



7/23/2025

CAMPUS UPDATES

IVC Superintendent/President

Dr. Lennor Johnson



Greetings Campus Community:

I hope this message finds you well and that you're enjoying a restful and rejuvenating summer! Here's a quick update on what's happening across campus:

Enrollment Update: Our current enrollment stands at 2,700.39, compared to 2,792.7 this time last year, slightly behind by about 4%. There's still time to close the gap, and we're working hard to boost enrollment in the coming weeks. For example, we're hosting a registration event on August 5, 2025, to help students get enrolled and prepared for the fall semester. Additionally, our marketing team is launching an "Hour of Power" recruitment and outreach blitz to connect with prospective students and encourage last-minute registrations. We're encouraged by the momentum and looking forward to a strong finish!

With everyone's effort and support, we can finish strong and welcome a great fall class!

Convocation 2025: I'm extremely excited for our upcoming Convocation on Thursday, August 8, starting at 8:00 AM. This annual gathering is one of the few times we come together as a campus community, where we reconnect, reflect, and prepare for the year ahead.

This year's theme is: **"Mission ~~Im~~Possible"** because all things are possible, no matter what others may say or our self doubts.

We'll have a very special guest, Mr. Richard Montañez, whose inspiring journey is featured in the movie "Flamin' Hot." I highly encourage you to watch it ahead of time! It's streaming on Hulu, and the library will have a few copies available for checkout.

A huge thank you to the Convocation Task Force & those who contributed to this event (Martha Gutierrez, Hector Garza, Leticia Pastrana, Daniel Hernandez, Maria Esquer, Cindy Morales, Jessica Prock, Linda Diaz, Dixie Krimm, Sheila Dorsey Freeman, Xochitl Tirado, Mirella Cital, Allen Leon, Mabel Vargas, Jose Carrillo and many others). The agenda will be sent out soon once finalized, but in the meantime, please be sure to RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

Campus Priorities for 2025–2026: At Convocation, I'll share our key campus priorities for the academic year, all aligned with our Vision 2030 goals. Like in the past, we'll focus on five overarching strategies:

1. Increase Student Access and Success

- Fully implement 8-week courses
- Scale up enrollment to maximize fill rates in current non-credit offerings
- Increase completion and transfer rates

2. Integrate AI in College Operations

- Develop policies, procedures, and innovative uses of AI in and out of the classroom

3. Enhance Financial Management and Solvency

- Braid funding resources, grow alternative revenue streams, and plan ahead for state and federal changes

4. Leverage Professional Development

- to support campus initiatives, innovation, and succession planning through targeted/tailored training

5. Enhance Outreach and Marketing

- Measure the effectiveness of our activities and expand community visioning efforts

Construction Update: If you haven't noticed, the Autotech and Art Laboratory Building is about 30% completed. The new facility is scheduled to be substantially completed by Spring 2026. Thereafter, the district will work on adding the necessary furniture, equipment, and technology. The building will be ready for student occupancy by summer 2026. This long-awaited project FUNDED BY MEASURE J, over 20 years in the making, is almost here! We're so excited to bring this state-of-the-art facility to IVC, where students will gain hands-on training to repair and maintain cars, electric vehicles, trucks, diesel engines, and much more. This will create new career pathways and stimulate jobs and opportunities across our community.



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Other exciting projects are also in the works:

- Public Safety Regional Training Center and Maintenance & Operations Warehouse: set to break ground in Spring 2026, with an expected completion timeline of about two years. FUNDED BY OUR 2022 MEASURE B GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND
- Industrial Automation Building (Lithium): set to break ground in the Summer of 2027. FUNDED BY OUR 2022 MEASURE B GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND
- Joint Intersegmental Housing Project with SDSU: designed to provide much-needed housing for students, this is on track for an anticipated completion date of Fall 2026.
- Our One-Stop Student Services Building is in the early planning and engineering phase but this project (building) is scheduled to be open by the summer of 2030. FUNDED BY OUR 2022 MEASURE B GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND
- The State Chancellor's Office (as part of the 2025-26 state budget) approved a 50% matching of funds for the renovation of our gymnasium. The district's project management team is working with our architects on the required DSA approval. We are hoping to break ground and begin the renovation by the summer of 2026. THIS PROJECT WILL BE 50% STATE BOND (PROP. 2) FUND AND 50% - DISTRICT'S BUILDING FUND. Overall, the cost to renovate the gym will be approximately \$20 million
- Facilities - Upcoming Projects:
 - Renovation of our water-plant - work to begin in the fall of 2025
 - HVAC renovation at building 2700 - work to begin in the fall of 2025
- Also, our Campus Safety enhancements are nearly all complete:
 - Campus Safety Office has relocated to building 2600 (2603)
 - Security Camara Refresh - to be completed by July 30, 2025
 - Blue Towers (Poles) replacement - to be completed by August 30, 2025
 - Extended and enhanced our contract with ICSO to include two armed deputies
 - Morning shift: Deputy Vanessa Reyes
 - Afternoon shift: Deputy Alejandro Tamayo
 - Non-armed deputies are also available during closed hours (evenings/weekends) through ECHO - ONE

Through these efforts, we are more prepared than ever to protect our most valuable resources... **You, and of course, Our Students.**

Federal Updates and Budget: We're closely monitoring the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the downsizing of the U.S. Department of Education. At this time, the impact on IVC is expected to be minimal, only about 3% of our total budget comes directly from federal sources.

Here's what we know so far:

- The Board approved the tentative budget last month, reflecting the most up-to-date projection that was submitted to the state.
- TRiO programs make up the majority of our federal funding:
 - Student Support Services has been renewed for the next five years
 - Upward Bound remains funded through 2027-28
 - Educational Talent Search is funded for this year, and we'll submit our renewal application before December

The good news is our overall budget remains healthy, as we have been diligent in managing our resources effectively. Thank you, Business Office, and to the wonderful faculty, staff and administrators who have been prudent in their spending!



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We are also carefully monitoring the happenings at both the federal and state levels. In reviewing plans coming out of Washington, many of the functions currently handled by the U.S. Department of Education may be shifted to another federal agency or directly to the states. This means that now, more than ever, we must advocate strongly at both levels to ensure our college and our community are represented and supported.

The leadership team will continue to meet regularly with union and academic leaders to share updates and work together proactively to keep all parties informed as these changes unfold.

Final Thoughts: I'm truly looking forward to seeing all of you at Convocation. It will be inspiring, informative, and of course, fun. It is a great way to kick off another year of possibilities together and to illustrate that our mission of Eradicating Poverty in Imperial County is Possible!

In the meantime, I encourage you to check out the movie "Flamin' Hot," [RSVP using the link](#) for convocation, and Mark your calendars for August 8

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and thank you for all you do to make IVC exceptional! A Aspen Winner and One of the only Colleges in the State with the destination of being an [Opportunity College](#). Our Mission is POSSIBLE!

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