 - **Campus-Wide Survey:** Assessed student attitudes and usage patterns related to AI.
 - **Student Focus Groups:** Held structured feedback sessions (April 30, 2025) to gather student perspectives on AI in education.
- **Innovation & Strategic Planning**
 - **Custom AI Development:** Explored institutional AI systems modeled after University of Michigan and Arizona State University.
 - **24/7 Student Support:** Initiated discussions on AI-powered student services in collaboration with the District.
- **Financial Investment & Resource Management**
 - **Pilot Funding Proposal:** Recommended a \$50,000 allocation for training, professional development, and tool evaluation.
 - **Cost-Effective Exploration:** Investigated open-source alternatives like DeepSeek alongside premium platforms.
- **Future Outlook**
 - Developed sustainable structures for ongoing AI integration, including open meetings and continued District coordination.
 - Positioned IVC as a leader in responsible AI adoption in higher education.

AI and Immersive Learning at Saddleback College

In 2024–25, Saddleback College made significant progress in integrating artificial intelligence and immersive technologies into teaching, learning, and campus operations. Through strategic initiatives, pilot programs, and statewide collaborations, the college is positioning itself as a leader in innovative education.

- **AI Infrastructure & Community Building**
 - **College AI Workgroup:** Established to guide policy, infrastructure, and resource development for AI integration.
 - **AI Community of Practice:** Formed to engage faculty and staff in ongoing dialogue and collaboration around AI use.
 - **Campus-Wide Survey:** Conducted to assess AI awareness and usage among students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
- **Professional Development & Engagement**
 - **Faculty Development:** Offered department-level and college-wide training on AI tools, including those focused on accessibility.
 - **Staff Development:** Delivered professional development sessions tailored to staff needs.
 - **AI Town Halls:** Hosted open forums to discuss AI trends, tools, and campus initiatives.
- **Statewide Collaboration & Pilots**
 - **Nectir AI & PlayLab AI:** Participated in state-level pilot programs to explore collaborative and agent-based AI tools.
 - **Tool Pilots Introduced:** *PRIA AI*, *Nolej AI*, *Khanmigo for Teachers*, and *Lucid* integrated into Canvas for instructional use.
- **Recognition & Funding**
 - **AI Ambassador Award:** Faculty member honored by the OC Regional Consortium for leadership in AI.
 - **Grant Awards:**

- *CA Learning Lab AI FAST Challenge*: \$150,000 for AI in language acquisition.
- *Coalition for Transformational Education*: \$25,000 for career pathway development using AI.
- **Immersive Learning Initiatives**
 - **VIVE VR Demonstrations**: Brought into the Faculty Center for hands-on exploration by faculty.
 - **Program Integration**: Nursing and other departments experimenting with immersive simulations using Mediquet goggles.
 - **Immersive Learning Lab (Proposed)**: Plans underway to create a dedicated lab with VR/AR equipment and software for student use, supported by technical assistance.
- **Statewide & National Engagement**
 - **Generative AI App Development Program**: Participating in a statewide initiative focused on non-credit AI education.
 - **CCC Digital Center Beta Testing**: Testing new AI features in Canvas.
 - **League for Innovation AI Fellowship**: Faculty participating in a national fellowship program focused on AI in education.

Priority Objective 2.3: Support instructional development

Progress from Irvine Valley College

Noncredit Healthcare Program Development

Irvine Valley College is making steady progress in developing noncredit healthcare programs to meet regional workforce needs. Through research, collaboration, and strategic planning, the college is laying the foundation for new offerings in high-demand fields.

- **Program Exploration & Development**
 - **Site Visits**: Conducted multiple visits to established healthcare programs to gather insights and best practices.
 - **Industry Collaboration**: Engaged with regional workforce leaders and healthcare providers to assess needs and explore partnership opportunities.
 - **Emerging Fields Under Review**: Evaluating potential programs in optical professions and therapy support roles.
 - **Accreditation & Certification Research**: Investigating requirements to ensure alignment with industry standards and program viability.
- **Labor Market Information (LMI) Analysis**
 - **Medical Assisting**
 - Favorable LMI from COE and Lightcast.
 - Engaging local healthcare employers for:
 - Industry feedback
 - Externship support
 - Advisory board participation
 - **Optical Professions**
 - Exploring demand for roles such as Optician and Ophthalmic Technician.
 - Planning meetings with local optometry and ophthalmology providers.
- **Additional Programs Under Consideration**
 - Pharmacy Technician
 - Surgical Technician

- Occupational Therapy Aide
- Speech Therapy Aide
- Dental Assistant

Progress from Saddleback College

New Program Launches and Instructional Support Highlights

Saddleback continues to expand its academic offerings with a range of new Career Technical Education (CTE) and transfer programs approved for launch in 2025 and 2026. In addition to new curriculum, the college has strengthened instructional support through statewide leadership in online learning, zero-textbook-cost initiatives, and tutoring services.

- **New Noncredit CTE Programs**

Launching in **Spring 2025 or Fall 2026**, these short-term Certificates of Completion (CoCs) support English Language Learners (ELL) and upskilling for underemployed workers (UDW):

- Administrative Medical Assistant
- Clinical Medical Assistant
- Comprehensive Medical Assistant
- EKG Technician
- Health Care Data Analytics

- **New Credit CTE Programs**

Approved for **Fall 2025 or Spring 2026** launches:

- **Fall 2025**
 - Administration of Justice AS
 - Advanced Baking and Pastry AS (ATEP)
 - Advanced Baking and Pastry CoA (ATEP)
 - Introduction to Baking and Pastry CoA (ATEP)
- **Spring 2026**
 - Salon Management CoA
 - Surgical Technology AS

- **New Transfer Programs**

Approved by the Board in **2024–2025** for launch in **Fall 2025 or Spring 2026**:

- Cal-GETC CoA (30–60 units) – Fall 2025
- Computer Science AS-T – Fall 2025
- Social Work and Human Services AA – Fall 2025
- Kinesiology—Sports Administration AA – Spring 2026

- **Instructional Support Highlights (2024–2025)**

- **POCR Certification:** Became a statewide leader in Peer Online Course Review (POCR), enhancing online course quality.
- **Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) Leadership:** Maintained position as one of California’s top ZTC colleges, saving students over **\\$8 million** in textbook costs.
- **CVC-OEI Enrollment Gains:** Recognized as a statewide leader in net enrollment gains through the California Virtual Campus—Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI), prior to Banner integration.
- **Tutoring Impact:** OPRA studies showed **whole grade gains** for students using traditional tutoring services, informing a new campaign for 2025–2026.

Study Abroad

The SOCCCD was also proud to award study abroad contracts to various locations around the world.

