

# SOCCCD

South Orange County Community College District



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



South Orange County

College District

## **SOCCCD 2024 Annual Report**

The South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) is proud to present its 2024 Annual Report, a testament to our unwavering commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and student success. This year, we celebrate transformative milestones, including the expansion of cutting-edge facilities, groundbreaking advancements in workforce development, and the recognition of our colleges as leaders in higher education. Through strategic collaboration with our community partners, policymakers, and stakeholders, SOCCCD continues to create pathways that empower students to achieve their dreams and contribute to the vitality of our region. Together, we are building 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 vital tool to demonstrate transparency, accountability, and our ongoing commitment to student success and community impact." – SOCCCD Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes



# WELCOME FROM CHANCELLOR BARNES

# **Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes**

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, I am proud to share with you, the South Orange County Community College District's (SOCCCD) Annual Report, highlighting a year marked by innovation, perseverance, and progress. Our commitment to fostering an environment of excellence at Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and the Advanced Technology Education Park (ATEP) remains at the heart of everything we do. Together, we have advanced our mission to empower students, enrich communities, and shape a brighter future.

This year, our district reached several significant milestones. We celebrated the opening of new facilities, such as the Irvine Valley College Arts Village and Saddleback College Gateway Building, which have revolutionized the way we support student success. These spaces provide cutting-edge resources, fostering creativity and streamlining access to critical services.

Our accolades continue to affirm our leadership in higher education. SOCCCD institutions have been recognized for excellence in equitable student outcomes, including national rankings from WalletHub and commendations from the Aspen Institute. These acknowledgments reflect the unwavering dedication of our faculty, staff, and administrators who work tirelessly to ensure that students thrive both academically and personally.

Community engagement remains a cornerstone of our vision. This year's inaugural State of the District event was a testament to our collaborative spirit, bringing together stakeholders from across the region to celebrate our achievements and discuss our shared future. We also expanded partnerships with local businesses, workforce leaders, and policymakers, reaffirming our role as a hub for economic and workforce development.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the opportunities to build on this year's successes. From launching innovative programs to enhancing equity and inclusion initiatives, SOCCCD is steadfast in its pursuit of transformative education. Our focus remains on equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to lead and excel in a dynamic world.

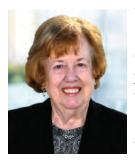
This report is a reflection of our collective efforts, and I want to thank our Board of Trustees, community partners, and most importantly, our students, whose resilience and determination are a constant source of inspiration. Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and elevate our district to new heights.

Thank you for your support and commitment to SOCCCD. Here's to another year of success and growth.

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



# Message from the Board of Trustees



#### Dear South Orange County Community,

It is with great pride that I join Chancellor Julianna M. Asperin Barnes in presenting the South Orange County Community College District's 2024 Annual Report. This past year has been one of incredible progress and collaboration, and I am honored to share the many accomplishments that reflect our district's dedication to student success and community enrichment.

As a Board of Trustees, we are deeply committed to ensuring that Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College, and the Advanced Technology Education Park (ATEP) remain

pillars of innovation and opportunity. In 2024, we celebrated transformative milestones, such as the opening of state-of-the-art facilities that expand access to resources and elevate the student experience. These projects represent our investment in the future of education and workforce development.

We also took significant steps to strengthen our connections with community leaders and regional partners, fostering collaborations that bring new opportunities to our students and enhance the vitality of our local economy. The inaugural State of the District event was a particular highlight, showcasing the impact of these partnerships and the shared vision we have for the future.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to express our deepest gratitude to the faculty, staff, students, and community members who make our district an exceptional place to learn and grow. Your dedication fuels our mission and inspires us to aim even higher.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in the power of education.

Sincerely,

#### Carolyn Inmon, President, Board of Trustees



Marcia Ryan Terri Rydell, Timothy Carolyn T.J. Lisa A. Milchiker Dack Ed.D. Jemal Inmon Prendergast III Bartlett

# **Trustees Elected in 2024**

In November 2024, three trustees were re-elected to the board and a new trustee was elected for the first time to fill the vacant seat left by Trustee Barbara Jay's retirement. Below are the trustees sworn in at the December board meeting.



## Lisa A. Bartlett

First elected to the board: **2024** 

Represents: Area 3



**Carolyn Inmon** 

First elected to the board: **2020** 

Represents: **Area 1** 



## Tim Jemal

First elected to the board: **2012** 

Represents: **Area 7** 



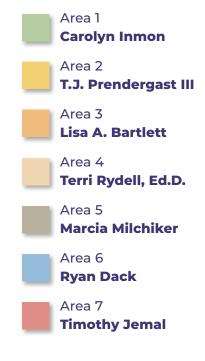
**Ryan Dack** 

First elected to the board: **2022** 

Represents: **Area 6** 



## **Trustee Areas**





"My experience at IVC prepared me for my future career! I loved the enriching honors classes on macroeconomics and managerial accounting. It allowed me to apply classroom knowledge to tangible real-life projects by analyzing companies' financial issues."

