

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Students
ARE AT THE
Heart of
our Mission



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Saddleback College • Irvine Valley College

SOCCCD

South Orange County

Community College District



2025 Annual Report

The South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) is proud to present its 2025 Annual Report, a testament to our unwavering commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and student success. This report shares the District's milestones in the building of a future that inspires greatness and fosters opportunities for all.

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“An annual report is more than a reflection of our achievements; it is a tool to show transparency, accountability, and our ongoing commitment to student success and community impact.”

– **Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes**



Welcome

from
Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, Ed.D.

Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes

Students are at the Heart of our Mission

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2025, I am honored to share the South Orange County Community College District's (SOCCCD) Annual Report — a testament to a year of impact, innovation, and community-centered progress. Across Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and the Advanced Technology Education Park, we have advanced our mission to empower students, strengthen partnerships, and amplify our role as a driving force for equity, opportunity, and economic vitality.

This year, SOCCCD marked major milestones that underscore our commitment to excellence. Our colleges continued to receive national recognition for student success and workforce preparation, with both Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College named among the Nation's Top 200 by the Aspen Institute — underscoring our sustained focus on high-quality outcomes, equity, and innovation.

Our economic impact remains undeniable. A newly released economic impact report confirmed that SOCCCD contributes more than \$2 billion annually to the Orange County economy, affirming the district's role as a key regional economic engine — preparing talent, expanding opportunity, and fueling local growth.

Student success initiatives and strategic partnerships also shaped the year. We expanded special tuition opportunities with ASU Online to help students pursue bachelor's degrees affordably and extended efforts to support accelerated return on investment, with both Saddleback and Irvine Valley College ranked among California's top 25 colleges for fastest ROI.

Culture and care for students and employees are core to our identity. In December,

SOCCCD moved to district-wide implementation of Caring Campus, reinforcing our commitment to a supportive, student-centered environment where every learner and employee feels valued and empowered to thrive.

We celebrated leadership and service across our community as well. Trustee Marcia Milchiker was honored for 40 years of extraordinary service, and our Board President and a Trustee were appointed to national leadership committees, emphasizing SOCCCD's influence and engagement at the state and national level.

Looking ahead, the adoption and implementation of our Inspire 2035 strategic plan will guide our decade-long vision to elevate student outcomes, deepen community partnerships, and strengthen workforce alignment to meet the needs of tomorrow's learners and industries.

This Annual Report is a reflection of collective dedication — from the Board of Trustees and faculty, to staff, community partners, and, above all, our remarkable students. Their resilience, creativity, and achievement drive everything we do. Thank you for your support and partnership. Together, we will continue to innovate, uplift, and expand opportunities across South Orange County and beyond.

*With gratitude,
Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, Ed.D.*





Board of Trustees members Marcia Milchiker and Terri Rydell observing a nursing class in session.



Trustee Timothy Jemal and Board President Carolyn Inmon getting feedback from students.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear South Orange County Community,

It is my honor to share this annual report on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the South Orange County Community College District. This past year reflects the collective strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment of our students, faculty, staff, and leadership to ensuring access, excellence, and opportunity for all.

Across our District—at Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and the Advanced Technology & Education Park—we continue to see the powerful impact of public higher education when innovation, equity, and community partnership come together. From expanding workforce-aligned programs and strengthening transfer pathways to investing in modern facilities and student-centered services, SOCCCD remains focused on preparing learners not only for today's economy, but for the future that lies ahead.

The Board of Trustees is proud to work in partnership with Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, our college presidents, and their dedicated teams to advance strategic priorities that support student success, close equity gaps, and respond to the evolving needs of our region. Whether through workforce development initiatives, expanded access to higher education, or meaningful engagement with local and state partners, our District continues to serve as a vital engine for social mobility and economic growth in South Orange County.

As you review this report, you will see examples of what is possible when a community invests in education and when an institution remains grounded in its mission while boldly embracing innovation. On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of SOCCCD. We are proud of what we have accomplished together — and even more excited about what lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Inmon, President, Board of Trustees



Back row: **T.J. Prendergast III**, Clerk; **Timothy Jemal**, Member; **Ryan Dack**, Vice President
 Front row: **Terri Rydell**, Member; **Marcia Milchiker**, Member; **Lisa A. Bartlett**, Member; **Carolyn Inmon**, President

Pablo & Juan Angel Rivera

IVC Program Sparks STEM Interest

After graduating from Segerstrom High School in Santa Ana last spring, Pablo Rivera got an early start on his college education by participating in Irvine Valley College's MESA SPARK program, an eight-week summer initiative that provides underrepresented and low-income students with hands-on STEM research, skill-building and mentorship to prepare them for high-demand STEM careers.

As part of the experience, Rivera selected a project that allowed him to develop an AI-enabled weather station that used current and historical data to predict weather patterns an hour in advance. He not only gained valuable STEM skills, but SPARK also gave him the chance to get acclimated to his new campus home.

"This program has really helped me set a foot into IVC and helped me learn what there is to come. It made me feel at home before I really got there, so I don't feel unfamiliar with my surroundings."

— Pablo Rivera, IVC Student

Rivera was introduced to IVC's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program (MESA) by his older brother, Juan Angel Rivera, a MESA participant from 2023 to 2025 who now studies mechanical engineering at Cal State Fullerton. The brothers attended the MESA program together last summer, where Juan developed an AI-powered rover that navigates autonomously and monitors temperatures to detect potential wildfires.

As the first in his family to attend college, Juan feels a sense of responsibility to set a positive

example for Pablo and his younger siblings when it comes to building their future careers.

"I wanted to teach him everything I knew about research and help him discover his own interests," said Juan of Pablo. "Watching him grow more independent throughout SPARK makes me feel proud and accomplished, knowing he's doing his own thing now. I couldn't be more proud of the person he's becoming."

Juan Rivera received the MESA Program's Transfer Scholarship and also participated in the Undergraduate Research Experience at CSUF, opportunities introduced to him by IVC.

"The resources I was shown by IVC that are offered by CSUF, and the ways they can help me in my academic journey, I now use whenever I am looking for certain help," Juan said. "I don't know where [I would] be without his help."