- August 2024 – Awarded study abroad contract for trip to Costa Rica from June 30, 2025, to July 13, 2025
- August 2024 – Awarded study abroad contract for trip to Oxford, England from March 13, 2025, to May 16, 2025.
- June 2025 – Awarded study abroad contract for trip to Paris, France from June 8, 2026, to July 5, 2026.
- June 2025 – Awarded study abroad contract for trip to Costa Rica from July 20, 2026, to August 2, 2026

Priority Objective 2.4: Support guided pathways

Progress from Irvine Valley College

Guided Pathways: Year in Review

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Irvine Valley College reaffirmed its commitment to student success and equity by advancing key Guided Pathways priority areas. Through strategic planning, leadership development, and student-centered initiatives, the college made measurable progress in integrating Guided Pathways across campus.

- **Funding:** Institutional funding for Guided Pathways was secured through the college’s resource request process, ensuring sustained support for initiatives.
- **Integrated Planning**
 - Guided Pathways leadership contributed to:
 - Development of the IVC Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Plan.
 - District and college strategic plans.
 - Representation on the DEIA Council, aligning Guided Pathways with equity and strategic goals.
- **Raising Awareness**
 - **Pathways to Success Fair (October 1, 2025)**
 - 420 confirmed student attendees.
 - 80% identified their Interest Area.
 - 42.3% of undeclared students clarified their major.
 - **IVC Preview Night (April 16, 2025)**
 - Featured “Interest Area Village” to help students explore academic pathways.
 - **Major to Careers Fair (April 23, 2025)**
 - Integrated Interest Areas into the Jobs Fair to connect majors with career opportunities.
- **Leadership:** Established joint instructional and student services leadership:
 - **Faculty Co-Leads:** Amanda Romero (Student Services), Brandee Idleman (Instruction).
 - **Dean Facilitators:** Angel Hernandez (Student Services), Traci Fahimi (Instruction).
- **Completion Teams**
 - **Humanities Completion Team**
 - Hosted *Humanities Showcase* (April 1–3, 2025) featuring student research and industry guests.
 - Released *Promising Practices Guided*, a living document based on cross-discipline research.

- **Humanities & Business Sciences Collaboration**
 - Co-hosted *Promising Practices Guide for Student Success Pedagogy Lunch and Learn* (March 13, 2025).
- **Languages & Learning Resources Team**
 - Hosted *Major-Related Jobs with a Foreign Language Degree* event with ELEVATE (March 11, 2025).
 - Expanded noncredit certificates, including ESL Milestone Pathway to STEM.
 - Celebrated third annual AESL Certificate event (April 11, 2025) with 293 certificates awarded—up from 191 the previous year.
- **Classified Completion Team**
 - Increased participation in the First-Generation Student Club.
 - Continued partnership with Caring Campus for First-Generation College Student celebration.
- **Life Sciences Completion Team**
 - Implemented embedded tutoring in Anatomy and General Biology.
 - Collected data showing improved persistence and student satisfaction.
- **Math & Computer Sciences Team**
 - Developed OER math texts for pre-calculus, first-semester, and multivariate calculus.
 - Continued use of OER for trigonometry.
- **Physical Sciences Completion Team**
 - Launched *Women in STEM* outreach and Preview Night Career Panel.
 - Expanded embedded tutoring in physical sciences.
- **School of the Arts Completion Team**
 - Created communication assignments focused on real-world skills and ethical AI use.
- **Social & Behavioral Sciences Completion Team**
 - Participated in statewide research with Nectar AI.
 - Joined IVC's AI Action Team with plans for a Fall 2025 Flex Week student panel on ethical AI use.

Progress from Saddleback College

Guided Pathways Institutionalization at Saddleback College

In 2024–2025, Saddleback College fully institutionalized Guided Pathways by embedding it into the college's operational and structural framework. This transformation has redefined how students are supported, advised, and guided through their academic journey, making Guided Pathways a permanent part of the college's culture and operations.

- **Structural Reorganization**
 - **Creation of Five Schools (Metamajors):** Instruction reorganized into five Schools, each representing a metamajor to streamline academic pathways.
 - **Integrated Support Systems:** Success Coaches and Counselors assigned to each School. Websites, programming, onboarding, and scheduling aligned with the Schools.
 - **School Hubs:** Each School has a physical and virtual hub for student support and cohort-building. Hubs are jointly managed by the assigned Success Coach, Counselor, and Dean.
 - **Student Success Council Reconfiguration:** Council now includes the three leaders from each School plus at-large members to guide student success initiatives.
- **Operational Enhancements:**
 - **Becoming a Bobcat Orientation:** Students are grouped by School during orientation to foster early engagement and identity.
 - **Ongoing Communication & Events:** Students receive targeted communication and invitations to School-specific events throughout their journey.

- **Counseling Assignments:** Students meet with Counselors assigned to their School for consistent guidance.
- **Support for Undeclared Students:** Undeclared students take a designated course and meet with specialized Counselors to declare a metamajor by the end of their first term.
Ensures students take transferable general education courses while exploring options.
- **Counseling Model Transformation**
 - **Shift to Proactive Counseling:** Moved from a passive model to an active, structured approach with required check-ins at key milestones.
 - **High School Outreach:** Counselors visit feeder high schools to create educational plans before students enroll.
 - **Intrusive Coaching Model:** Ensures students identify, enter, and stay on their academic pathway through completion.
- **Institutional Commitment**
 - Guided Pathways is no longer treated as a temporary initiative.
 - It is now fully embedded in Saddleback's operations and identity as a college.

Dual Enrollment Expansion Across SOCCCD

As part of the Guided Pathways framework, SOCCCD continues to strengthen seamless transitions between local high schools and its colleges. Both Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College maintain robust dual enrollment and College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships to support early college access and career readiness.

New CCAP Agreements Approved in 2024–2025

- **July 2024**
 - California Online Public Schools (California Connections Academy)
 - Capistrano Unified School District
 - Irvine Unified School District
 - Laguna Beach Unified School District
 - Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA)
 - Orange Unified School District
 - Saddleback Valley Unified School District
- **September 2024**
 - Saddleback Valley Unified School District (additional agreement)
- **January 2025**
 - California Online Public Schools
 - Capistrano Unified School District
 - Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA)
 - Orange Unified School District
 - Saddleback Valley Unified School District
- **March 2025**
 - Laguna Beach Unified School District

Strategic Impact

- Expands access to college-level coursework for high school students.
- Supports early career exploration and academic planning aligned with Guided Pathways.
- Strengthens partnerships with diverse educational institutions across Orange County.

Priority Objective 2.5: Monitor strategic plan progress

In support of the development of Inspire 2035, the SOCCCD Board of Trustees actively participated in two strategic planning workshops. These sessions provided a platform for Board members to shape the District's long-term vision and strategic priorities.

Workshop Participation

- **December 16, 2024:** Initial workshop focused on foundational elements of the Inspire 2035 strategic plan.
- **May 12, 2025:** Follow-up session to refine strategic priorities and align them with District goals.

Strategic Contributions

- Board members contributed insights and feedback to guide the development of Inspire 2035.
- Discussions helped shape the District's strategic priorities, ensuring alignment with student success, innovation, and equity.