#### Olivia Jin

Transfer Student from Irvine Valley College to UC Berkeley

#### 2024 SOCCCD ANNUAL REPORT

#### **STUDENT SUCCESS STORY**

# **Olivia Jin: Persisted and Thrived While at Irvine Valley College**

Story by Irvine Valley College Marketing and Creative Services

Olivia Jin is a dynamic student with a clear vision for her future in business and entrepreneurship. Initially drawn to artistic pursuits, she explored creativity through mixed media, earning recognition as a semi-finalist for Orange County Artists of the Year in 2022. Her work has been published in prestigious magazines such as Ear Magazine and UReCa Literature Magazine.

However, Olivia soon realized that creativity extends beyond art—it plays a crucial role in business strategy, innovation, and problem-solving. This realization led her to pursue a major in business administration with a concentration in strategy consulting, driven by her passion for empowering small businesses through strategic development and marketing.

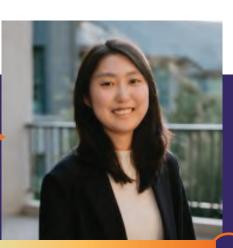
A graduate of Crean Lutheran High School in Irvine, Olivia set her sights on UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, where she continues to refine her skills in business management. Her aspirations to become a venture capitalist and entrepreneur have already taken shape through hands-on experience and leadership. Despite initially struggling to secure an internship during her first year at Irvine Valley College, Olivia's persistence paid off when she secured a corporate accounting internship at Del Taco. This experience fueled her passion for advocating for equal job opportunities for community college students. She collaborated with student government leaders to propose IVC's first internship project, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Olivia's journey at IVC was instrumental in shaping her future. From enrolling in rigorous honors courses to taking on multiple leadership roles, she gained invaluable knowledge, skills, and connections that strengthened her confidence to pursue her ambitions.

Now at Berkeley Haas, Olivia continues to channel her creativity and strategic mindset into making a meaningful impact in the business world and beyond.



Olivia Jin attending UC Berkeley in Fall 2024.



# Educational & Technology Services

Educational & Technology Services leads and/or assists with the coordination and review of educational programs and technology services offered in the district. Below are a few of our accomplishments in 2024:

- Banner Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system configuration, data load, back-end system testing, and end-user training sessions.
- Support for the colleges' efforts around emergency operations trainings, including Cybersecurity, Active Shooter, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Stop the Bleed, and Evacuation Procedures.
- Support for the district's partnerships with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) for initiatives including the Collaborative ERP Project, Reimagine Apply, and the Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Equity.
- Progress on 508 Compliance by partnering with the CCCCO's Accessibility Compatibility Maturity Model (ACMM) for district-wide training, assessments, and improvement planning.
- Efforts to streamline existing cybersecurity software, upgrade the district-wide private wide area network (WAN) hardware, district-wide data backups, and California Virtual Campus Online Education Initiative integration.
- Formation of the district-wide Artificial Intelligence Task Force to guide policy development.
- Progress on business continuity planning and training.

# Judy Perez, part of the Research and Planning team, was awarded the 2024 Classified Employee of the Year.



"Educational and Technology Services made significant progress with the most impactful district-wide technology project of this decade: the implementation of Banner. Collaborative decisions with functional leaders on the implementation timeline and the selection of third-party vendors will reshape the end-user experience for years to come."

Dr. Christopher McDonald
 Vice Chancellor
 Educational & Technology Services

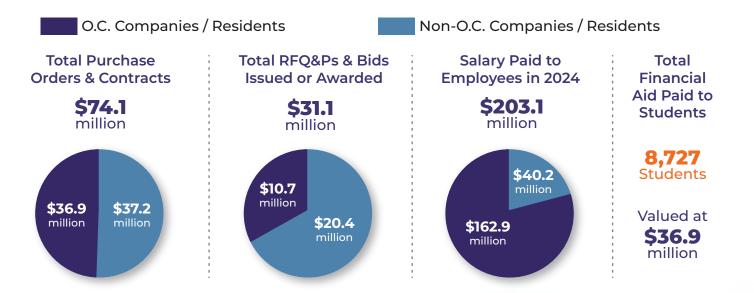


In 2024, two members of the District IT Department, Raul Gutierrez and Loc Pham, celebrated 25 years of service with the District.



# **Business Services**

Business Services includes Facilities Planning, Fiscal Services (including Payroll/Benefits and Accounting), Internal Audit, Risk Management, Procurement, and Central Warehouse. In 2024, our division continued to be a major contributor in the implementation of Banner, the new enterprise resource planning system. The district creates billions of dollars in economic activity in Orange County, with thousands of contracts, purchase orders, and bids awarded by Business Services during the year. A direct way the District boosts the local economy is with more than \$162 million in salaries paid to Orange County residents and \$36.9 million given out as student financial aid.



