



10/20/2025

CAMPUS UPDATES

IVC Superintendent/President Dr. Lennor Johnson



Greetings Campus Community:

I hope this message finds you well. Here are a few important updates from across the college:

Federal Update: As of today, the federal government has been shut down for 19 days as Congress continues to negotiate a funding agreement. Essential education programs such as Pell Grants, Federal Direct Loans, Title I, IDEA, and FAFSA remain active, so students should not experience disruptions. A federal court has also blocked recent Department of Education layoffs, though reduced staffing continues to affect operations. We will continue to monitor developments and share updates as needed.

Legislative Update: Governor Newsom has completed final actions on state legislation impacting higher education, including several measures focused on student basic needs, financial aid, and housing.

Recently signed bills strengthen support for student access and affordability, including:

- AB 42 (Bryan) and AB 79 (Arambula), expanding coordination for CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits.
- AB 243 (Ahrens) and AB 313 (Ortega), improving financial aid access and application timelines.
- AB 648 (Zbur), creating exemptions to streamline affordable housing development for students and staff.
- SB 271 (Reyes), broadening childcare resources for students with dependent children.
- SB 391 (Laird), allowing the California Community Colleges to implement a data request fee policy.

The Governor vetoed two key measures:

- AB 1400 (Soria) Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program.
- SB 761 (Ashby) CalFresh: Student Eligibility, citing data-sharing challenges between agencies.

The Chancellor's Office supported each of the bills listed above, recognizing their collective importance to advancing affordability, access, and institutional innovation.

Several two-year bills, including SB 323 (Pérez), AB 402 (Patel), and AB 48 (Alvarez) which proposes a 2026 higher education facilities bond will carry over for further consideration next year.

We continue to collaborate closely with the Community College League of California and our SDICCCA partners to emphasize funding growth & stability, student affordability, and program innovation as key priorities for the upcoming legislative cycle.

Campus Branding and Marketing Update: We will soon launch a Branding Taskforce to develop a cohesive college-wide identity. This effort will include a refreshed logo, new visual standards, and the phase-out of individual program logos by Fall 2026. Those interested in contributing may sign up using the [IVC Branding Taskforce Interest Form](#).

Annual Student Thanksgiving Luncheon: Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon has been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the College Center. Faculty and staff are invited to cook, donate, or volunteer. Please sign up by Monday, November 3, using the [IVC Thanksgiving Potluck for Students 2025 Sign-Up Form](#).

Scheduled Winter Recess Closure: The campus will be closed from December 12 at 5:00 p.m. through January 5, 2026, for routine maintenance on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Water will be shut off during this time, with only essential personnel on-site. Portable restrooms will be available on Friday, January 2, for those working on campus.



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Transition to Diligent Community for Board and Committee Meetings: Beginning December 10, the Imperial Community College District Board of Trustees and participatory governance committees will transition to Diligent Community, replacing BoardDocs as the district's new governance management platform. BoardDocs will enter read-only mode on December 15, 2025, as the final migration of materials is completed and will be fully deactivated on January 8, 2026. For assistance, please contact the President's Office at (760) 355-6219.

Participatory Governance Training: We will host a training on the Brown Act, participatory governance, and upcoming changes that will take effect in the Spring semester, as the remote participation clause is set to expire. We encourage all committee chairs, recorders, Academic Senate leaders, ASG representatives, and administrative support staff to attend. The session will take place on November 13 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 2734. You can RSVP for this training by [clicking here](#).

Topping Ceremony Marks Major Construction Milestone: IVC and Erickson-Hall Construction Co. celebrated the topping-out ceremony for the new Auto Technology, Architectural Automation, Art, and Maker Space Building on October 17, marking the completion of its structural framework. The 33,000-square-foot facility is on track to open in Fall 2026, expanding hands-on learning in automotive, diesel, art, and architecture. Attached are some photos from the event on Friday.

Community Celebrates the Return of IVC Men's Wrestling: Thank you to everyone who came out to support IVC Men's Wrestling on October 8 for its first home match in nearly 40 years. The evening featured a spirited pep rally, remarks from college leadership, and energetic commentary by Victor Torres. With exciting matches, great food, and plenty of campus pride, it was a memorable night for Warrior Athletics and our community. Check out [photo highlights here](#).

Final Thoughts: Over the past several weeks, I've had the opportunity to work closely with our Academic Senate leaders, academic deans, and faculty leadership. These conversations have been thoughtful, productive, and forward-looking. Together, we have discussed key initiatives, including campus safety, 8-week courses, AI integration, bookstore transitions, Distance Education refresh, and OER.

As a direct result of these discussions, we are in the process of launching both an 8-Week Course Task Force and an AI Task Force, have produced videos to encourage students to enroll in OER courses to reduce the cost of attendance, and discussed plans to strengthen communication and training around campus safety and protocols.

I want to personally thank all of the deans, academic senate executive team, program chairs, union leaders and OER and DE coordinators for their leadership and insight. Your collaboration continues to shape the future of Imperial Valley College.

Let's continue to move forward together!

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