GOAL 3: SUPPORT EQUITABLE STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Priority Objective 3.1: Support programs that increase internship work in the community (e.g. College Corps)

Progress for Irvine Valley College

In 2024–2025, Irvine Valley College continued its commitment to student success, civic engagement, and workforce readiness through the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps program and robust internship opportunities. These initiatives provide students with meaningful service experiences, financial support, and access to high-impact research and career development.

- **#CaliforniansForAll College Corps Programs**
 - **Statewide Initiative Participation**
 - IVC is one of 45 partner campuses in the statewide College Corps program.
 - Part of the *College Corps Orange County Consortium* with Concordia University Irvine and Vanguard University.
- **Student Engagement**
 - Mobilized 200 students to serve in K–12 education, food insecurity, and climate action across Orange County.
 - Fellows serve 450 hours over the academic year (August–July), earning up to \$10,000 in combined stipend and educational award.
- **2024–2025 Impact**

- 66 Fellows completed over 23,700 hours of community service.
- Partnered with nine agencies, including:
 - *K–12 Education*: Irvine Unified School District, Tustin Unified School District, Hicks Canyon Elementary.
 - *Food Insecurity*: Delhi Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, SEVA Collective, South County Outreach, Southwest Community Center, The Spot at IVC.
- **Internship Programs**
 - **MESA Research Internships**
 - One student completed a 10-week research internship at the Salk Institute, studying early pregnancy failure using non-human primate embryo models.
 - Internship included housing, \$18/hour pay, weekly seminars, and professional development workshops.
- **MESA Students in Summer Research**
 - **21 students** participated in paid summer research programs:
 - **7 students** joined the Undergraduate Research Experience at Cal State Fullerton.
 - **2 students** selected for NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates:
 - UC Irvine: Functional materials research.
 - Chapman University: Cellular stress pathways in *Drosophila* (SURFEES fellowship).
 - **12 students** formed the inaugural cohort of the *Summer SPARK Program* at IVC, each receiving a \$5,000 stipend.
- **Future Planning**
 - IVC is actively developing new internship opportunities for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Progress for Saddleback College

In 2024–2025, Saddleback College significantly expanded its commitment to experiential learning through strategic partnerships, grant funding, and institutional initiatives. With the support of the Samueli Foundation and a robust infrastructure for work-based learning (WBL), the college is working toward its goal of ensuring every graduate has meaningful real-world experience on their transcript and resume by 2030.

- **Samueli Foundation Grant**
 - Grant Overview
 - Awarded \$3 million over three years to subsidize and coordinate paid internships.
 - Supports student success through internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, mentorships, and clinical placements.
- **Strategic Goals**
 - Ensure all graduates have experiential learning: WBL, service learning, or research.
 - Focus on low-income and underrepresented students.
- **Targeted Sectors**
 - STEM fields including computer science, engineering, advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, construction, architecture, and healthcare.
 - Open to all academic programs.
- **Key Metrics**
 - Goal of 300 workplace learning engagements annually.
 - Track post-completion employment and employer participation.

- **Work-Based Learning (WBL) Infrastructure**
 - **Employer Outreach:** Partnerships with chambers of commerce, city offices, and organizations like OCEAN to expand employer network.
- **Student Awareness Campaigns**
 - **Multi-channel outreach via:**
 - Career Resource Center (CRC)
 - Handshake
 - Canvas announcements
 - Targeted emails
 - Social media
 - Flyers and digital signage
 - Classroom presentations
 - Student clubs and tabling events
 - Upcoming WBL Internship Program video
- **Marketing & Outreach**
 - Internal and external campaigns using flyers, Canvas, Handshake, social media ads, and SWP-funded initiatives.
- **Faculty & Staff Engagement**
 - Faculty promote internships via forwarded job descriptions.
 - Career Services, Financial Aid, and Counseling support student access and participation.
- **Work Experience Education (WEE)**
 - **Program Overview**
 - Formerly Cooperative Work Experience, WEE allows students to earn credit for work or service learning tied to coursework.
- **Enrollment Data**
 - Spring 2024: 92 students across 23 classes
 - Fall 2024: 69 students across 22 classes
 - Spring 2025: 94 students across 24 classes
- **Student Worker Workgroup**
 - **Collaborative Leadership**
 - Includes representatives from Instruction, EWA, Student Services, CRC, Success Coaches, Financial Aid, CTE, and Grants Office.
 - **Focus Areas**
 - Enhancing WEE, employer outreach, on-campus employment, internships, federal work-study (82 students placed in 2024–2025), and process streamlining.
- **Service Learning & Community-Based Learning (SL/CBL)**
 - **Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS) Expansion**
 - Supported by President’s Innovation Funds.
 - Faculty from Child Development, Education, Ethnic Studies, Anthropology, Aging Studies, and Sociology developed capstone SL/CBL projects.
- **Future Expansion**
 - Proposal to include the English Department in SL/CBL efforts.
 - Launching “*People’s Pen – Writing for Communities*” to connect literacy with civic responsibility.

- Inspired by Isabel Baca’s model of applying academic objectives in community settings through critical, reflective thinking.
- **Transfer Impact**
 - Inclusion of English and Ethnic Studies expected to have broad impact due to their role in transfer pathways.

Internship Opportunities through ATEP Ground Leases

As part of SOCCCD’s strategic development at the Advanced Technology & Education Park (ATEP), several ground leases include provisions for paid student internships. These partnerships ensure that students across the District benefit from real-world, career-aligned experiences directly tied to industry partners operating on-site.

Active Internship Commitments

- **Goddard School**
 - Ground Lease includes a commitment to offer paid internships for District students.
 - Internships are required to last at least 17 weeks.
- **Advantech Corporation**
 - Ground Lease includes a commitment to provide paid internships for District students.
 - Internships must be at least 17 weeks in duration.

Pending Internship Agreements

- **Top Tennis Management**
 - Internship provisions for District students will be negotiated as part of the Ground Lease.
- **Victory AI Academy**
 - Internship opportunities for District students will be negotiated within the Ground Lease.

Priority Objective 3.2: Support programs to meet student needs

Advancing Student Support: Basic Needs and Promise Programs

In 2024–2025, both Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College made significant strides in supporting students through comprehensive basic needs services and financial aid initiatives. These programs reflect a deep commitment to equity, access, and holistic student success.

Irvine Valley College

Basic Needs: The Spot

- **Comprehensive Support Services**
 - Offers food pantry, snacks, meals, clothing closet, diaper resources, and CalFresh application assistance.
 - Staffed by social work interns who provide personalized support and compassionate care.
- **Housing Support**
 - Short-term hotel stays
 - Community referrals
 - Case management
 - Irvine TAY Housing Stipend Program
- **Impact**
 - Recorded 41,106 visits to The Spot in 2024–2025.