#### Jackie Han was awarded Manager of the Year for her work in the Fiscal Department.





"Our students' accomplishments are important to us and we are happy to support them in their academic journey. Business Services supports each of the departments within the District and colleges in accomplishing their goals. We pride ourselves in being good stewards of taxpayer dollars and are delighted that our external auditors provided us with an unmodified opinion on our financial statements with no audit adjustments for the second year in a row. We are grateful for our dedicated team and look forward to another successful year." — Ann-Marie Gabel, CPA

Vice Chancellor Business Services



The Procurement Department celebrated passing the milestone of processing 10,000 contracts in the Jaggaer system in 2024.



# 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. Below are key achievements in 2024:

- SOCCCD has been renewed for year two funding (\$150,000) of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Innovative Best Practices Grant to bolster the Building Leadership Opportunities through Outstanding Mentorship (BLOOM) program, a faculty internship program.
- We configured HR setup in Banner for personnel data including Position Control, Employees, Jobs, Faculty Tracking, Faculty Compensation.
- We successfully converted Workday employee data and loaded into Banner.
- We identified HR reporting needs and started report development in Banner.
- We implemented daily position and employee feed from Workday to NeoEd.
- We addressed unconscious bias in our hiring processes by implementing a new applicant tracking system, NeoEd, in August 2024. This has allowed us to sanitize applications and remove names from the application materials.
- We successfully settled the 2024–2027 successor agreements for Classified School Employees Association (CSEA), Faculty Association (FA), and Police Officers Association (POA). All units received a salary increase and expanded benefits and leaves. CSEA highlights include lifetime medical benefits effective July 1, 2026 (under certain criteria), an additional paid holiday, and the Hybrid/Remote Work Program. Highlights for FA include professional development training and student follow-up time for part-time faculty. Highlights for POA include an Advanced Post Certificate stipend and two floating holidays.



"Reflecting on 2024 fills me with pride and optimism. From securing grants, to expanding programs, to completion of cross-training initiatives, our commitment to excellence has been unwavering. Together, we've not only navigated change, but embraced it, shaping a workforce that mirrors our values of innovation, diversity, and efficiency."

- Dr. Cindy Vyskocil Vice Chancellor Human Resources



The Building Leadership Opportunities through Outstanding Mentorship (BLOOM) program connects current faculty as mentors to current graduate students interested in becoming community college faculty members and provides hands-on training. The photo below is of the second graduating BLOOM class, helping the District to expand the diversity of faculty members at Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College.





"I'm definitely grateful for the road that led me to here. I ended up finding out that I had a passion for representing kids in foster care. I feel like that is my purpose. I feel like that's why I'm going to school."

> Sharla Clemente SOCCCD Student Trustee

#### STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

# Sharla Clemente: An Advocate for Foster Youth

Story by Lou Ponsi, as it appeared in The Orange County Register

Sharla Clemente doesn't shy away from her difficult past, but she channels those life experiences to help serve and inspire others. Clemente, 26, vividly recalls her days as a foster youth, when at age 13, she was removed from her family for her own safety. A victim of physical abuse, Clemente was shuffled between foster families where some of those situations were also destructive. She ran away multiple times, and acknowledged being a "troublemaker," so by the time Clemente aged out of the foster system at age 18, a college education wasn't a consideration.

Then came a spark of clarity. Clemente had a 4-year old brother whom she had never met. "I think at that point, I was ready to start the journey of healing, building a better life for my baby brother," she said. "I didn't want him to know what foster care felt like." Clemente challenged herself and prioritized her relationship with her brother. She relocated to Orange County and took advantage of programs at Saddleback College available to former foster youth.

"I was a little bit nervous and kind of had impostor syndrome," she said. "But I'm so grateful toward the people that were here, the students, the instructors, the counselors." At first, Clemente considered a career in the medical field, but she majored in psychology and will graduate with an associate degree in May 2025.

Last year, Clemente served as vice president of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access within the Associated Students of Irvine Valley College. Currently, Clemente serves as the student trustee on the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees, where her role is to represent the students as a member of the District Governing Board.

As student trustee, Clemente attends all Board of Trustee meetings and shares input from the student perspective. Clemente feels that involvement in student government and the board of trustees has given her opportunities to develop her voice, including on a visit to Washington, D.C., to speak in front of congressional boards on behalf of foster youth.



Sharla being sworn in as Student Trustee in April 2024.



# **IRVINE VALLEY** COLLEGE

For more than 40 years, Irvine Valley College has represented opportunity, hope, and progress for students seeking to achieve their academic and career goals. Since its founding in 1985, IVC has conferred nearly 62,000 degrees and certificates, transforming lives and contributing to a highly skilled workforce driving local and regional economic growth.

IVC offers over 170 degrees and certificates, giving students multiple pathways for transfer, career advancement, and personal enrichment. With small class sizes and state-of-the-art facilities, IVC's distinguished faculty – including authors, Fulbright scholars, scientists, musicians, and entrepreneurs – foster a dynamic learning environment, inspiring and mentoring the next generation of leaders, professionals, and creatives.