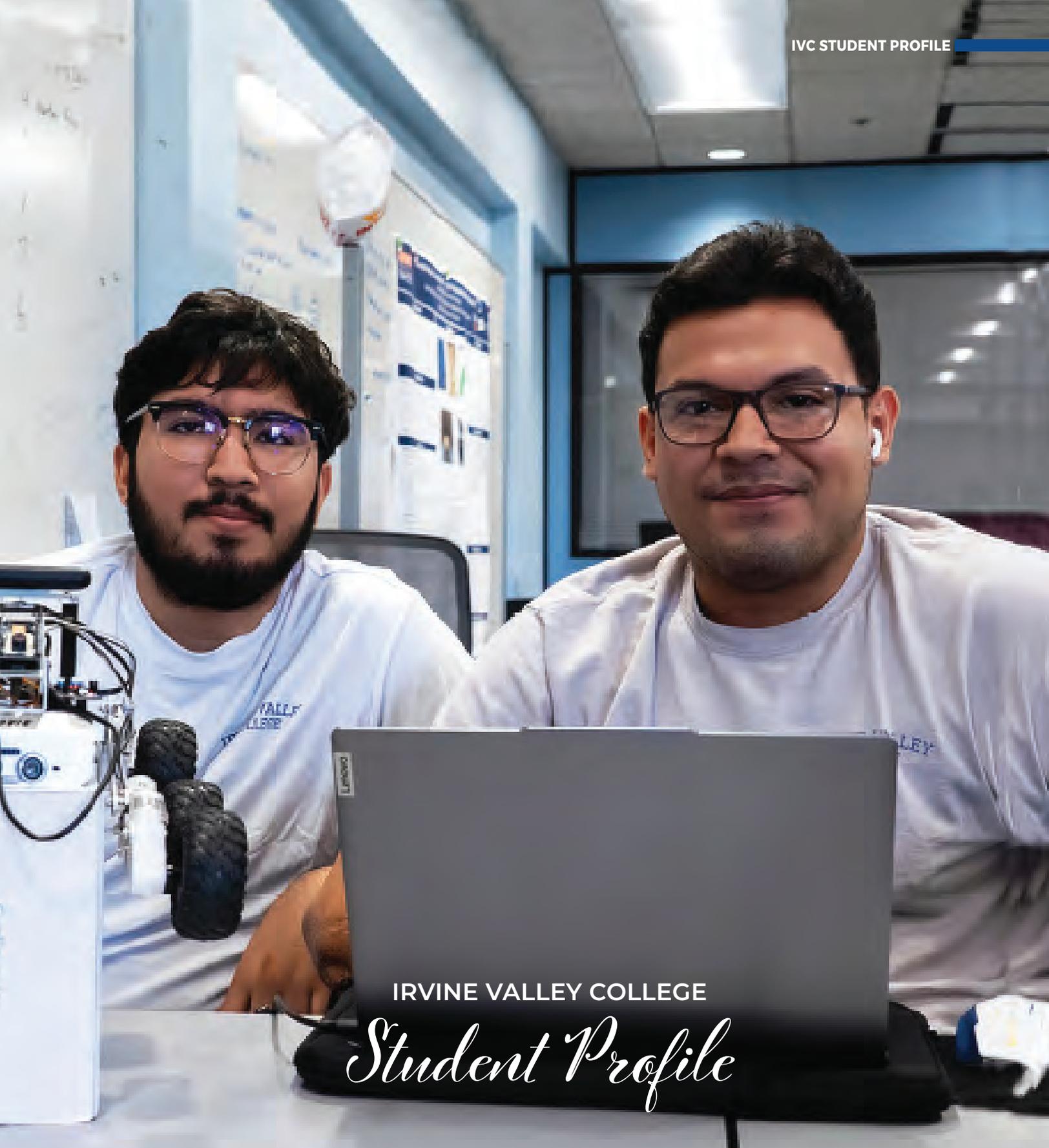
Pablo Rivera currently serves as a student assistant at IVC's MESA Center, a dedicated campus space that offers STEM tutoring and support for students' personal, academic and professional growth. He is pursuing an associate degree in computer science with plans to transfer to a four-year institution. Inspired by the impact IVC had on his brother Juan's career, he is grateful for MESA and the support the college provides.

"I saw what they were able to do [for Juan], and I felt like it would have the same effect on me and open the same amount of opportunities," Pablo said. "It has been positive because of how friendly the environment is at IVC and the resources provided to students. A college campus can't be complete without good resources."



**Irvine Valley
College**

Text adapted from an O.C. Register article.



IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

Student Profile

"I wanted to teach him everything I knew about research and help him discover his own interests. Watching him grow more independent throughout SPARK makes me feel proud."

– Juan Angel (right) about his brother Pablo (left).



Student Profile

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

“I’m very proud of everything I’ve accomplished within Saddleback... veterans at Saddleback are very fortunate that there are great programs and overwhelming support.”

James Boogerd, Saddleback College Student

James Boogerd

A Veteran Finds His Place at Saddleback

Saddleback College student James Boogerd, a native of Minneapolis, served four years as a United States Marine, based at Camp Pendleton. When his enlistment concluded in 2024, he explored local education options and found his way to Saddleback, where he connected with Kolin Williams, the director for the school's Veterans Education and Transition Services program. He immediately felt at home.

"Talking to them about benefits and programs (for veterans), they're very knowledgeable," Boogerd said. "That gave me a lot of good first impressions and made me want to stay in Southern California instead of moving back home."

Now in his second year as a political science major, Boogerd is a member of Saddleback's chapter of Student Veterans of America and serves as the senator for the Veterans Student Council within the college's Associated Student Government, where he represents veterans and other military-affiliated students on campus.

"Veterans like to stay isolated or within their own communities ... so a lot of my efforts have been trying to integrate veterans into the student body," Boogerd said. "Veterans bring a lot of life experience to the student body because the military is such a unique experience."

Boogerd recently represented Saddleback at the Student Veterans of America Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. Selected as one of only 100 student veterans nationwide, he gained insights from top executives at organizations, such as Boeing and Wounded Warrior Project, and left with a renewed

"A common theme I saw within the course is ownership ... owning your beliefs and what your core values are. Not only owning your achievements and how far you've come ... but also owning your mistakes and learning from your mistakes. Even if there's a rough experience, it's about having ownership of that and moving forward."

– James Boogerd

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran & Saddleback student

understanding of what it means to take ownership of his past and future.

As part of his work with ASG, Boogerd collaborates with several Saddleback clubs and organizations to create opportunities and develop policies that support military-affiliated students. His current projects include partnering with Recycle for Veterans for a beach cleanup event. He worked with the athletic events committee to organize Military Appreciation Day at Saddleback's football game on Nov. 8, 2025.

Boogerd will pursue a bachelor's degree in political science and plans to apply for the Green & Gold Congressional Aide Program, a two-year paid opportunity for veterans to work with the U.S. House of Representatives. His long-term goals include attending law school and advocating for veterans and active service members in legal disputes. He credits the resources and support available to veterans at Saddleback for helping him build the foundation to pursue these goals. Boogerd shared, "Veterans at Saddleback are very fortunate that there are great programs and support."

Text adapted from an O.C. Register article.



**SADDLEBACK
COLLEGE**

Irvine Valley College

Since its founding 40 years ago, Irvine Valley College has conferred nearly 62,000 degrees and certificates, transforming lives and giving students multiple pathways for university transfer, career advancement, and personal enrichment. Beyond academics, IVC offers a vibrant and welcoming student experience. It competes in 10 varsity sports and provides dynamic opportunities in the arts, including theater, music, and dance. Year-round events celebrate culture, diversity, and community, ensuring every student feels supported.

40th Anniversary in 2025

On Oct. 22, IVC celebrated its 40th anniversary, when it became the 105th community college in California. At that time, the college “was buried behind the orange trees at the corner of Jeffrey Road and Irvine Center Drive,” said Jan Wyma, professor emeritus of fine arts.

Today, IVC is recognized as a major contributor to the regional economy and features a campus of modern structures, with more under construction to accommodate its growing student body. The college has won many accolades, including being ranked by WalletHub as the 12th best community college in the U.S.

Student enrollment at IVC exceeded 16,000 this fall, the highest in IVC’s history and a big leap since a decline during the pandemic. The campus community is diverse and includes students from more than 38 countries.

The increase in enrollment can be attributed to several factors, said IVC President John Hernandez. One is the more than 4,000 IVC students who are in high school while taking college classes as part of a dual-enrollment program.

Classes in English as a second language, or ESL, also attract students. “In a city like

Irvine, which is an international community, we have a significant population that is trying to gain English proficiency,” Hernandez said.

“We had 3,000 learners enrolled in our adult ESL last year,” said Hernandez.

The IVC Promise program provides free tuition for qualified students for their first two years of college. “The program includes a book voucher and wraparound support, making sure they have an education plan,” Hernandez said. “We’re in our eighth cohort of IVC Promise and this year we have 2,034 students enrolled in it. A lot of parents are seeing this as an opportunity to save a lot of money and get an excellent education that prepares students to transfer wherever they want.”