IVC Promise Program

- **Financial Access**
 - Covers enrollment fees and textbook costs for first-time, full-time students.
 - Collaborates with Financial Aid and Counseling to maintain student eligibility.
- **Growth & Reach**
 - Served 1,911 students in Fall 2024—a 9% increase over the prior year.
 - Represents a tenfold increase since program inception.
 - 79% of entering first-time, full-time students are Promise participants.
- **Equity Impact**
 - 63% economically disadvantaged
 - 32.7% Hispanic/Latinx
 - 21.6% first-generation college students
- **Recruitment Pipeline**
 - Serves as a key driver for full-time enrollment and student success.

Saddleback College

Basic Needs: The C.A.R.E. Corner

- **Mission & Vision**
 - Provides food, housing, and financial support with a focus on equity and compassion.
 - Aims to eliminate basic needs insecurity and foster equal opportunities for success.
- **Housing Support**
 - Housing vouchers
 - Referrals to community resources
 - Case management
 - Eviction and legal services navigation
- **Impact**
 - Recorded 58,700 visits to the C.A.R.E. Corner in 2024–2025.

Priority Objective 3.3: Support programs that assist students financially (e.g. Learn to Earn)

Progress for Irvine Valley College

In 2024–2025, Irvine Valley College continued its commitment to student success by expanding financial support and outreach services. Through the Foundation and Financial Aid Office, thousands of students received critical resources to help them persist and thrive in their academic journey.

- **Foundation Student Support**
 - **Scholarships and Emergency Aid**
 - \$558,750 in IVC scholarships awarded.
 - \$51,912 in emergency funds distributed to students in need.
 - \$30,645 in Follett Bookstore vouchers provided to support textbook access.
 - \$146,680 in outside scholarships secured for students.
 - **Total Financial Support**
 - \$787,267 in total student financial support provided through the Foundation.

- **Financial Aid Office Impact**
 - **Disbursement Overview**
 - \$28,783,938 in financial aid disbursed to 3,878 students.
 - Represents an increase of \$6.7 million and 749 students compared to the previous year.
 - **Outreach and Engagement**
 - Conducted 74 workshops in collaboration with local high schools.
 - Reached over 3,700 prospective students and families through in-person and virtual events.
 - **Community Support Lab**
 - Hosted first Financial Aid Community Support Lab in February 2025.
 - Provided hands-on application assistance ahead of the state's priority deadline.
 - Offered in-person translation services in Farsi, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese.
 - Distributed printed materials in English, Farsi, Spanish, and Mandarin.
 - **On-Campus Services**
 - Weekly walk-in support labs for applications, verifications, and appeals.
 - Financial Aid staff participated in resource fairs and targeted outreach to:
 - Student veterans
 - Students with disabilities
 - First-generation college students
 - Reached over 1,000 IVC students through on-campus services.

Progress for Saddleback College

In 2024–2025, Saddleback College continued to innovate and expand its student support services, focusing on financial access, technology equity, and proactive outreach. These initiatives reflect a shift from passive to active support strategies, ensuring students receive timely assistance tailored to their needs.

- **Technology & Financial Access:**
 - **Learn to Earn Program**
 - Continued laptop/Chromebook loaner program.
 - Approved transfer of 570 devices to eligible students to support digital access and academic success.
 - **PT Promise Pilot**
 - Funded by COVID-Relief Block Grant.
 - Supports part-time students (6–11 credits) with Promise benefits.
 - Over 600 students enrolled in 2024–2025.
 - Students supported for up to three years.
 - Data collection underway to inform potential District-wide PT Promise initiative.
- **Proactive Student Outreach**
 - **Student Need Survey**
 - Scaled an innovative survey system that responds to every expressed need within 48 hours.
 - Serves all credit and non-credit students.
 - Over 10,000 needs addressed per semester.
 - Eliminates barriers by allowing students to request help without navigating offices or systems.
 - Reflects Saddleback's shift to active support strategies.

- **Financial Aid Enhancements**
 - **Expanded Services**
 - Increased workshops, one-on-one assistance, and campus-wide events to help students navigate financial aid.
 - Hands-on support for completing applications and maintaining eligibility.
- **Work-Based Learning Integration**
 - Partnered with the Career Resource Center to expand work-based learning opportunities.
 - Federal Work-Study program continues to grow, offering flexible, on-campus employment.
 - Dreamer Service Incentive Grant provides up to \$4,500 annually for undocumented students engaged in community service aligned with their goals.
- **Support for Special Populations:**
 - **EOPS, CARE, and NextUp Programs**
 - Provide direct financial assistance:
 - Book grants
 - Emergency and unmet need grants
 - Work-study opportunities
 - Food, transportation, housing, and school supplies
 - Financial literacy workshops
 - **Growth & Impact**
 - 571 unduplicated students served in 2024–2025 (up from 531 in 2022–2023).
 - Educational grants increased from \$293,757 to over \$656,000.
 - Book services investment tripled to \$175,000.
 - Over \$20,000 allocated for student government and health fees.
 - Honor Society support increased from \$105 to \$3,320, recognizing academic excellence.

Priority Objective 3.4: Set a strong direction for DEIA efforts

Progress in Human Resources

In 2024–2025, SOCCCD Human Resources advanced its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) through targeted policy updates, evaluation reforms, and inclusive hiring practices. These efforts reflect a strategic and systemic approach to embedding DEIA principles into every stage of the employee experience—from recruitment to evaluation.

- **Employee Evaluations Aligned with DEIA Standards**
 - **Classified Staff (CSEA)**
 - Evaluated using the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Commitment criteria.
 - Demonstrates understanding and support for a respectful, inclusive, equitable, and accessible work and learning environment.
 - Evaluation tailored to employee classification and responsibilities.
- **Management Team**
 - **Evaluated under Inclusiveness and Diversity standards:**

- Values diverse viewpoints in decision-making, especially from historically voiceless populations.
- Fosters inclusive environments across race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sex, and sexual orientation.
- Upholds honesty, integrity, fairness, and inclusiveness.
- Promotes belonging, support, and safety for all demographic groups.
- Encourages equity, respect, and access through inclusive leadership and engagement.
- **Inclusive Hiring Practices**
 - **Job Announcements**
 - All postings now include DEIA-centered language to attract equity-minded applicants.
- **Faculty Hiring Policy Update**
 - Board Policy 7123 revised to require redaction of names and identifying information from screening materials.
 - Aims to reduce implicit bias during the selection process.

Progress for Irvine Valley College

In 2024–2025, Irvine Valley College deepened its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) through collaborative inquiry, campus-wide engagement, and strategic planning. These efforts reflect a shift from compliance-based approaches to transformative practices rooted in equity and justice.