In Fall 2024, IVC celebrated record-breaking enrollment, reflecting the growing strength of the college's programs. 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 welcome and supported. **#1** in Transfers in Orange County to the UC System

**#1** Community College in California as ranked by WalletHub

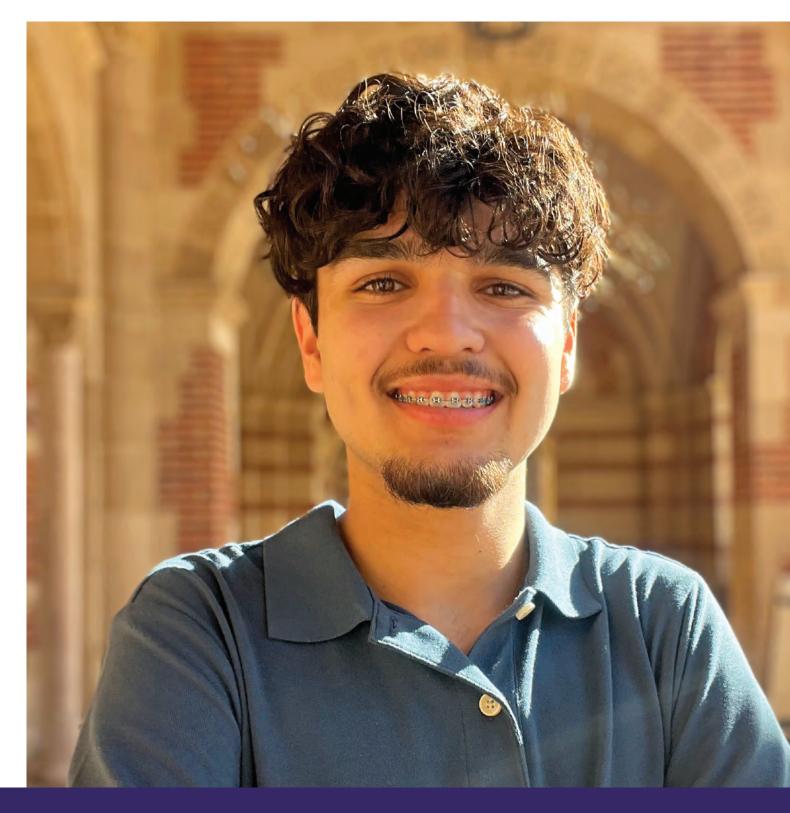
> **Irvine Valley** College

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Founded **1985**  Size 100 Acres City **Irvine**  Student Headcount Academic Year 2023-24 **22,661** 

President Dr. John C. Hernandez



"Your competition is you. The thing you can control is you, so do not waste too much energy on things out of your control. If you are unsure of what is next, that is perfectly fine, since being lost brings curiosity and new opportunities, and that is a beautiful thing."

## Luis Barbosa

Transfer Student from IVC to UC Los Angeles

#### 2024 SOCCCD ANNUAL REPORT

#### STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

# From IVC to UCLA: Luis Barbosa's Journey to Higher Education Leadership

Story by Irvine Valley College Marketing and Creative Services

Luis Barbosa, a proud first-generation Latino 2024 graduate of Irvine Valley College (IVC), has successfully transferred to UCLA, where he is majoring in Sociology with a minor in Chicana & Chicano Studies. His journey from Segerstrom High School to one of the nation's top universities showcases his academic excellence, passion for student support, and commitment to higher education.

At IVC, Luis excelled academically and engaged in transformative extracurricular activities that shaped his future aspirations. His academic dedication earned him acceptances to multiple prestigious institutions, including San Diego State University, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, and UCLA. He ultimately selected UCLA.

Luis' ultimate career goal is to use his experiences from IVC. He cites his inspiration stemming from IVC's brilliant faculty, combined with incredible campus opportunities that have inspired him to pursue a career in higher education. For Luis, this path allows him to work closely with students in a counseling role, with hopes of future career opportunities in counseling or administration within the community college system.



Luis Barbosa proudly wearing his Honors Medallion at IVC graduation.

An active student leader at IVC, Luis held leadership roles in the National Society of Leadership & Success and the Latinx Student Association while also participating in the Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society and the Honors Program. At UCLA, he continues his commitment to student advocacy. He interns at the Community Programs Office (CPO), helping provide essential services like food banks, study spaces, and holiday meal giveaways. He is also involved with Matriculate, a national organization guiding high school students through the college application process. Most recently, he was selected as a New Student Advisor, where he will mentor and counsel incoming first-year and transfer Bruins.

Luis' story exemplifies the power of community college education in shaping future leaders.

# 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. Additional programs include study abroad, cooperative work experience, and honors programs. The college offers 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.

