



11/04/2025

# CAMPUS UPDATES

## IVC Superintendent/President Dr. Lennor Johnson



Greetings Campus Community:

I hope everyone had a great week. Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the ACCT Leadership Conference in New Orleans alongside four of our trustees. Participating in these national conferences provides wonderful opportunities to learn and engage in conversations with CEOs and board members from across the country. These discussions are pivotal, as they shed light on the ways community colleges nationwide are improving outcomes for students and communities.

There were several important workshops focused on artificial intelligence, short-term programs, and adult learners. To no surprise, attending these sessions reaffirmed that Imperial Valley College is on the right path to better serve and support our community, ensuring that our students see a strong return on their educational investment.

**Federal Update - Government Shutdown Impact:** As the federal government shutdown extends beyond a month, [two federal judges have recently ordered the Trump administration](#) to continue issuing SNAP benefits, requiring the USDA to use contingency funds to sustain the program. The ruling averts an immediate lapse in CalFresh assistance for millions of Californians, though some delays are still expected to occur as the administration prepares to respond to the ruling.

**IVC Expands Support for Students Impacted by CalFresh Delays:** In light of ongoing developments with SNAP benefits, IVC's Basic Needs team has expanded food, housing, and emergency support to assist students who may experience delays in CalFresh benefits during the federal shutdown. We encourage all faculty and staff to review these resources and share them with students who may need extra support during this time. Together, we can help ensure every Desert Warrior stays informed and supported. To learn more about available campus resources and read the message shared with students, [click here](#).

**Help Shape Our 2026 Legislative Priorities:** All IVC employees will soon be invited to share their insights through our upcoming Legislative Priorities Survey. Your feedback will directly help shape our advocacy efforts at both the state and federal levels, including the development of talking points for meetings with elected officials in early 2026. We expect to launch the survey soon, and your participation will be key in ensuring our collective voice is heard.

**Enrollment Update:** Winter and Fall registration begins November 3 for our priority registrants. Our current enrollment stands at 3,330.59 FTES, which is tracked ahead of last year. Our annual goal is 8,175 FTES, and we're pacing very nicely. If all continues as projected, we achieve or come very close to this ambitious goal. Great job campus community. This demonstrates that we are expanding access to our community.

**Board Retreat Recap:** The Board of Trustees held its Fall retreat this past Saturday to review the college's overall performance and current initiatives. These discussions focused on maintaining financial solvency, strengthening public relations, and enhancing community representation. The retreat provided an opportunity for thoughtful reflection and strategic planning as the Board continues to guide the college's progress and long-term vision.

**Annual Student Thanksgiving Luncheon:** Supporting Our Students: As food insecurity grows amid federal delays, this year's Thanksgiving Luncheon will be especially meaningful for our students. We invite faculty, staff, and community members to support the event with a suggested \$25 donation (or any amount) through the Foundation's [\[Thanksgiving Lunch Fund link here\]](#). Your contribution helps serve more than 600 students and ensure no one is turned away. Those interested in contributing to the potluck can still sign up to help make this event a success, [Click Here](#).



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**Public Forum:** Meet the Finalists for Vice President of Academic Services: Exciting news! Imperial Valley College will host a Public Forum introducing the five finalists for the Vice President of Academic Services (VPAS) position, a vital leadership role dedicated to advancing academic excellence and student success. Join us on Monday, November 17, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the College Center or via [Zoom](#). Enjoy coffee, water, and cookies as you meet the candidates and learn more about their vision for IVC. The public forum will also be recorded, shared to the campus community and made available on our website for those that may not be able to attend. Attendees are encouraged to register for the forum [here](#) and submit questions in advance using the [\[question form link\]](#). Additional event details can be found on the recruitment [webpage](#).

**New Course Schedule Platform Now Available:** The [new course schedule](#) is officially live on the IVC website, offering enhanced features such as filters for 8-week courses, course modalities, and improved navigation for students and faculty. This upgrade was guided by valuable feedback from the Instruction Office, deans, and faculty during last year's acquisition process. A districtwide campaign will launch soon to promote the new platform through videos and targeted messaging. The previous site, [We are already two weeks into the semester, and what an excellent start it has been!](#), remains active for faculty to access archived syllabi while a Canvas-integrated syllabus solution is finalized. Faculty are encouraged to continue storing and publishing their syllabi within Canvas courses as required. Please also remind students and colleagues to keep a look out for upcoming messaging and videos that will officially launch this new scheduling option.

**New Student and Faculty Spotlights:** We're excited to introduce new social media and newsletter spotlights celebrating the achievements of our students and faculty! If you know someone who deserves recognition, please submit a [Student Spotlight Form](#) or [Faculty Spotlight Form](#) to share their story with the IVC community. For questions, contact [celeste.alvarez@imperial.edu](mailto:celeste.alvarez@imperial.edu)

**IVC Bookstore Transitioning to Virtual Platform:** The Imperial Valley College Bookstore will transition to a fully virtual model by late January, providing students with an improved and more accessible online experience for purchasing course materials. The Instruction Office, deans, and faculty are meeting regularly with Follett to coordinate the transition and ensure that all required textbooks for the winter and spring sessions are available on time. Additional information about the new virtual bookstore will be shared once the transition process is finalized.

**Spice of Life: Diversity in Every Bowl – Chili Cook Off:** With Cattle Call festivities in full swing, join us for IVC's first-ever Chili Cook Off, Spice of Life: Diversity in Every Bowl, on Wednesday, November 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the College Center Dining Hall. Celebrate the flavors of culture and community with music, games, and plenty of delicious chili. Awards will be given in three categories: Community Choice, Global Flavor, and Shared Spoon. Dust off your boots, wear your best western attire, and join the fun—whether you're cooking, tasting, or cheering! Sign up to participate using the [\[Chili Cook Off Entry Form\]](#).

**Accreditation Site Visit Scheduled for February 2026:** Imperial Valley College has received confirmation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC) has scheduled our Focused Site Visit February 23–24, 2026. Thank you to all students, faculty, staff, directors, deans, and community members who participated in the recent Accreditation College Open Forum and continue to support this important process.

**A special acknowledgment goes to the team members whose dedication and collaboration made the completion of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) possible and who remain actively engaged in the next phase:** Dr. Jia Sun, Dixie Krimm, Dr. Jose Carrillo, Krista Byrd, Dr. Melani Guinn, Xochitl Tirado, Dr. Vikki Carr, Melody Burrell, Stacey Browning, Efrain Silva, Dr. Cerise Myers, Dr. Cynthia Spence, Elizabeth Trevino, Mabel Vargas, Johanna Fisher, Victor Torres, Andrew Robinson, Dr. Sydney Rice, and Angie Gallo.



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**Final Thoughts:** The coming weeks bring both challenges and many opportunities for reflection. Despite national uncertainties, our college continues to stand strong in its commitment to supporting students and fostering community spirit. From expanded basic needs assistance to upcoming campus events, these collective efforts embody the compassion and resilience that define Imperial Valley College. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to stand as one College with the shared vision of eliminating poverty in Imperial County. Together, we make a lasting difference.

Warm regards,  
Lennor M. Johnson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/President