- **President’s Advisory Council on DEIA (PAC-DEIA)**
 - **Yearlong Inquiry & Action**
 - Engaged in a structured process using *Dr. Gina Garcia’s Transforming Hispanic-Serving Institutions for Equity and Justice*.
 - Grounded in the concept of “*servingness*” to move beyond enrollment metrics toward equity-centered institutional transformation.
 - **Inclusive Participation**
 - Council included classified professionals, faculty, administrators, and students.
 - Monthly gatherings, professional learning sessions, and reflection activities were designed and led internally—*by us, for us, to serve us*.
 - **Impact**
 - Deepened campus-wide understanding of servingness.
 - Established a foundation for sustained, equity-minded transformation.
- **Annual DEIA Day – April 4, 2025**
 - **Theme: Social Model of Accessibility**
 - Encouraged participants to move beyond compliance toward empowerment.
 - Focused on shifting institutional practices to celebrate diverse voices and perspectives.
- **Strategic Planning Council Transition**
 - **Governance Integration**
 - PAC-DEIA will transition into a Strategic Planning Council in 2025–2026.
 - Approved by College Council on May 14, 2025.
 - **Purpose & Scope**
 - Charged with creating, implementing, and sustaining DEIA goals for all constituency groups.
 - Will coordinate a college-wide equity framework aligned with institutional DEIA objectives.

Progress for Saddleback College

In 2024–2025, Saddleback College fully embraced a data-informed, campus-wide approach to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). Through strategic planning, professional development, and the creation of inclusive spaces, the college has embedded equity into instructional practices, student services, and institutional culture.

- **Instructor-Level Equity Data and Faculty Development**
 - **Course Completion Reports**
 - Instructor-level disaggregated data pushed directly to faculty.
 - Increased awareness and action on equity gaps for Latino, Black, and First-Gen students.
 - **Professional Development**
 - Culturally Responsive Teaching was the top PD theme in 2024–2025.
 - Hosted a four-hour Adjunct Learn-athon with dinner, student and faculty panels, and expert-led sessions.
- **Student Equity Planning**
 - **Statewide Engagement**
 - Saddleback team attended the 2025 Student Equity Planning Workshop.
 - **Campus Collaboration**
 - DEIA Committee and Office of College Equity, Inclusion, and Access hosted presentations to gather input.
 - Drafting the 2025–2028 Student Equity Plan, to be vetted through campus committees and submitted to the CCCCCO by November 30, 2025.
- **School-Level DEIA Initiatives**
 - **School of Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS)**
 - Support structures for first-generation college students to improve retention and transfer.
 - **School of STEM**
 - MESA program support for first-generation students.
 - **School of Arts, Media, Performance, and Design (AMPD)**
 - Self-efficacy campaign to reduce math and English anxiety.
 - **School of Business & Industry (B&I)**
 - Awareness and retention strategies to support first-year completion and certificate/degree attainment.
- **Inclusive Campus Spaces**
 - **Multicultural Center**
 - Lounge space for multicultural programming to affirm belonging and increase retention.
 - **LGBTQ+ Center**
 - Dedicated space for programming and services supporting LGBTQ+ students.
 - **Grand Opening**
 - Scheduled for **Tuesday, September 30, 2025.**
- **Expanded Student Support Services**
 - **Basic Needs Resources**
 - Food Pantry: Weekly groceries at no cost.
 - Clothing Closet: Professional clothing and hygiene support.
 - Resource Connection Case Management: Support for housing insecurity and homelessness.
 - **Emergency Grant Program**
 - Launched in Fall 2024 to support students facing crises.
 - Up to \$1,000 per student; 141 students served, totaling \$138,438.
 - Includes eligibility guidelines, online application, and internal appeals process.
- **Targeted Equity Programs**
 - **AANHPI Taskforce**

- Launched **November 2024**; meets every three weeks.
- Inclusive membership focused on culturally responsive programming and student empowerment.
- **2024–2025 AANHPI Programming**
 - *Counseling Fridays*: Engagement activities, campus tours, and conferences.
 - *Student-Led Presentations*: APAHE Conference.
 - *Cultural Events*: Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, AANHPI Heritage Month.
- **Rising Scholars Program**
 - Supports **formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students**.
 - Counseling course offered at Phoenix House.
 - Enrollment grew from 42 students (Fall 2024) to 89 students (Spring 2025).
- **Dream Resource Liaisons**
 - Expanded programming beyond **Undocumented Student Awareness Week**.
 - Spring 2025 included **employee PD** and student support initiatives.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT ENHANCED DISTRICT MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Priority Objective 4.1: Continue to increase marketing of SOCCCD to community (e.g. social media, publications)

The South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) has made significant strides in elevating its visibility and engagement within the community. Through a robust and modernized marketing strategy,

the District has enhanced its presence across digital platforms, publications, and public events—reinforcing its role as a regional leader in education and workforce development.

Enhanced Digital and Social Media Engagement

- **400% Increase in Engagement:** Achieved through curated storytelling, trustee features, real-time event coverage, and content that reflects the diversity of SOCCCD students.
- **Expanded Social Media Presence:** Active engagement on LinkedIn and Facebook, with increased use of video content, partner tagging, and resharing of college media.
- **Positive Press Coverage:** Media features in the *OC Register*, *Orange County Business Journal*, *Orange Coast Magazine*, and the *Irvine Standard* highlighting the Chancellor and Board priorities.

Strategic Publications and Outreach

- **Annual and Ongoing Publications:**
 - Annual Report
 - Legislative Priorities
 - *Community College Insider*
 - *Points of Pride*
 - District Brochure
- **Dual Format Distribution:** All publications are available in print and online to maximize accessibility for stakeholders, elected officials, and community partners.

Signature Events and Visual Identity

- **State of the District:**
 - Over 100 attendees from internal and external communities.
 - Professionally produced highlight video and visually compelling annual report.
- **Brand Refresh:**
 - New visual identity and style guide launched in 2024 after 50 years.
 - Expanded brand presence in 2025 with new presentation folders, certificates, lapel pins, and branded swag (e.g., cups, canisters, shirts, jackets, tote bags).

Media Highlights and Community Recognition

- **College Achievements in the Spotlight:**
 - IVC's youngest graduate received widespread media attention.
 - Anticipation and coverage of Saddleback's new buildings at ATEP.

ATEP-Related Community Engagement

- **Public and Partner Events:**
 - Presentation at the City of Tustin's Local Reuse Authority (Aug 20, 2024).
 - Participation in Advantech's groundbreaking (Oct 10, 2024).
 - Attendance at The Goddard School ribbon cutting (Jan 28, 2025).
 - Engagement at the City of Tustin's Public Outreach Open House (May 13, 2025).
- **Project Highlights:**
 - Demolition of old Navy structures.
 - Infrastructure installation.
 - Progress on IVC's IDEA Building and Saddleback @ ATEP.
 - Developments involving The Goddard School and Advantech, Inc.

Priority Objective 4.2: Increase community engagement opportunities for trustees (e.g. local city events)

To elevate the visibility of the SOCCCD Board of Trustees and deepen their connection with the broader community, the District has implemented a range of strategic initiatives. These efforts are designed to align trustee involvement with District priorities, amplify their leadership presence, and foster meaningful relationships with local stakeholders.