## Leading

Hispanic-Serving Institution designated by the U.S. Department of Education

## #1

in Associate Degrees Awarded in Orange County



# SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

Founded **1968** 

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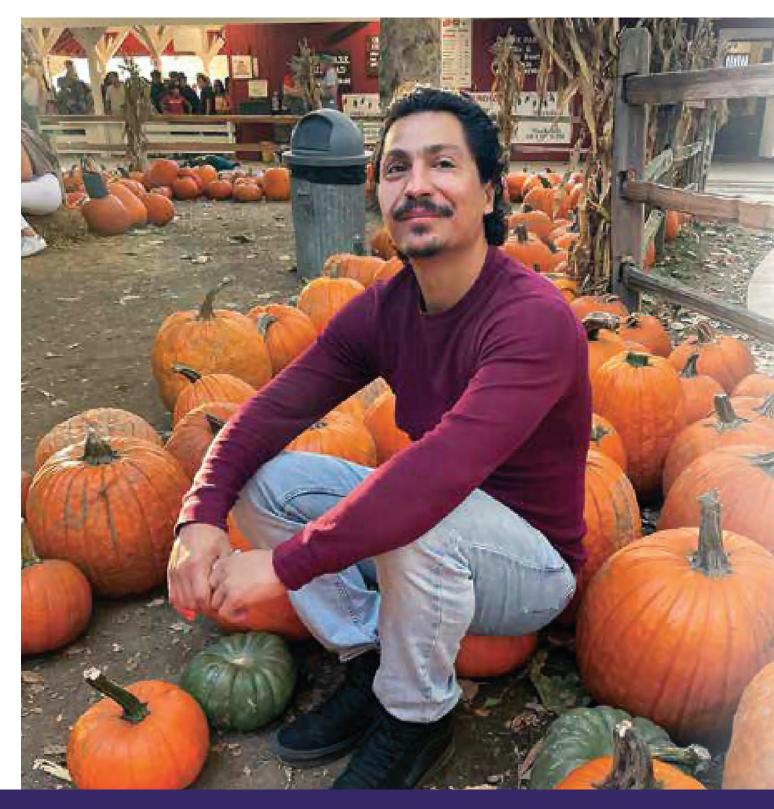
BOB

Student Headcount Academic Year 2023-24 **42,018** 

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President
Dr. Elliot Stern

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"I would have to say that I'm blessed and highly favored in the sense of landing at Saddleback because this school has a lot of different resources and individuals that have helped me out along the way and are continuing to help me out."

#### Juan Salazar

35-year-old STEM Student with Two Associate Science degrees

#### 2024 SOCCCD ANNUAL REPORT

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

## Juan Salazar has a Love for Learning

Story by Lou Ponsi, as it appeared in The Orange County Register

Juan Salazar has a love for learning. Juan earned an associate in science degree from Saddleback College in 2019, and is now back at Saddleback on the verge of earning a second degree, this one in engineering. Juan is a member of Saddleback's nationally recognized robotics team and was selected to attend the Society of Hispanic Engineers National Convention at the end of October. He is a participant in INCLUDES, an initiative of the National Science Foundation designed to make STEM careers available to underrepresented demographic groups. Salazar's accomplishments are notable, especially given his background.

Salazar did not graduate from high school and acknowledges being "young and dumb and living life fast."

Then at age 19, Salazar's life took a dramatic turn. He had his first daughter, followed by another.

"When I had my kids, that changed my whole perspective," he said. "And I just wanted to be a good father and set an example for my kids. One way or another, I was going to figure it out. I didn't want them to be raised by grandma or by some other individual."

In the coming years, Salazar was forced to put his education on hold a few times to take care of family responsibilities. At one point, Salazar was working three jobs, including a night job as a janitor, in order to provide for his family and pay for his education. He finally earned an associate degree in advanced manufacturing from Saddleback in 2019.

Salazar returned to Saddleback to pursue his second associate degree in engineering. After that, he plans to attend a four year university and earn a degree in mechanical engineering.

Salazar said his mentor at Saddleback is Art Nitta, dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, who has offered advice on the best strategies for pursuing his passion. Nitta said Salazar displays genuine enthusiasm and a love for learning, "He is one of the most memorable and exceptional students I've had the pleasure of working with at Saddleback College," Nitta said. "His genuine love for STEM is a source of delight for the staff and faculty who support our STEM program, as he continues to remind us why we also got on our own journey in STEM, that led us to Saddleback College."

When it all seemed overwhelming, Salazar turned to his family to recenter himself. "To just sit down with my kids and play Barbies with them, watch Disney cartoons," he said. "At that moment, I felt no matter what pressures or anything that I was going through, everything was OK, because this is what I live for."







# Advanced Technology & Education Park (ATEP)

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.



**ADVANTECH,** a global leader in innovative technology and industrial computing solutions, has partnered with SOCCCD in a historic agreement by signing a ground lease for their North America headquarters in Tustin. This landmark partnership underscores SOCCCD's commitment to fostering educational opportunities and workforce development in cutting-edge industries. The Advantech headquarters features a six-story office tower and a two-story warehouse on an approximately 10-acre site. The second floor of the office tower is dedicated to educational purposes, supporting collaboration between Advantech and SOCCCD, while floors 3-6 will focus on research and design. The warehouse will serve as a hub for storage, light manufacturing, repairs, and packaging of computer-related products, solidifying the site as a cornerstone for technological innovation and education in the region.