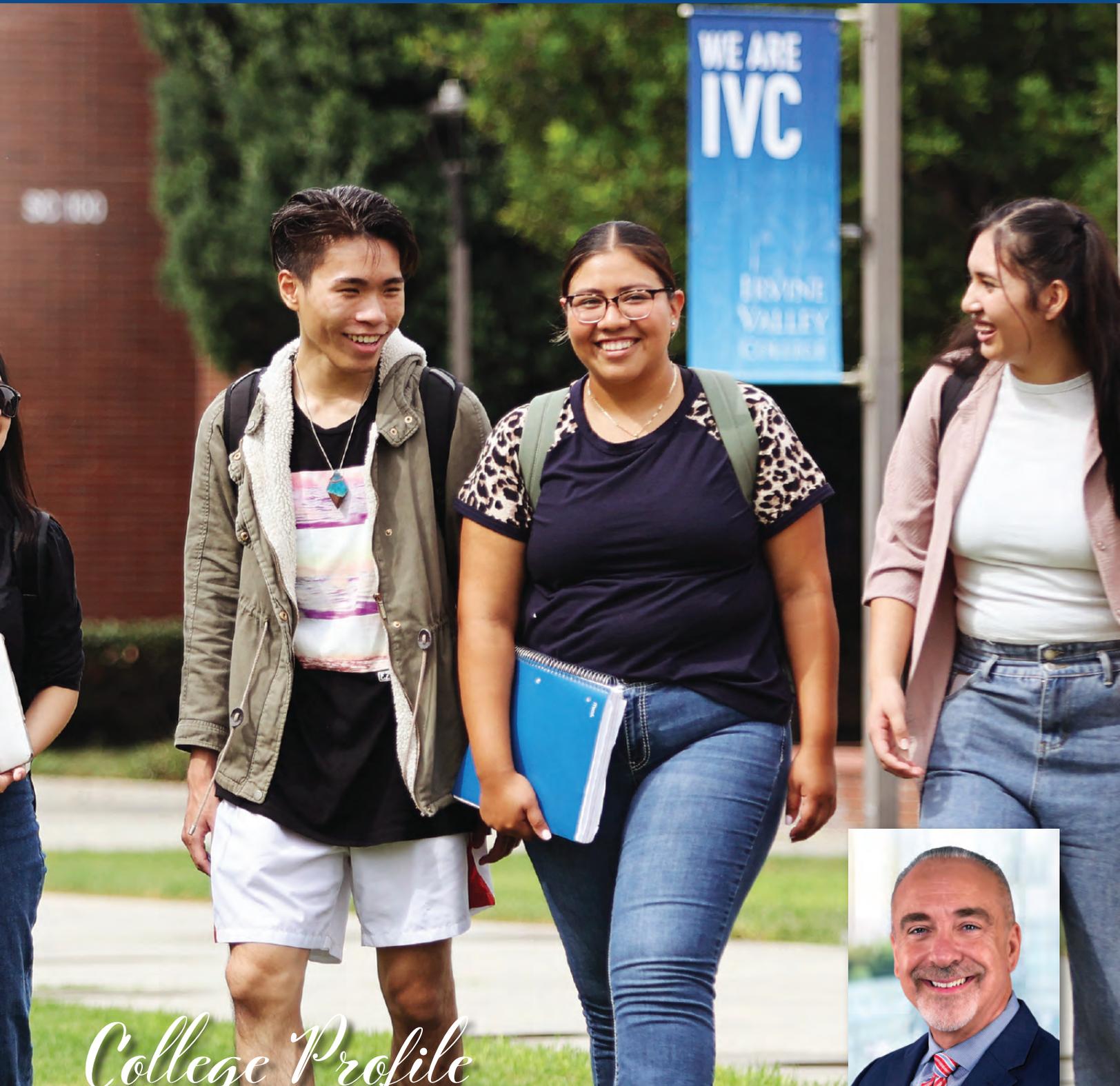
To make students feel welcome, IVC is part of a national initiative called Caring Campus. “It’s a recognition that we have a responsibility to create welcoming spaces and a culture of belonging so that our students feel valued,” Hernandez said. IVC offers a free food pantry, a free clothing closet, and connections to get rent assistance and hotel vouchers.



Irvine Valley
College

Text adapted from an O.C. Register article.

#1 IN TRANSFERS IN ORANGE COUNTY TO THE UC SYSTEM



College Profile

Founded
1985

Size
100 Acres

City
Irvine

Students Fall 2025
24,008

President
Dr. John C. Hernandez

Saddleback College

Saddleback College has been serving students for 57 years, with more than 500,000 alumni who can attest to the quality of its academic and career programs. This long record of success shows Saddleback College is an ideal place for students seeking associate degrees, certificates, university transfers, workforce training, or simply pursuing lifelong learning. Saddleback College is fully accredited, offering more than 300 associate degrees, certificates, and occupational skills awards in 190 program areas.

Peak Student Enrollment

This year saw the most students ever enrolled at Saddleback College, exceeding 45,500 in the Fall 2025 semester. Students are drawn to a wide variety of programs, which include study abroad, cooperative work experience, and honors programs. The online options are extensive, with Saddleback offering 132 fully-online degrees, certificates, and occupational skills awards.

Saddleback offers non-academic resources as well – such as a fully-staffed medical center, a basic needs center, financial assistance, and mental health counseling. The college also invites students to enjoy the full campus experience by joining clubs, attending cultural events, cheering on athletic teams, or seeing a performance at the McKinney Theatre.

Saddleback College earned a No. 8 national ranking in a WalletHub study, which cited “the college’s strong academic programs, high graduation rates and proven student outcomes.” The findings of the WalletHub study were announced just after Saddleback was placed first out of 42 colleges in

Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego Counties for both wage gains after earning a degree from the college and a person’s salary 10 years after graduation.

Saddleback’s Career Technical Education programs – ranging from nursing to culinary arts to automotive technology – offer direct pipelines to employment for students.

The college’s Honors Program, which has priority admission agreements with UC and CSU campuses, is tailored for high-achieving students aiming to transfer to top-tier universities.

According to College Factual, Saddleback College’s freshman retention rate of 75% is well above the national average, and its four-year graduation rate of 43% is a strong showing for a community college. “Graduates leave Saddleback with thinking skills, experience and knowledge that translate into good jobs that transform their lives,” said Elliot Stern, president of Saddleback College. “The work we do to prepare our students for transfer and careers is meaningful and adds value well beyond their time at Saddleback.”



SADDLEBACK
COLLEGE

Text adapted from an O.C. Register article.

#1 IN WAGE GAINS FOR STUDENTS AT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGES



College Profile

Founded
1968

Size
200 Acres

City
Mission Viejo

Students Fall 2025
45,593

President
Dr. Elliot Stern

Advanced Technology & Education Park

ATEP is a 61.4 acre developing campus in Tustin that is dedicated to workforce training. In addition to both colleges having instructional buildings at ATEP, the district also leases parcels to educational and commercial companies who then provide internships and work programs to students.



HQ
OPENS
2026

WARE-
HOUSE
OPENS
2026

ADVANTECH, a global leader in technology and industrial computing solutions, is building their North America headquarters at ATEP. Advantech will have a six-story office tower and a two-story warehouse on a 10-acre site. The second floor of the office tower is dedicated to educational purposes, supporting collaboration between Advantech and SOCCCD. The warehouse will be used for light manufacturing and packaging of computer-related products.