Strategic Communications and Recognition

- **Community College Insider:** Developed, printed, and distributed to stakeholders and community members to highlight trustee leadership and District initiatives.
- **Media Features:**
 - District press releases and a dedicated spread in the *OC Register*.
 - Social media highlights showcasing trustee activities and achievements.

Leadership Nominations and Awards

- **Board and Committee Appointments:**
 - Nominations to ACCT, CCLC, and the Orange County School Board Association.
- **Recognition and Awards:**
 - Nominations for Assembly District honors and profile awards from the *CCLC*, *Orange County Business Journal*, *LA Times*, and *OC Register*.

Public Appearances and Community Visibility

- **Media and Civic Engagement:**
 - Appearances on Laguna Woods Television.
 - Presentations before city councils during Community College Awareness Month.
 - Nominations for local community recognitions (e.g., Mr. Tustin).
- **Event Participation:**
 - Trustee remarks at high-profile events such as the State of the District, groundbreaking ceremonies, ribbon cuttings, and campus celebrations.

Legislative and Elected Official Engagement

- **Advocacy and Outreach:**
 - Participation in legislative trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., aligned with board goals and community priorities.
 - Trustees prioritized for campus tours and meetings with elected officials visiting district offices.
- **Protocol Enhancements:**
 - Trustees formally recognized and announced at events where elected leaders are acknowledged.

Impact:

These initiatives have significantly enhanced public recognition of trustee contributions, strengthened relationships with local leaders, and created more opportunities for trustees to engage directly with the communities they serve.

Priority Objective 4.3: Explore shortening of SOCCCD acronym for branding

Following the successful launch of SOCCCD's new logo and visual identity in 2024, the District has focused on reinforcing brand consistency and recognition across all platforms. To ensure the new identity is fully embraced and understood by internal and external audiences, a deliberate one-year period of brand establishment was prioritized before considering any changes to the District's acronym. This strategic approach supports long-term brand equity and stakeholder alignment.

Brand Implementation and Expansion

- **New Visual Identity Launched (2024):**
 - Rolled out a refreshed logo and style guide after 50 years of the previous design.
 - Ensured consistent application across digital platforms, print materials, signage, and merchandise.
- **Brand Expansion in 2025:**
 - Developed branded presentation folders, certificates, lapel pins, and promotional items (e.g., cups, canisters, shirts, jackets, tote bags).

Strategic Brand Stewardship

- **One-Year Brand Establishment Period:**
 - Allowed time for the new logo to gain recognition and familiarity among students, employees, and community stakeholders.
 - Ensured consistent usage across all District and college communications before exploring acronym modifications.
- **Future Consideration of Acronym Shortening:**
 - Acknowledged interest in simplifying “SOCCCD” for ease of use.
 - Committed to evaluating this option only after the new brand has matured and stakeholder feedback has been gathered.

Ongoing Brand Engagement

- **Internal and External Communication:**
 - Reinforced the new identity through newsletters, social media, and event materials.
 - Promoted brand pride and awareness through storytelling and visual consistency.
- **Stakeholder Alignment:**
 - Engaged leadership, faculty, and staff in adopting the new brand.
 - Ensured community-facing materials reflect the updated identity to build trust and recognition.

Priority Objective 4.4: Support Chancellor in annual State of the District event

On February 28, 2025, SOCCCD successfully hosted its 2nd Annual State of the District (SOTD), officially establishing it as a recurring event led by District Services. The SOTD serves as a vital platform to communicate the Chancellor’s vision, elevate the Board of Trustees’ goals, and position the District as a forward-thinking leader in higher education. The event reflects a coordinated effort to engage stakeholders, celebrate student success, and reinforce SOCCCD’s commitment to innovation, equity, and access.

Strategic Planning and Messaging

- **Theme and Messaging Development:**
 - Crafted the event theme, script, and run-of-show to align with the Chancellor’s message and District strategic goals.
 - Emphasized the core message: *“Students are the Heart of Our Mission.”*
- **Visual Identity:**
 - Designed a cohesive visual identity for the event, reinforcing the District’s refreshed brand and professional image.

Multimedia and Storytelling

- **Highlight Video Production:**
 - Oversaw the creation of a professionally filmed video featuring student success stories, campus developments, and workforce partnerships.

- **Branded Collateral:**
 - Produced multimedia presentations and a printed District Annual Report, which continues to be used in legislative and community engagement efforts.

Stakeholder Engagement and Attendance

- **Diverse Representation:**
 - Secured participation from over 150 attendees, including civic, business, and education leaders from across Orange County.
- **Trustee Involvement:**
 - Provided customized talking points, coordinated press coverage, and ensured trustees were recognized and aligned with District messaging throughout the event.

Institutional Impact

- **Elevated Leadership Presence:**
 - Strengthened the Chancellor's public platform and amplified the visibility of the Board of Trustees.
- **Reinforced District Values:**
 - Demonstrated SOCCCD's commitment to transparency, accountability, and community partnership through a well-executed and mission-driven event.

Goal 5. Strengthen Engagement with Internal and External Stakeholders

Priority Objective 5.1: Create opportunities for board engagement with public (i.e. coffee with the trustees, etc.)

To foster meaningful, two-way communication between the SOCCCD Board of Trustees and the communities they serve, the District launched a series of intentional engagement opportunities outside of formal board meetings. These efforts are designed to humanize the board, build public trust, and provide accessible forums for dialogue on District priorities and community needs.

Community-Focused Engagement Events

- **“Coffee with the Trustees”:**
 - Informal, face-to-face gatherings with students, faculty, staff, and community members.
 - Strategically scheduled across both colleges and throughout the District service area to maximize accessibility and participation.

Event Promotion and Visibility

- **Branded Collateral and Outreach:**
 - Designed promotional materials including e-blasts, social media graphics, and targeted email campaigns to boost awareness and attendance.
- **Consistent Messaging:**
 - Provided curated talking points and real-time support to ensure trustees’ remarks aligned with District messaging and strategic goals.

Collaborative Event Planning

- **Partnership with College Staff:**
 - Co-hosted events with campus teams to extend the board’s reach and reinforce a culture of transparency and collaboration.
 - Included trustees in planning for ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, and other milestone events to ensure their presence and participation were integrated and meaningful.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Stronger Community Relationships:**
 - These initiatives have helped demystify the role of the Board of Trustees and fostered more personal, authentic connections with the public.
- **Informed Leadership:**
 - Trustees gained valuable, firsthand insights into local perspectives, helping to inform their decision-making and advocacy efforts.

Priority Objective 5.2: Explore options to publicize when trustees will be present at various events

To increase transparency and community connection, the District explored ways to publicize trustee participation at events. While a formal communication method to promote individual trustee attendance has not been implemented, several strategies have been used to highlight collective board engagement and ensure trustees are recognized in public forums.