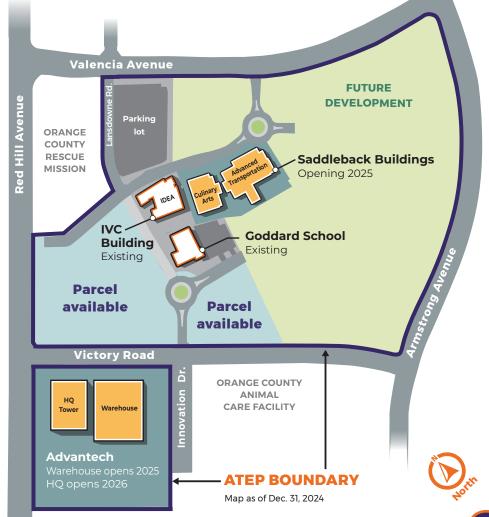
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HOUSE



# Looking from the transportation building to the culinary building.

**SADDLEBACK @ ATEP** progressed in 2024 on the construction of two new buildings for the Culinary / Hospitality programs and the Advanced Transportation/Logistics programs, which combined total 49,844 gross square feet. The Advanced Transportation building includes four classrooms, an auto shop with 14 lifts, and a high-tech lab. The Culinary Arts building includes four commercial kitchens, a restaurant, and a student-run coffee bar.



## Parcels for Lease at ATEP

# **Building a Better Future**

District Services and the Colleges work collaboratively to create welcoming, safe, and state-of the-art spaces for our dynamic courses and programs. The Facilities Planning Department annually manages 15-20 district-wide projects in various stages. Facilities Planning is shaping the future of SOCCCD through the Facilities Master Plan, which guides all projects through 2040. The plan includes sustainable designs, while also addressing critical accessibility and infrastructure needs on each campus.

#### SADDLEBACK COLLEGE MATH AND COMPUTER

SCIENCE BUILDING: This state-of-the-art. threestory, \$81 million facility is thoughtfully 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 for the Computer Sciences Department, equipping students with hands-on experience in high-demand fields. The top floor is dedicated to multifaceted uses, including a spacious assembly room, a broadcast studio for distance education, a library, and faculty offices.







#### IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES CENTER AND STUDENT UNION: Initiated in

AND STODENT ONION: Initiated in December 2024, these buildings represent a transformative investment in student success and campus innovation. At an estimated cost of \$101 million, these state-of-the-art buildings span a combined 73,197 square feet. The project will consolidate all student services, including food services, into a centralized location. Additionally, the development includes a redesigned quad and drop-off area, creating a more cohesive and welcoming campus environment.

**CONNECTING THE CAMPUS:** A new bridge over Library Road will bring people to a new plaza between the Learning Resource Center and the Math & Computer Science (M&CS) building. This tree-filled space will include a descending amphitheater and an immense walkway bridge to the 3rd floor of the M&CS building. This plaza will act as a connection between the upper campus quad and the lower campus.



# **Facilities Progress Report**

#### **Completed 2024**

- SC District Warehouse (Replace roll-up doors)
- SC District Warehouse (Replace cooler)
- SC Emergency Generators

#### **Under Construction 2024**

- SC@ATEP Culinary Arts/Advanced Transportation
- SC Softball Field/Parking 12 Expansion
- SC Solar Canopies Phase 1
- SC Math and Computer Science Building
- SC Quad Renovation Project
- SC BGS HVAC Replacement
- IVC Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- IVC Warehouse Canopy
- IVC Promenade/Coffee Structure