OPEN

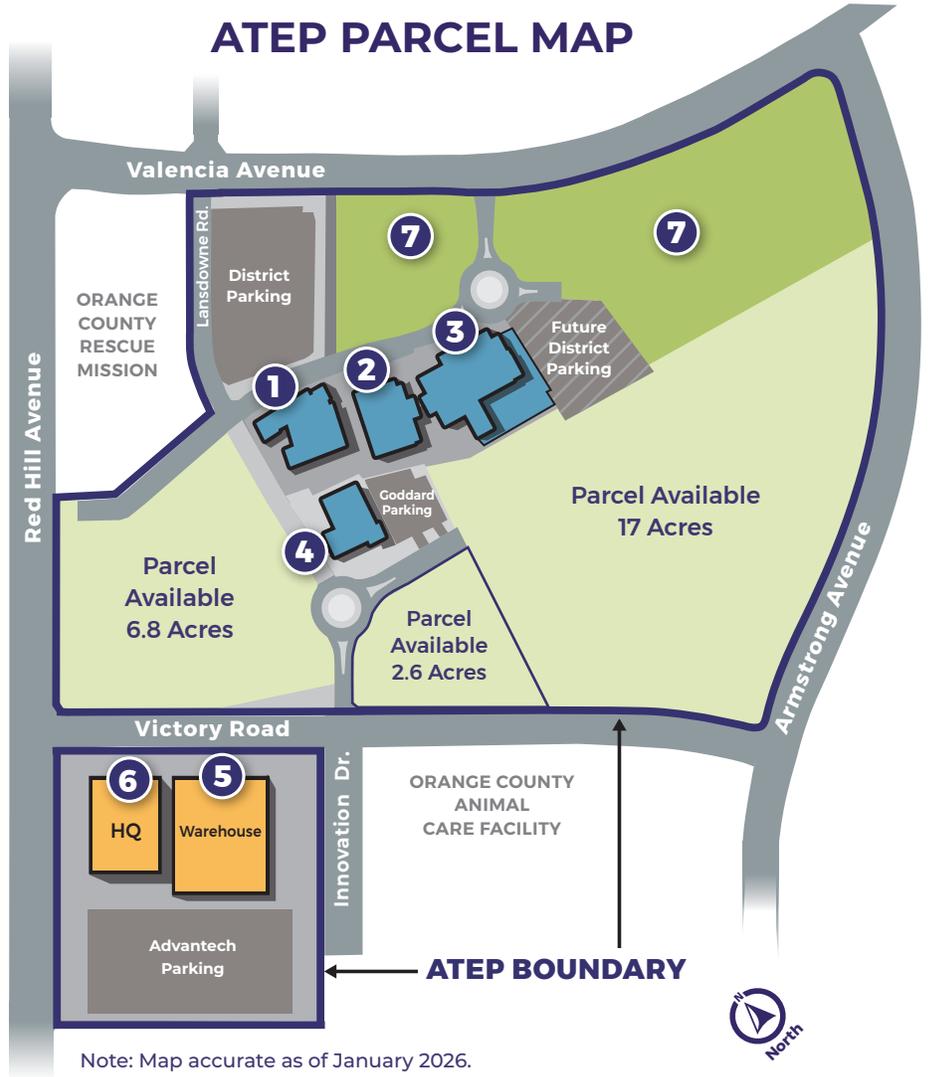
- 1 IVC IDEA Building**
Opened June 2018
- 2 Saddleback Culinary Arts**
Opened Aug. 2025
- 3 Saddleback Automotive Tech.**
Opened Aug. 2025
- 4 Goddard School**
Opened Dec. 2024

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- 5 Advantech Warehouse**
Opens Spring 2026
- 6 Advantech Headquarters**
Opens late 2026

IN NEGOTIATION

- 7 Top Tennis Management**
11.05 acre parcel



SADDLEBACK@ATEP opened in Aug. 2025 with new buildings for the Culinary Arts / Hospitality program and the Automotive Technology program. At a total of almost 50,000 square feet, the buildings host classrooms, auto shops, high-tech labs, four commercial kitchens, a restaurant, and a coffee bar.

Workforce Training at ATEP

The latest addition to ATEP is Saddleback College's nearly 50,000-square-foot buildings housing for the highly regarded Automotive Technology and Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management programs. This fall's first Saddleback@ATEP cohort, which began in August, is composed of some 200 on-site students across both programs.

"It's so exceptional to have these two programs together which blend art and science. They're different and yet they're married so well – and they're in these two separate facilities in a way that complements each other."

– Casey Cooper

Interim ATEP operations and programs manager

Saddleback Automotive Technology

Students have access to a 30,000-square-foot facility that includes classroom space and an automotive shop with 14 lift bays and workstations. "Every lift includes a massive screen and camera that have advanced features. I've seen our lead instructor place a quarter on the ground at least 25 feet away and still zoom in on the quarter's detail," Cooper said. "The instructors can use their cameras to highlight whatever part of a car they want to discuss — the engine, under the car itself — without the students having to huddle around one little area."

Along with the lifts, the shop area includes multiple demonstration lab spaces, a vast array of equipment, and a fleet of vehicles. All of space is lit by nature light flooding in. Courses include automotive fundamentals – such as electrical, emissions, diesel technology, suspension, and alignment. Additionally, there are courses that focus on the future, such as autonomous vehicles and alternative propulsion systems.

"It's awesome here. I've seen a few different auto service areas and the one I work at (Tuttle-Click Hyundai in the Irvine Auto Center) doesn't compare. Neither does Porsche's. We have everything you can think of in a shop. Every machine is brand new and state-of-the-art."

– Daniella Trevino

Automotive technology student

Text adapted from an O.C. Register article.



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY



This 1975 Chevrolet Corvette is auto tech's unofficial mascot. It features a 5.7 liter engine with a 4-speed manual transmission. The Corvette was donated to the program in non-running condition and has been restored by students. The vehicle is used in classes for learning about suspension, alignment, brakes, and engine performance. Students volunteered for days to buff the paint to this level of shine.

*“Little Red
Corvette”*

CULINARY ARTS



Text adapted from an O.C. Register article.

Workforce Training at ATEP

One critical element of both programs are how many of the instructors are highly regarded in their field, with deep industry experience and passion for teaching. Casey Cooper gives an example in the Culinary Arts program, “One of our faculty is an executive chef at Laguna Beach’s The Ranch.”

“I really enjoy walking these facilities. It’s fun to be in an environment that’s so beautiful in terms of aesthetics, and the care that goes into the teaching and the love that the instructors are pouring into the student experience is just wonderful.”

– Casey Cooper

Interim ATEP operations and programs manager

Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management

The 20,000-square-foot Culinary Arts facility features four state-of-the-art commercial kitchen labs that include large-screen monitors, allowing students to observe demonstrations without needing to crowd around their instructor. “They have a beautiful view of the instruction, whether the chef is highlighting techniques in front of them or showing videos that have been previously sourced,” Cooper said.

The names of the student-run eatery and coffee bar — Summit Restaurant and Peaks, respectively — honor the college’s namesake, Saddleback Mountain. The program uses Restaurant365, the same software used in back offices by working restaurants, and Toast, a point-of-service software package used throughout the industry. Along with basics such as culinary principles, food preparation essentials and sanitation and safety, this fall’s classes focus on such specialties as French bistro, Asian and Italian cuisine, wine and beverages, several baking classes, and restaurant management.

“The Culinary Arts kitchens offer a lot of room for students to grow. The different labs are very well put together, so students can practice their cooking and baking skills. The Summit Restaurant is built with a professional kitchen. It provides a great opportunity to cook in a real restaurant.”

– Blake Lumley

Earning a Culinary Arts AA degree





Student Leadership

"I'm honored to serve here. If I can help even a few students realize how much potential they have, then I've done my job."

- **Blake Leonard**, SOCCCD Student Trustee

Student Trustee Blake Leonard: A Veteran Redefining Leadership at SOCCCD

When Blake Leonard raised his right hand on the day he was sworn in as the Student Trustee for the South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD), he stepped into a role he never imagined for himself. A Marine Corps veteran with seven years of service, Blake didn't arrive on campus intending to enter student government — let alone make history. But that's precisely what he did.

During a Student Veterans of America trip to Washington, D.C. earlier this year, Blake learned something surprising: no student veteran had ever served on the SOCCCD Board of Trustees. "I had no idea what the role even was," he recalled. "But as soon as I heard that no veteran had done it before, I said, 'Okay, I'm going to run.'"

Blake's path to leadership is rooted in family and forged in military service. Raised in a tight-knit Irish-Italian family of entrepreneurs, he grew up surrounded by examples of self-starting grit and responsibility. His years in the Marine Corps sharpened that foundation. "I was blessed with some of the greatest human beings," he said. "My leaders showed me that leadership isn't complicated — do your part and take care of your people."

