



10/3/2025

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 – Government Shutdown: On September 30, the federal government officially shut down after Congress failed to pass funding legislation. While many agencies are closed or limited in operations, essential education programs continue, including Pell Grants, Federal Direct Loans, Title I, IDEA, and FAFSA access. Borrowers must still make loan payments, and grantees will be able to access previously awarded funds. Students should expect no disruption to their financial aid during this period.

Within the Department of Education, about 95% of employees have been furloughed, with fewer than 5% retained for critical functions such as student aid disbursements, legal obligations, and property protection. As a result, new grantmaking, civil rights investigations, regulatory development, and agency guidance are paused unless tied to pre-funded or legally required activities. Contractors may also be directed to stop work unless supporting these functions.

If the shutdown is prolonged beyond a week, the Department has indicated staffing levels may be adjusted slightly to prevent “significant damage” to essential services. For now, the immediate impact to colleges and students is minimal, but longer-term effects could expand if the shutdown continues. We will continue to monitor developments closely and share updates as needed.

HSI & Student Success Programs: As noted in my last update, the Department of Education’s elimination of discretionary funding for Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) includes IVC’s ASSET Title V grant. We have since been informed that the Department will allow one final year to use a portion of the funds, giving us the ability to phase out the grant responsibly. Because the grant is modest in size and still early in its implementation, there will be no major impact on students, staff, or operations this year.

What remains most important is safeguarding long-term stability. IVC has contingency measures in place, including the use of institutional reserves, to ensure core student success initiatives continue uninterrupted in the short term. At the same time, we are actively engaged in advocacy. Nationally, the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is challenging federal funding decisions that have disrupted TRIO and other programs, while IVC is working closely with HACU, ACCT, SDICCCA colleagues, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to press for sustainable solutions such as a state-based HSI block grant. Our commitment is clear: protecting student success today while advocating to preserve these resources for the future.

Accreditation Forum: We held our ACCJC Accreditation Forum on Thursday, and I hope everyone had the chance to attend and participate. We also received an additional information request from the Commission. Specifically, they are asking for clarification on Standards 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.9, and 4.3. Our accreditation team will be working to provide this information by next week. Please remember, additional information requests are a normal part of the process to clarify items already in the ISER and do not indicate a problem.

AI Policy & Procedures: In alignment with the and our own strategic plan, this year we will begin developing policies and procedures for AI protocols at IVC. A special thank you to Dr. Hector Garza, who will lead this process in collaboration with faculty and staff. For reference, attached is Santa Rosa College’s [AP 3775](#) as a sample and the CCLC suggested draft.

IVC District Profile: Last week Dean Silva shared the newly released Imperial Community College District Profile developed by the San Diego & Imperial Center of Excellence. This report provides an excellent snapshot of our demographics, economic landscape, and student outcomes. A few highlights:



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- Imperial CCD served 11,052 students in 2023–24, with 50% in CTE programs.
- Our district awarded a total of 2,794 degrees and certificates over the past three years.
- CTE enrollment has grown 16% since 2020–21, showing the strength of our career programs and their alignment with local workforce needs.

We also exceed some of the performance measures compared to our SD counterparts, specifically for the three years from 2021-22 to 2022-23 as follows:

- Graduates that became employed: San Diego 29% - IVC 39%
- Graduates attained a living wage -San Diego 40% - IVC 51%

This profile is a valuable tool for grant writing, planning, and telling our IVC story.

Desert Warrior Wrestling Returns: Join us on Wednesday, October 8 as IVC hosts its first home men's wrestling match in nearly 40 years, with the Desert Warriors facing Santa Ana College. The evening kicks off with a pep rally at 6 p.m. in the IVC Gym, complete with free tacos for the first 100 attendees, spirited giveaways, and energy from ASG leaders and the IVC Desert Warrior Cheer club. The match will follow and is free and open to the community, marking a historic night of Warrior pride.

Final Thoughts: I am especially looking forward to the grand opening of our new Auto & Diesel Technology, Arts, and Engineering building, which is on track to be completed before the fall semester. The exterior is just about finished, and contractors are now hard at work on the interior. Following this milestone, our next major project, the Public Safety Regional Training Center and new Maintenance and Operations Warehouse, will break ground in the spring. After that, we will begin the much-anticipated renovation of the gym in the fall, and in late 2027, we expect to start construction on our new One-Stop Student Services Building.

These campus enhancements send a strong message to our students and our community that we are investing in their future, creating spaces that inspire learning, foster innovation, and build pride in Imperial Valley College. Together, we are not only building facilities, we are building possibilities.

As a reminder, if you would like to revisit a previous Campus Update, all updates shared this fall are available on the President's Office landing page.

With gratitude,

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