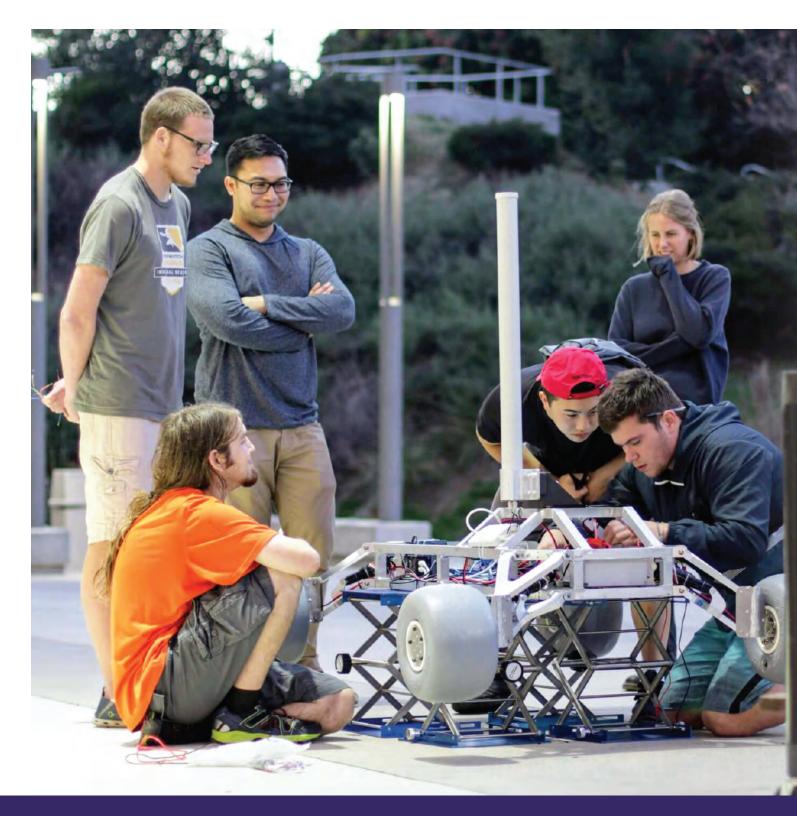
#### **Starting Construction 2025**

■ IVC – Student Services Center/Student Union

#### Programming/Design 2025

- SC Central Plant Renovation
- SC 12kV Upgrade
- SC Baseball Field/Scoreboard Replacement
- SC Solar Canopies & Battery Storage
- SC Landscape Phase 2
- SC Horticulture
- SC Student Services Center Building
- IVC Electrical Upgrades

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"SC Robotics has greatly enhanced my education because it urges its members to apply what we've learned in a classroom to real world situations — creating a Mars Rover... it expanded my technical STEM skills all while working alongside some of the most incredible people."

#### **Christina von Urff**

Member Saddleback College Robotic Team

#### 2024 SOCCCD ANNUAL REPORT

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

# Saddleback College's Robotics Team Builds Skills Through Teamwork

Story by SOCCCD Public Affairs, as it appeared in The Orange County Register

Each year, over a hundred colleges and universities compete in The Mars Society University Rover Challenge (URC). Saddleback College's Robotics Team is the only team hailing from a community college that participates in this competition held annually in southern Utah. URC is the world's premier robotics competition for college students, challenging teams to design and build the next generation of Mars Rovers that will one day work alongside astronauts exploring the Red Planet.

In addition to Saddleback, competing teams hail from colleges and universities including Cornell, University of Michigan, and UC San Diego. "Our primary goal is education. We are educating students in project management and engineering, and we are throwing them in a room and telling them, 'You're going to build this.' It is immersive learning," said Mitch Haeri, professor and chair of the Saddleback physics and astronomy department and Robotics Team adviser.

Each participating college works together to build a working rover, capable of being driven through the competition field by the students. Each rover must be able to perform service activities, such as collecting tools and delivering them to astronauts. However, the primary goal is the collection and analysis of field samples for evidence of life on Mars, both living and fossils. While building their Rover, the Saddleback team worked closely with professionals and adviser mentors.

Participation in URC has allowed the Robotics Team to create unlikely collaborations across Saddleback, creating a sense of community. One such collaboration included the Automotive Technology Department, who assisted when help was needed to weld the rover chassis.

Saddleback College is not only the only community college to compete, but they also ranked 17th out of more than 100 competitors, placing them above some lvy League schools and other prestigious universities.



Mars robotic rover under development by students at Saddleback College.



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# **Trustees at Work**

Serving on the board goes beyond the boardroom, as the trustees actively engage with the community, promoting the District and effectively communicating its core messages to the public.



**COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES:** The Trustees met in open forums with staff and the public for informal listening sessions, where people could share their concerns and recommendations with the District's leadership on a wide range of topics.



**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY:** A delegation from SOCCCD visited Washington, D.C., to meet with local congressional members in an effort to get key legislation passed. The District's legislative goals included increasing resources for student veterans and helping students overcome non-academic barriers. **GROUNDBREAKINGS:** There were several groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies in 2024, with district leadership supporting a robust program for improving facilities to provide students with the best possible learning environments. In April, trustees and Chancellor Barnes officiated at the ribbon cutting for IVC's new Arts Village, a \$61 million project with three buildings and extensive outdoor spaces.



#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The District received the Water Hero Award from the Moulton Niguel Water District on May 4. The presentation included a tour of Saddleback's extensive new water-saving native landscaping.





# **Community Engagement**

#### Operations Spending Impact Construction Spe College payroll & other spending + ripple effects College construction + ripple eff \$196.9 million \$25.8 m Added county income Added county OR OR 286 2,5 Jobs supported in ounty bs supported All results measured in income, not sales. Results are

#### **ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL (OCBC):**

Chancellor Barnes was reappointed to the OCBC's Board of Directors and is a member of the executive board in her new role as Co-Chair of OCBC's Workforce Development Committee.



#### STATE OF THE DISTRICT:

In one of the year's most significant events, the Chancellor delivered a comprehensive overview in March, highlighting the District's achievements, initiatives, and future plans.