That philosophy shapes his approach to serving more than 50,000 students across SOCCCD. Though older than the typical student trustee and new to Southern California, Blake quickly found his voice on the dais. Fellow students tell him they appreciate his candor and directness — qualities he jokingly attributes to his Italian roots. "I say what I mean and mean what I say. Students need that. Some are afraid to voice what they believe or dream bigger. I want them to know they're not as far from greatness as they think — whether that's Stanford, Harvard, or anywhere else."

Blake believes in the potential of his peers. He worries that too many young people are hesitant to

dream out loud, weighed down by social media pressures or fear of rejection. "It's sad hearing students say, 'I'll just go wherever accepts me,'" he said. "Why not dream? Someone gets into those great schools — why not you?"

His message is simple: embrace ambition, communicate boldly, and don't underestimate yourself. "Even if education isn't your path, you need to know how to articulate who you are and where you're going. That soft skill will take you places."

Months into his trustee term, Blake has already made an impact — connecting with students across demographics, representing the district at public meetings, and pushing for student success with refreshing honesty and heart.

As for what comes after his trustee service, Blake remains open. "It's whatever God has planned for me," he said. But he does have dreams: completing his bachelor's degree, earning a MBA, and taking over his father's real estate brokerage in the Midwest. "It's a business with our family name on it. I feel a real purpose in carrying it forward."

And beyond that? "Maybe politics," he says with a modest shrug — but his confidence, clarity, and lived experience make that future easy to imagine. For now, Blake is focused on serving SOCCCD students with integrity, humility, and the leadership principles he learned long before stepping onto a community college campus.



Corporal Blake Leonard, ▶
U.S. Marine Corps, serving in
Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2021.



Trustees in Action

Serving as a trustee goes well beyond the boardroom. The trustees are actively engaged with the community and students, attending events, promoting the District, and effectively communicating its core messages numerous times each month.



Trustees Lisa A. Bartlett, Marcia Milchiker, Blake Leonard, and Carolyn Inmon attended the Veterans Day commemoration on Nov. 11 at the Veterans Memorial at Saddleback College.

On Aug. 11, the trustees and District leadership cut the ribbon on the new Saddleback@ATEP buildings. The completion of the more than \$81 million complex marked a major step in the development of the Tustin campus.

Trustees Lisa A. Bartlett, Terri Rydell, and Marcia Milchiker attended the grand opening of the Saddleback softball stadium.



Board of Trustees



Trustees T.J. Prendergast III and Ryan Dack answered questions from staff at a "Coffee and Tea with the Board" event at IVC.



Trustees Timothy Jemal and Lisa A. Bartlett at a grand opening event at ATEP.



Fulfilling District Goals

Putting goals and plans into action, District leadership interacted with the community and the colleges frequently during 2025. Whether it was attending fund-raising events, supporting outreach to students in need, or starting and finishing important new facilities, the chancellor and trustees were there!

In a transformative investment in student success and campus innovation, IVC started construction on its new Student Union and Student Services buildings in April. At an estimated cost of \$102 million, these state-of-the-art buildings span more than 73,000 square feet. The project will consolidate all student services and includes a redesigned quad and drop-off area.



Trustee
Timothy Jemal

Trustee
Marcia Milchiker

IVC President
John C. Hernandez

Trustee
Carolyn Inmon

Trustee
Ryan Dack

State of the District 2025



In a far-ranging discussion, the college presidents and the chancellor shared important accomplishments and goals at the 2025 State of the District.

Trustees and the chancellor visited Sacramento to advocate for legislative priorities in support of the colleges.



Chancellor
Julianna M.
Asperin Barnes

Trustee
Lisa A. Bartlett

Trustee
Terri Rydell





Inspire 2035

Road Map to the Future

In 2025, the District released an ambitious 10-year strategic plan, called “Inspire 2035,” that envisions new objectives and facilities for the coming decade. Crafted by the Chancellor’s Planning Commission, which is comprised of about 40 members across both colleges, the plan evolved over nearly a year-long process that included town halls, workshops, and surveys with students, staff, and the community.

The goals and priorities of the plan are straightforward, being first and foremost to focus district efforts on a “student-centered approach” – this includes building a positive workplace culture that supports the mission.

Chancellor Barnes summary of the plan: “We reaffirm our commitment to student success and equity, economic and social mobility, innovation and technology, environmental sustainability, and institutional effectiveness. These priorities position us to meet the needs of today, while preparing us and our students for the challenges of tomorrow.”

An early goal

When Chancellor Barnes took the helm at SOCCCD in 2022, the existing five-year plan was near closing. “It was a good opportunity to launch a whole new visioning process,” she said. A key was to include voices from across the colleges

and community to ensure a collective and inclusive vision.

“It’s really important to have shared ownership,” Chancellor Barnes said, explaining the large number and breadth of contributors. “This plan was student, faculty, and staff driven.” Barnes said the “beautiful” part of the plan’s priorities are that they embrace the suggestions of students, community, faculty, and staff – uniting them all.

Some of the plan’s goals are reached by improving the physical facilities on the campuses. Construction and renovations are underway on a number of projects. The improvements range from parking, central plants, and classrooms to more engaging projects such as a student union, a coffee house, and student housing, a growing trend among community colleges.

Taking it even further, the district is increasing efforts to attract and be inclusive of the entire community and potential future students.

“We know there are entire populations that are falling through the cracks,” Barnes said of educational shortfalls. These extend to veterans, adult learners (many of whom are working or single parents), foster youth, and elderly learners.

DISTRICT’S VISION

Empowering students, transforming lives, and strengthening communities through education.



DISTRICT’S MISSION

We place students at the heart of our mission, transforming their lives and nurturing creative thinkers that enhance the vitality of the communities we serve. Grounded in principles of equity, belonging, and innovation, we ensure equitable access and foster outcomes that promote economic and social mobility.

Irvine Valley College Building Plans for the Next 10 Years

- 1** Basic Needs / Future Programs
- 2** B200 Classrooms
- 3** Student Services
- 4** Instructional Building A
- 5** B300 Classrooms
- 6** Student Union
- 7** Gym / PE 200
- 8** Arts Promenade & Coffee Structure
- 9** PE 100
- 10** Student Housing
- 11** Maintenance & Operations
- 12** Baseball Team Room



“We want to make sure our spaces support our broader mission of a student-centered culture. Students want spaces where they gather, interact, and connect. The goal is to create beautiful, inviting campuses that create community, not just a place to go to classes and leave. A case in point is at IVC, where we removed a wall in the library and created an outdoor patio and coffee shop.”

- Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes



Inspire 2035 Road Map to the Future

Click to view the Inspire 2035 plan on the District's website

While assembling the Inspire 2035 plan, it was important to District leadership not to shy away from its core values. Although words such as equity, inclusion, diversity, and opportunity have become politicized and polarizing in some circles, they are important to the priorities of the District.

Rather than shy from them, Saddleback College President Dr. Elliot Stern says, "SOCCCD intentionally leaned into the language and even doubled down on some terms. DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access) has become a four-letter word."

However, Stern attributes that to misleading "narratives and tropes (that) DEI consists of lesser qualified candidates taking the place of the more qualified." He says those notions are naive, or something worse.

It is unrealistic, Dr. Stern said, to expect that all students enter school with equal backgrounds, education, and opportunities. It is his job, and reward, as an educator to meet students where they are and ensure they leave with equitable chances and opportunities.

As Chancellor Barnes looks at the next 10 years, whether it's offering the best facilities for students, a destination for the best educators, or a place where no matter one's background, students can thrive, she says SOCCCD is ready to meet the challenges going forward.



"Our community is counting on our colleges to produce skilled, educated workers to enter the community and take jobs. We can't do that unless we're serving ALL our community."

- Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes

Saddleback College Building Plans for the Next 10 Years

- 1 Student Housing & Coffee Structure
- 5 Fine Arts Complex & Theater
- 9 College Center
- 2 Maintenance & Operations / Transportation
- 6 Student Wellness Center; Sand Volleyball Courts
- 10 Former Advanced Technology & Applied Science Building
- 3 Physical Education & Gym Complex
- 7 Baseball Field Upgrades
- 11 Horticulture / Biology Greenhouses
- 4 Central Plant
- 8 Parking Structure



“Studies show that students benefit academically, socially, and psychologically from every hour spent on campus in addition to classes. It is also important to create positive work spaces – an engaged staff creates a better experience for students. We want to establish a place that is successful in the context of a positive learning environment”

- Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes

Facilities Planning: Improving the Student Experience

District Services and the colleges work collaboratively to create state-of-the-art spaces for learning. The District’s Facilities Planning Department annually manages 15-20 district-wide projects in various stages from initial design and bidding to ribbon cutting. Here are some projects from 2025.



SOFTBALL STADIUM Saddleback’s stadium got a new “turf” field, team facilities, parking lot, and bleachers.
Open: April 2025 • **Cost:** \$16.7 million



QUAD RENOVATION / MURAL Saddleback’s central quad received new landscaping, pathways and shaded seating.
Open: May 2025 • **Cost:** \$8.1 million

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE ▶

This state-of-the-art, three-story facility is designed to foster innovation and collaboration, with expansive verandas and glass walls that flood the central spaces with natural light. The ground floor will serve as the hub for the Math Department, featuring advanced classrooms and laboratories. The second floor will house cutting-edge computer and cybersecurity labs.

Open: March 2026
Cost: \$58.7 million





IVC ARTS PROMENADE & COFFEE

STRUCTURE Provides outdoor working spaces, with areas for sculpting, drawing, and painting. A 500 square-foot coffee structure is integrated into a custom canopy that accommodates up to 50 patrons.

Open: May 2026 • **Cost:** \$14.2 million



A student lounge / study room in the new M&CS building.



Facilities Progress Report

Completed 2025

- SC @ATEP Culinary Arts/Advanced Transportation
- SC Softball Field/Parking 12 Expansion
- SC Quad Renovation Project
- SC College Center Café
- SC College Center Renovation for Multi-cultural Center and Behavioral Health Expansion
- SC Building K Demolition
- IVC Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- IVC Warehouse Canopy

Under Construction 2025

- SC Solar Canopies Phase 1
- SC Math and Computer Science Building
- SC BGS HVAC Replacement
- IVC Promenade/Coffee Structure
- IVC Student Services Center and Student Union
- SC Central Plant Renovation
- IVC Electrical Upgrades

Starting Construction 2026

- SC Baseball Field Scoreboard Replacement
- SC 12kV Upgrade
- SC Landscape Improvements Phase 2
- IVC Parking Lot 7 Temporary to Permanent
- SC Solar Canopies Phase 2 & Battery Storage
- SC HS HVAC Replacement

Programming / Design 2026

- District – ADA Phase 2
- SC Horticulture
- SC College Center Building
- IVC Repurpose SAC Building
- SC TAS Renovation/Campus Support Center
- SC HS & BGS Elevator Improvements and Addition

Educational & Technology Services

Educational & Technology Services leads and/or assists with the coordination and review of educational programs and technology services offered throughout the district. Below are a few of the department’s accomplishments in 2025:

- The Banner Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system went live and became the official system of record as of July 2025. The project is currently in the system stabilization phase, and we are working diligently to prioritize and address post-implementation improvements.
- Supported colleges’ efforts around emergency operations training, including cybersecurity, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), emergency preparedness, “Stop the Bleed”, and evacuation procedures.
- Supported the district’s partnerships with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) for initiatives including the Statewide ERP Business Process Survey(s), Reimagine Apply, and the Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Equity.
- Advanced progress on 508 Compliance by partnering with the CCCC’s Accessibility Compatibility Maturity Model (ACMM) for district-wide training, assessments, and improvement planning.
- Improved information security posture, including adoption of a formal Information Security Plan and multi-factor authentication (MFA) for employee and student accounts.
- Developed artificial intelligence-related policy updates, employee guidelines, and software tool recommendations led by the district-wide Artificial Intelligence Task Force.
- Identified goals and action steps for District IT and District Research to support the newly adopted district-wide strategic plan – Inspire 2035.

Kawai Tinio, Information Systems Manager in Human Resources, was awarded Co-Manager of the Year for 2025.

Sandi Pope, Enterprise Resource Planning Director in Information Technology, was awarded Co-Manager of the Year for 2025.



Managers of the Year

“Educational and Technology Services made significant progress with the implementation of Banner. While challenging, this district-wide effort demonstrated the collaboration, resilience, professionalism, and unwavering care for students and colleagues that remain at the core of our culture.”

— **Dr. Christopher McDonald**
 Vice Chancellor
 Educational & Technology Services



Celebrating 35 years of District Service

Tasha Trankiem has dedicated an incredible 35 years of service to the District and her impact is felt every day.

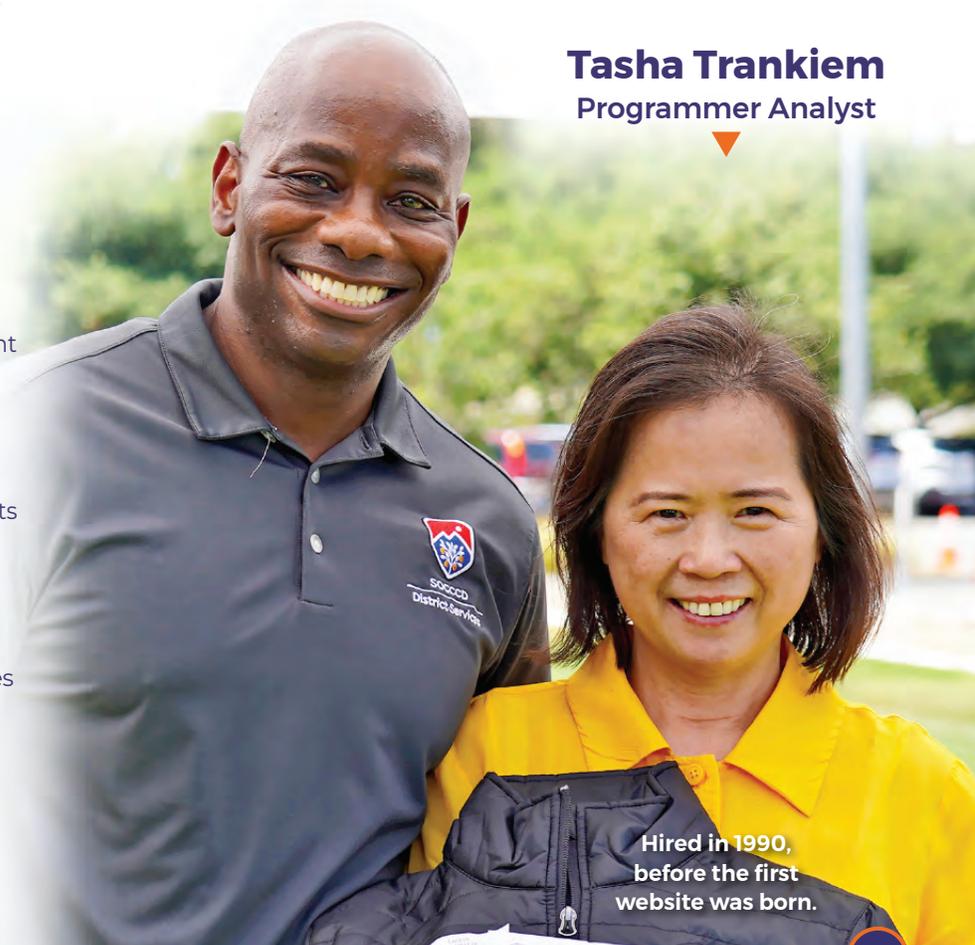
Tasha is the go-to expert for navigating the complex world of federal and state reporting, helping to ensure the District’s compliance. Her deep knowledge of student systems and institutional memory help explain why things work the way they do.