Social Media and Digital Visibility

- **Event Coverage on Social Media:**
 - All events attended by the Board as a group are featured on the District’s enhanced social media platforms.

- Curated photos and posts tag trustees, increasing visibility and shareability across platforms.
- **Board Highlights Newsletter:**
 - Distributed after each board meeting to summarize key decisions and encourage stakeholders to visit the Board of Trustees webpage for more information.

Public Recognition at Events

- **Trustee Acknowledgment Protocol:**
 - Trustees are now consistently recognized and announced at events where elected officials are acknowledged.
 - This practice has been increasingly adopted at:
 - Orange County Business Council events
 - Chamber galas and city events
 - On-campus ceremonies and celebrations

Impact and Future Considerations

- **Increased Trustee Visibility:**
 - These efforts have elevated the public profile of trustees and reinforced their role as community representatives.
- **Opportunities for Growth:**
 - Future strategies may include a public-facing calendar or event preview feature to proactively share trustee participation in upcoming events.

Priority Objective 5.3: Continue advocacy for District stakeholders

Trustee presence has been a central focus in the District’s approach to legislative advocacy. From state and federal visits to campus-based meetings, the District has made a concerted effort to ensure trustees are included, informed, and visible in all interactions with elected officials. These efforts not only elevate the Board’s role but also strengthen the District’s credibility and influence in policy discussions.

Legislative Visit Coordination

- **Trustee Availability Prioritized:**
 - Scheduling for legislative visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. was coordinated with trustee calendars to ensure their participation.
 - Trustee presence was emphasized as a key component of advocacy efforts.

Legi

Campus-Based Engagement with Elected Officials

- **Invitations and Inclusion:**
 - Elected leaders were regularly invited to visit campuses for tours, events, and meetings.
 - Trustees were included in the planning and scheduling of these visits to ensure their involvement and visibility.
- **Recognition of Trustee Role:**
 - Trustees were acknowledged during campus visits and events, reinforcing their leadership role in the District’s governance.

Internal Communication and Notification Process

- **New Notification Protocol:**
 - A process was established to notify trustees when elected officials were on campus—even if the visit was unrelated to college business or involved external space rentals.
 - This ensured trustees remained informed and had the opportunity to engage when appropriate.

Impact and Strategic Value

- **Stronger Legislative Relationships:**
 - Trustee involvement has helped build stronger, more personal connections with elected officials.
- **Unified Advocacy Voice:**
 - These efforts have ensured that the District speaks with a unified voice, with trustees actively supporting and reinforcing key legislative priorities.

Priority Objective 5.4: Increase attendance at District events

Trustee attendance at District events is a vital component of effective governance and community engagement. By participating in both internal and external events, Board Members gain firsthand insight into the District’s culture, operations, and impact—while also demonstrating visible support for students, faculty, staff, and community partners. These efforts foster trust, boost morale, and strengthen the District’s public profile.

Internal District Events

Trustees consistently attended a wide range of internal events, reinforcing their commitment to student success, employee recognition, and campus development.

- **Student and Academic Celebrations:**
 - SC/IVC Commencement Ceremonies
 - SC/IVC Scholarship Ceremonies
 - SC Nurse Pinning Ceremony
 - IVC Student Recognition Celebration
 - SC Transfer Celebration
 - SC Foster Youth/NextUp Graduation
 - IVC Puente Celebration
- **Campus Milestones and Facilities:**
 - SC Quad Grand Opening
 - IVC Student Services Groundbreaking
 - SC Softball Ribbon Cutting
 - IVC Grand Opening of “The Spot”
- **Employee and Community Engagement:**
 - IVC/SC Employee Recognition Ceremonies
 - SC Classified Appreciation Luncheon
 - IVC Walk of Hope
 - IVC Pancakes with Partners Breakfast
 - IVC EOPS Adopt-a-Family Grinchmas Party
 - OC Teacher of the Year Banquet
- **Signature and Cultural Events:**
 - Chancellor’s State of the District
 - SC/IVC Foundation Galas
 - SC/IVC President’s Opening Sessions (Fall & Spring)
 - SC/IVC/District Holiday Parties
 - IVC DEIA Day
 - Inaugural IVC Women’s Tea
 - SC One Book One College

External Community and Legislative Events

Trustee participation in external events elevated the District’s visibility and strengthened relationships with civic, business, and legislative leaders.

- **Civic and Business Engagement:**

- OCBC Board of Directors Installation Dinner
- OCBC Annual Economic Forecast
- SOCEC Board Installation
- SOCEC Meet the Mayors
- State of the City of Irvine
- State of the County
- **Legislative and Advocacy Events:**
 - ACCT National Legislative Summit
 - CCLC Annual Legislative Conference
 - SOCEC Legislative Meet and Greet
 - Cottie Petrie-Norris Veteran of the Year Awards
 - Various meetings with local elected officials
- **Community and Education Events:**
 - OCSBA/ACSA Joint Dinner Meeting
 - OCSBA Empower Individuals Dinner
 - Goddard School Ribbon Cutting
 - Advantech Groundbreaking

Impact and Outcomes

- **Enhanced Oversight and Insight:**
 - Trustees gained a deeper understanding of District operations and community needs.
- **Stronger Public Presence:**
 - Trustee visibility at events reinforced the Board's commitment to transparency, advocacy, and engagement.
- **Boosted Morale and Trust:**
 - Presence at internal events fostered goodwill and strengthened relationships with faculty, staff, and students.

GOAL 6: ADVANCE BOARD GOVERNANCE AND CEO RELATIONS

Priority Objective 6.1: Continue to meet and talk with legislators

As part of the Board of Trustees' commitment to advancing legislative priorities, the District has implemented a proactive and coordinated government relations strategy. These efforts ensure that trustees are consistently engaged with local, state, and federal lawmakers, helping to position SOCCCD as a respected voice in higher education policy and a trusted partner in workforce development.

Strategic Legislative Engagement

- **Coordinated Legislative Visits:**
 - Planned and facilitated districtwide advocacy trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.
 - Ensured trustee participation in meetings with key legislators, committee staff, and agency representatives.
- **In-District Advocacy:**
 - Organized campus tours and legislative briefings with elected officials.
 - Created opportunities for trustees to share District successes and challenges directly with policymakers.

Tailored Advocacy Materials

- **Custom Briefing Packets:**
 - Developed one-pagers, talking points, and briefing materials aligned with District priorities.
 - Focused on key issues such as student housing, workforce funding, and basic needs support.
- **Message Alignment:**
 - Ensured trustees and the Chancellor were equipped with consistent, impactful messaging for all legislative interactions.