#### ATEP TAKES MAJOR STEP:

District leadership, joined by Tustin Councilmember Ryan Gallagher and the CEO of Advantech, were at the groundbreaking of Advantech's new six-story headquarters on 10 acres at ATEP – the largest development to date at the technology park.





COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARENESS: The Orange County Board of Supervisors presented the Chancellor and the Board President with a resolution acknowledging the impact SOCCCD has in educating and training the future workforce of Orange County.

#### LOS ANGELES TIMES: 🕨

Chancellor Barnes was named one of the most "Inspirational Women in Orange County" in 2024 for her leadership in improving educational outcomes and workforce development.





Student Demographics

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

	Unless specifie	a, data is district-wide is for 2024-2025 acc	ademic year.	
	How Many Units Do Students Take?	Enrollment Status of Students	What Gender are Students?	
	<b>59%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>55.7%</b>	
	PART TIME (less than 12 units)	CONTINUING STUDENTS	FEMALE	
		24.7%	39.4%	
	21%	RETURNING STUDENTS	MALE	
	FULL TIME	13.2%	4.5%	
	(12 or more units)	FIRST-TIME	DECLINE	
		COLLEGE STUDENTS	TO STATE	
	20%	12.3%	0.4%	
	NON-CREDIT	CONCURRENT HIGH	NON-	
	STUDENTS	SCHOOL STUDENTS	BINARY	
		Note: Other: 0.5%		
		Student Age		
Below 18 year	s old	16%		
18-21 year	s old			33%
22-29 year	s old	17%		

30 years old or greater

Wh	<b>by do Students Attend?</b> District-wide
	43.8% TRANSFER
	23% PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT 9.4% 8% UNDECIDED CAREER
35	8.1% 7.7% GED/BASIC DEGREE/ SKILLS CERTIFICATE

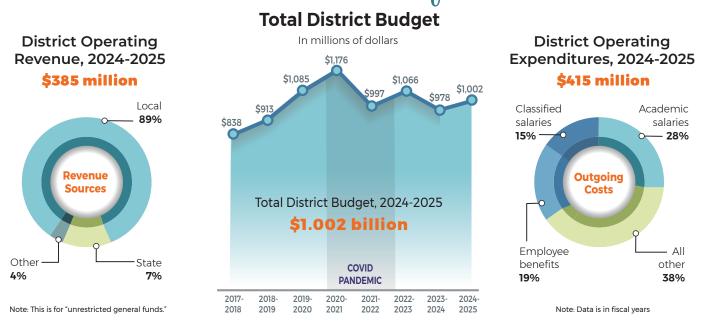
20

vine Valley College	Saddleback College
<b>37</b> %	46%
ASIAN	WHITE
30%	26%
WHITE	OTHER RESPONSES*
23%	14%
HER RESPONSES*	ASIAN
8%	12%
HISPANIC	HISPANIC
2%	2%
RICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
* These include "Decline	* e to state" or "Mixed race."

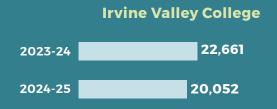
34%

36

District Profile

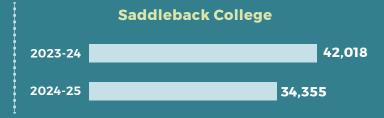


#### **Student Headcount**



**Employee Category** 

District-wide, Fall 2024





Fall 2023 vs. Fall 2024



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# **Employee Recognition**

All of the District's employees are valuable, but a few were recognized in 2024 as exhibiting the highest level of achievement in job performance. Here are the professors and employees of the year:

# **2024 Faculty of the Year**

#### Irvine Valley College



Sanjai Gupta Full-time Faculty of the Year



**Roy Zipstein** Part-time Faculty of the Year

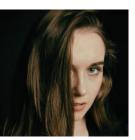


**Jun Chung** Emeritus Faculty of the Year

# College

Saddleback

Kiana Tabibzadeh Full-Time Faculty of the Year



Brooke Campbell Part-Time Faculty of the Year



Elizabeth Chavez Emeritus Faculty of the Year

# 2024 Employees of the Year



Jackie Han District Services



Kim d'Arcy Saddleback College



**Traci Fahimi** Irvine Valley College



Judy Perez District Services



**Classified Employees** 

**Raj** Dhillon Saddleback College



Karen Jimenez 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.







#### Irvine Valley College Foundation

For Info 949-451-5290 Saddleback College Foundation

> For Info 949-582-4479



#### SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

www.socccd.edu

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Carolyn Inmon, President Ryan Dack, Vice President T.J. Prendergast III, Clerk Lisa A. Bartlett, Member Timothy Jemal, Member Marcia Milchiker, Member Terri Rydell, Ed.D., Member

Sharla Clemente, Student Member

#### **CHANCELLOR**

Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, Ed.D.

It is the policy of the SOCCCD to fully comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Consistent with that policy, this material is available in alternative formats. Such materials and other disability accommodations will be provided as needed upon request. For needed accommodations or alternate formats, please contact: **Cindy Barron, cbarron@socccd.edu**