Development teams rely on Tasha as a trusted bridge between compliance, operations, and technology – and her insights keep our systems accurate and reliable.

Tasha is committed to ensure managers have the right data and reports and she responds quickly and thoughtfully whenever a change is needed. Tasha makes the District better through her care, consistency, and generosity of knowledge.

Tasha has a quiet demeanor, but also a wonderful sense of humor. For those lucky enough to be her co-worker, her salsa is famous and one more example of the warmth she brings to the team.

Tasha Trankiem
 Programmer Analyst



Hired in 1990,
 before the first
 website was born.

Human Resources

Human Resources provides services and support in hiring, employee relations, compensation, and staff development which enables our employees to contribute to student success.

- HR increased staffing levels to better support recruitment efforts at the colleges and ATEP.
- HR configured and launched the NEOED Onboard module to digitize and streamline the onboarding process for faculty, classified professionals, and management.
- HR revised the recruitment regulation for management team members to more closely align with the recruitment regulation for faculty, include POA representation, consolidate key recruitment protocol, and address common recruitment pitfalls.
- HR revised the NEOED job aids and offered training sessions for the recruitment of part-time faculty and NBU employees to maximize procedural efficiencies for end users.
- Building Leadership Opportunities through Outstanding Mentorship (BLOOM) program, which connects faculty mentors to graduate students interested in becoming college faculty, reached a significant milestone when 64% of interns successfully transitioned into faculty roles at IVC, SC, and ATEP. Notably, 50% of these hires represent diverse backgrounds, directly advancing SOCCCD's commitment to equity and representation.



“The success of our BLOOM program reflects SOCCCD’s intentional approach to developing talent from within. Seeing a record number of interns transition into faculty roles – while advancing diversity and representation – demonstrates our commitment to building a strong, inclusive workforce that supports student success now and into the future.”

— **Dr. Cindy Vyskocil**
Vice Chancellor
Human Resources



Business Services

The Business Services division includes Facilities Planning, Fiscal Services (including Payroll/Benefits and Accounting), Internal Audit, Risk Management, Procurement, and Central Warehouse.

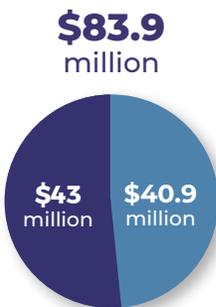
- In 2025, the launch of the District’s new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system took place. Through the dedication, hard-work, and tenacity of our employees, we were able to meet the “Go-Live” dates in each area and continue to streamline the system to meet the needs of the District.
- The Facilities Planning Department continued overseeing the construction of the Math and Computer Science Building and began construction on the Central Plant at Saddleback College; Irvine Valley College saw their new Student Services and Student Union buildings start to take shape.
- ATEP opened Saddleback@ATEP, a culinary and advanced transportation complex, and we are excited to be working with our newest ATEP partner, Top Tennis Management.
- Our committed team worked tirelessly in 2025 and we look forward to continuing the work that makes SOCCCD a community college leader.

Contributing to Orange County’s Economy

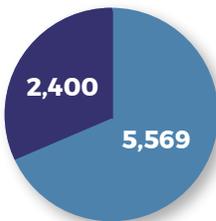
Much of the hundreds of millions of dollars that passes through Business Services each year goes to supporting the local economy. Here is a look at how much the District contributes to companies in Orange County and local residents:

O.C. Companies / Residents
 Non-O.C. Companies / Residents

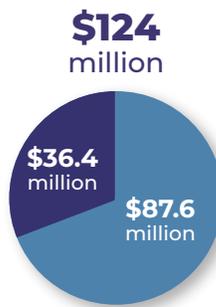
Total Purchase Orders and Contracts
2024-25 FISCAL YEAR



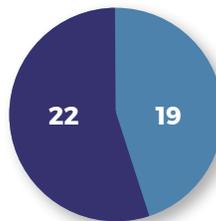
7,969
awarded



Total RFQ&Ps and Bids Issued or Awarded
2024-25 FISCAL YEAR



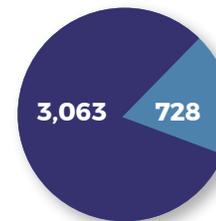
41
awarded



Salary Paid to Employees*
2025 CALENDAR YEAR



3,791
employees*



*Includes part-time, temporary & student employees



Total Financial Aid Paid to Students

No. of Students
8,254

Valued at
\$47.1 million

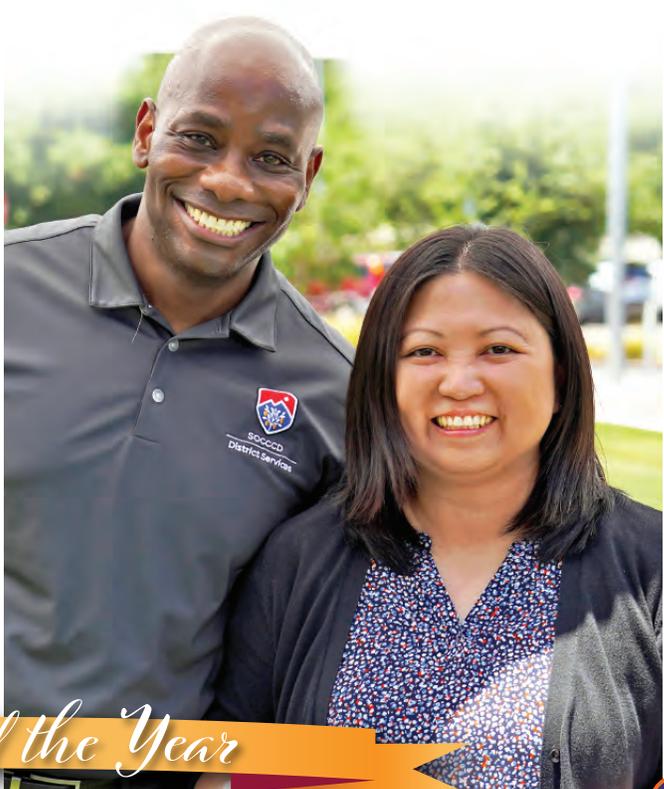
“Student success remains at the heart of our work. Business Services supports the District and colleges in achieving their goals through strong operational and financial stewardship. We are proud to report that, for the third consecutive year, external auditors issued an unmodified opinion with no financial findings, and no State compliance findings, reflecting the dedication of our team as we look ahead to continued success in 2026.”

— **Ann-Marie Gabel, CPA**
Vice Chancellor
Business Services



Angie Gutierrez, Senior Buyer in the Procurement Department, was awarded Co-Employee of the Year for 2025.

Josphine Bullen, Senior Programmer Analyst in Information Technology, was awarded Co-Employee of the Year for 2025.



Employees of the Year

Student Demographics

Unless specified, data is district-wide for 2024-2025 academic year.



How Many Units Do Students Take?

59%
PART TIME
(less than 12 units)

21%
FULL TIME
(12 or more units)

20%
NON-CREDIT
STUDENTS

Enrollment Status of Students

50%
CONTINUING STUDENTS

24%
RETURNING STUDENTS

13%
FIRST-TIME
COLLEGE STUDENTS

12%
CONCURRENT HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS

Note: Other is 1%

What Gender are Students?