Ongoing Relationship Building

- **Regular Communication with Legislative Offices:**
 - Maintained contact with elected officials and their staff through updates, invitations, and follow-ups.
 - Encouraged participation in District events such as the State of the District.
- **Trustee Participation in Policy Forums:**
 - Supported trustee attendance at regional, state, and national convenings, including:
 - ACCT and CCCT conferences
 - Orange County Legislative Task Force meetings

Governance Support

- **Board Legislative Subcommittee:**
 - Continued to support the subcommittee with agenda development, reports, and meeting minutes.
 - Provided a structured forum for trustees to track and discuss legislative priorities.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Elevated Policy Influence:**

- Strengthened SOCCCD's reputation among policymakers as a forward-thinking, student-centered institution.
- **Empowered Trustee Advocacy:**
 - Provided trustees with a respected platform to influence legislation and advocate for community college needs.

Priority Objective 6.2: Build in more opportunities for Trustees' interaction with the Chancellor

A strong, collaborative relationship between the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor is essential to effective governance and strategic leadership. Throughout the year, intentional efforts were made to foster open communication, strengthen trust, and align priorities through regular and meaningful interactions.

Regular and Structured Communication

- **Monthly Board Officers Meetings:**
 - Provided a consistent forum for the Chancellor and Board Officers to discuss governance matters, upcoming priorities, and strategic direction.
- **One-on-One Meetings:**
 - Periodic off-site meetings between individual trustees and the Chancellor allowed for deeper dialogue and relationship-building in a more informal setting.
- **Email and Verbal Updates:**
 - Ongoing communication via email and in-person conversations ensured trustees remained informed on critical issues impacting the District and its colleges.

Joint Participation in Key Events

- **State and National Convenings:**
 - Trustees and the Chancellor jointly participated in major conferences and legislative events, including League convenings and national advocacy summits.
- **Community Engagement Events:**
 - Collaborative attendance at regional events such as OCBC, Meet the Mayors, and K-12 partner events helped reinforce a unified leadership presence.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Stronger Governance Alignment:**
 - Regular interaction fostered alignment on strategic goals and enhanced the Board's ability to provide informed oversight.
- **Increased Trust and Transparency:**
 - Open lines of communication contributed to a culture of mutual respect, shared purpose, and collaborative problem-solving.

Priority Objective 6.3: Continue to build capacity for effective board governance

Ongoing professional development is essential to maintaining a high-functioning and informed Board of Trustees. This year, trustees continued to build their governance capacity by participating in a range of local, state, and national conferences and serving on influential boards and committees. These opportunities provided valuable insights into best practices, policy trends, and leadership strategies in community college governance.

Conference Participation and Governance Training

- **League Convention – November 2024 (Burlingame, CA)**

- Trustees attended sessions focused on board roles, student-centered policy, and effective governance models.
- **League's Annual Legislative Conference – January 2025 (Sacramento, CA)**
 - Provided updates on state legislative priorities and opportunities for direct engagement with lawmakers.
- **ACCT National Legislative Conference – February 2025 (Washington, D.C.)**
 - Focused on federal policy issues impacting community colleges and included meetings with congressional representatives.
- **ACCT Governance Leadership Institute – March 2025 (Oahu, HI)**
 - Offered in-depth training on board responsibilities, CEO relations, and strategic oversight.

Board and Committee Involvement

- **Local and National Representation**
 - Trustees served on various boards and committees, contributing to broader conversations on education policy and governance excellence.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Enhanced Governance Effectiveness**
 - Participation in these events strengthened trustees' understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- **Strategic Alignment and Leadership Growth**
 - Trustees returned with actionable insights that support informed decision-making and alignment with District goals.

GOAL 7: ESTABLISH AND REVIEW POLICIES TO ASSURE QUALITY, INTEGRITY, AND EFFECTIVENESS

Priority Objective 7.1: Include National Legislative Policy Discussions and Decisions in District-Wide Communications

To ensure that SOCCCD stakeholders remain informed and engaged in national policy developments affecting higher education, the District has embedded federal legislative updates into its broader communications strategy. These efforts aim to increase awareness of how national decisions impact local operations, funding, and student services—while also highlighting the Board of Trustees’ active role in shaping and responding to these discussions.

Strategic Communication Tools

- **Legislative Priorities Document:**
 - Created a stand-alone document outlining SOCCCD’s federal legislative priorities.
 - Distributed to trustees, staff, and students to support advocacy efforts and increase understanding of key issues.
 - Made publicly available on the District website to promote transparency and civic awareness.
- **Chancellor and District Communications:**
 - Integrated national legislative updates into the Chancellor’s messages, the District website, and the annual report.
 - Topics included Pell Grant expansion, FAFSA delays, and federal workforce funding.

Advocacy and Policy Alignment

- **Federal Advocacy Trip Briefings:**
 - Developed issue briefs and legislative snapshots following Washington, D.C. visits.
 - Highlighted trustee participation and alignment with national organizations such as ACCT and AACC.
- **Flagship Event Integration:**
 - Featured national policy priorities during the State of the District and other major events to connect local efforts with federal policy trends.

Collaborative Legislative Engagement

- **Partnership with Elected Officials:**
 - Included statements, sponsored bills, and community college support from elected officials in District communications.
 - Shared letters of support or opposition and coordinated with OC delegates on legislative priorities.
- **Cross-Departmental Coordination:**

- Worked with departments such as Research, OPES, Admissions, Grants, and the Foundation to translate policy updates into practical, student-focused messaging.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Increased Stakeholder Awareness:**
 - Broadened understanding of how national policy affects SOCCCD's mission and operations.
- **Strengthened Civic Engagement:**
 - Empowered students, staff, and trustees to participate in advocacy with accurate, timely information.
- **Reinforced Leadership Role:**
 - Demonstrated SOCCCD's proactive stance in shaping and responding to national higher education policy.

Priority Objective 7.2: Continue to improve understanding of Board Ethics

Maintaining high ethical standards is essential to effective governance and public trust. SOCCCD continues to prioritize ethics education and policy review to ensure trustees are well-informed, transparent, and aligned with their responsibilities as public officials. This year's efforts focused on formal training and active participation in policy development.

Board Ethics Training

- **AB 1234 Compliance:**
 - Trustees completed the required two-hour ethics training on July 23, 2024, in accordance with California Assembly Bill 1234.
 - The training covered ethical duties under the Political Reform Act of 1974 and the unique responsibilities of public officials.
- **Purpose and Impact:**
 - Reinforced understanding of legal and ethical obligations.
 - Supported a culture of integrity and accountability in board governance.

Policy Review and Oversight

- **Board Policy Subcommittee Meetings:**
 - August 2024: Regular subcommittee meeting.
 - February 2025: Special subcommittee meeting.
 - April 2025: Special subcommittee meeting.
- **Policy and Regulation Updates:**
 - Reviewed and approved 48 Board Policies and 43 Administrative Regulations during the 2024–25 academic year.
 - Ensured policies reflect current legal standards, institutional priorities, and ethical governance practices.

Impact and Outcomes

- **Strengthened Governance Framework:**
 - Regular policy review and ethics training contribute to a more informed and effective Board.
- **Public Trust and Transparency:**
 - Demonstrated commitment to ethical leadership and responsible decision-making.