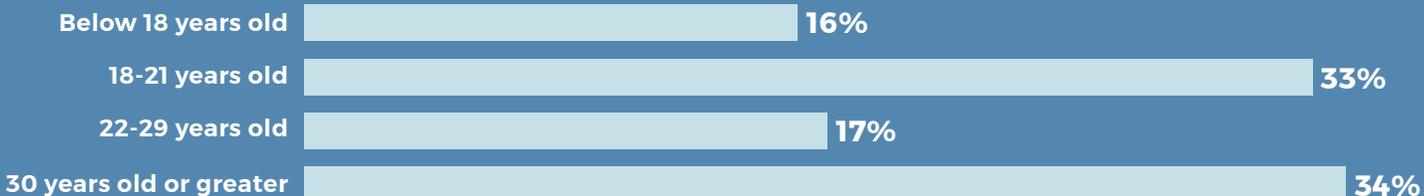
55%
FEMALE

39%
MALE

6%
DECLINE
TO STATE



Student Age



Why do Students Attend?

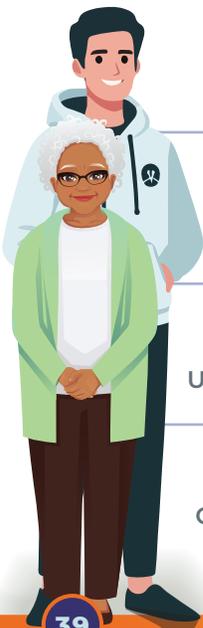
District-wide for 2024-2025 academic year.

46%
TRANSFER

22%
PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT

10% UNDECIDED **7%** CAREER

8% GED/BASIC SKILLS **7%** DEGREE/CERTIFICATE



What is the Racial Breakdown of Students?

Irvine Valley College

37%
ASIAN

30%
WHITE

23%
OTHER RESPONSES*

8%
HISPANIC

2%
AFRICAN AMERICAN

Saddleback College

46%
WHITE

26%
OTHER RESPONSES*

14%
ASIAN

12%
HISPANIC

2%
AFRICAN AMERICAN

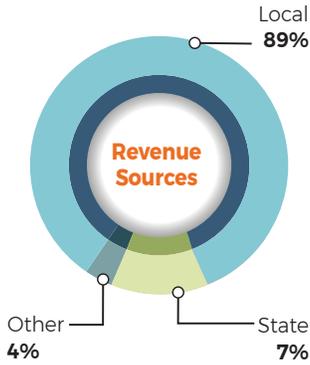


* These include "Decline to state" or "Mixed race."

District Profile

District Operating Revenue, 2025-2026

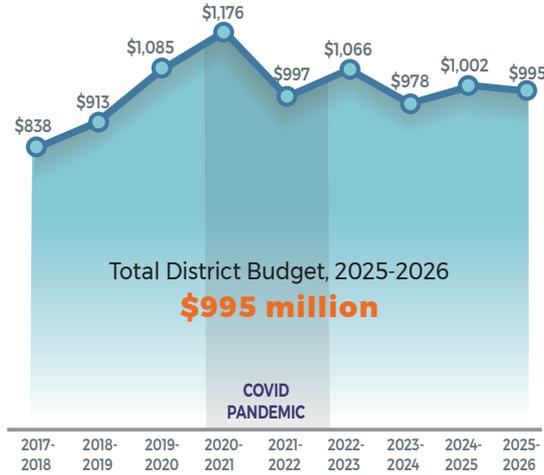
\$412 million



Note: This is for "unrestricted general funds."

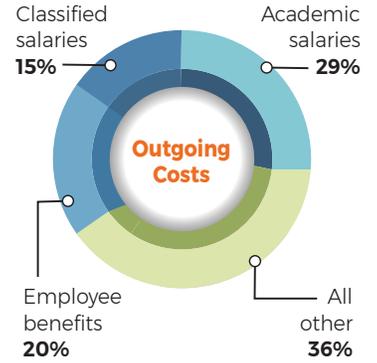
Total District Budget

In millions of dollars



District Operating Expenditures, 2025-2026

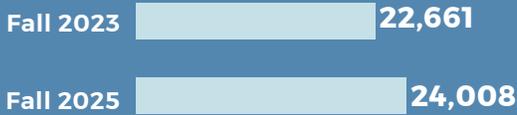
\$429 million



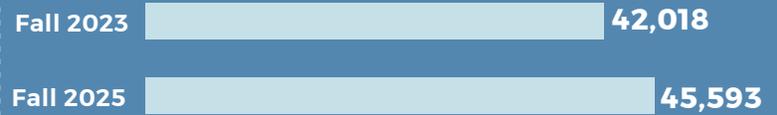
Note: Data is in fiscal years

Student Headcount

Irvine Valley College



Saddleback College



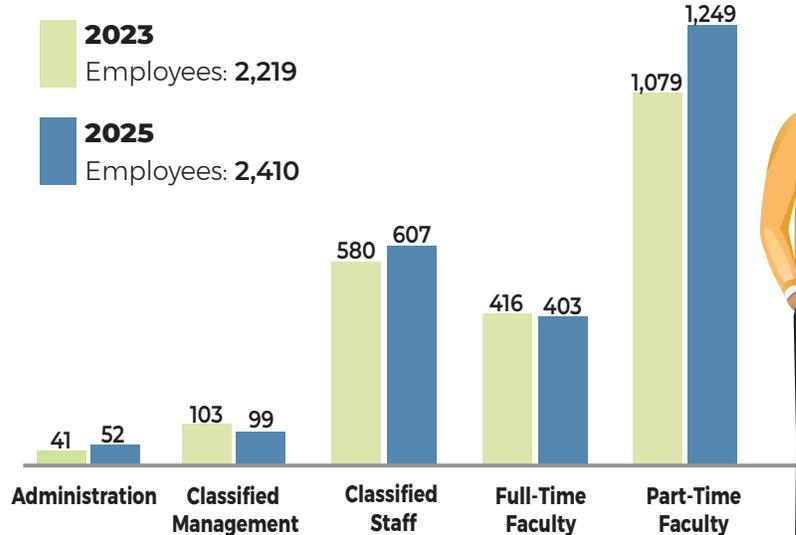
Employee Category

District-wide, Fall 2025



Employee Category Comparison

Fall 2023 vs. Fall 2025



Note: Includes part-time, but does not include short-term temporary (NBUs) or student workers.

Employee Recognition

All of the District's employees are valuable, but a few were recognized in 2025 as exhibiting the highest level of achievement in job performance. Here are the professors and employees of the year:

2025 Faculty of the Year

Irvine Valley College



Thomas Cullen
Full-time Faculty
of the Year



Sylvia Henel
Part-time Faculty
of the Year



Kris Dickenson
Emeritus Faculty
of the Year

Saddleback College



Anthony Szczurek
Full-Time Faculty
of the Year



Sergio Rebia
Associate Faculty
of the Year



Marilee Nielsen
Emeritus Faculty
of the Year

2025 Employees of the Year

Managers



Kawai Tinio
Sandi Pope
CO-WINNERS
District Services



Christina Hinkle
Saddleback College



Brooke Bui
Irvine Valley College

Classified Professionals



Angie Gutierrez
Josphine Bullen
CO-WINNERS
District Services



William Baldwin
Saddleback College



Larisa Korepanova
Irvine Valley College

College Foundations

Both colleges have robust foundations that are dedicated to providing financial assistance to students and improving their experiences. The district community and its leaders lend their support to the foundations during the year by participating in events, including gala fundraising dinners / auctions.



IVC students supporting the foundation



Saddleback students attending 2025 gala



Irvine Valley College Foundation

For Info **949-451-5290**
 Celebrating Excellence **March 6, 2026**
 Scholarship Ceremony **May 15, 2026**
 Giving Day **October 15, 2026**

Saddleback College Foundation

For Info **949-582-4479**
 Giving Day **Feb. 11, 2026**
 Scholarship Reception **May 14, 2026**
 Fund-raising Gala **October 10, 2026**



*Students are at the
Heart of our Mission*



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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Ryan Dack, Vice President

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Blake Leonard, Student Member

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Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, Ed.D.

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