

June 15, 2022 #EquityChat

Dr. John Hernandez (@MyIrvineValley), President of Irvine Valley College

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures hosted by @SDMesaPrez & @lamkeithcurry your @equityavengers Tonight our guest is Dr. John Hernandez, President of @MyIrvineValley - we will focus in on his equity wk. and explore his leadership as an LGBTQ+ CEO. Welcome John!

QT [@econroy\\_1](#) President Hernandez is fabulous, worth following #EquityChat this evening

<https://twitter.com/equityavengers/status/1537220935740444672?s=20&t=6R8ZhKBislGOZv4PFpc4Qw>

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @MyIrvineValley. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. What are three things that are essential to what make you, you? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) 1)As a first-gen, immigrant, my parents came to the US for a better life, to fulfill their dreams & aspirations for their children. This lived experience shaped my understanding of the impact of a college education particularly as a means to economic mobility. 1/3 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) 2)I am the product of the CA community college system (CCC) and have a genuine commitment to the mission of the CCC. This has shaped my passion about this work. 2/3 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) 3)My college journey was shaped as an EOPS student at Fullerton College. EOPS staff believed in my potential to succeed long before I realized it for myself. This experience inspired me to pursue higher ed in order to make a difference within educational spaces. 3/3 #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @MyIrvineValley. What is your definition of equity? How is equity-minded practice embedded in your work? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Equity is eliminating disparities in student success measures & meeting students where they are. It entails intentionality in sustaining a socially-just evolved set of college structures & culturally relevant practices to ensure students achieve their educational goals. 1/4

[@MyIrvineValley](#) It is embracing the fundamental belief that all students can succeed, &, as educators, place the onus on us to redesign our learning environments to ensure every student's experience is designed for success. 2/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) I model & embrace the belief that all students can succeed, & I directly & indirectly contribute to a culture where student-centered learning predominates. We have a responsibility to address & eliminate academic & social barriers, 3/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) & work with campus stakeholders to create solutions & effective strategies. It requires a paradigm shift within our higher ed structures not created for many of the students we serve today, nor which included ed leaders from backgrounds such as mine. 4/4 #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3 @MyIrvineValley. Tell us about Irvine Valley College and your role as President. @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) IVC is a dynamic institution with a diverse student population. We are an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI); and an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). IVC is committed to student equity, access, & success. 1/5 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Our students outperform the CA average on several success metrics. 66% have degree or transfer as their ed goal. IVC has a strong transfer culture, reflected in our high transfer rates. 59% of students work and attend classes & 42% of students receive fin aid. 2/5 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Onboarding as president during the pandemic presented several challenges while also creating opportunities to create a sense of community within a virtual platform. 3/5 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) I embraced the community's expectation to be intentional in building trust & caring relationships across the college; be visibly present, transparent & fully engaged; fostering collaboration; & by providing leadership as an active participant in our college's equity journey. 4/5

[@MyIrvineValley](#) My role as president is multi-dimensional. I am often the "face" of the college to our local community. I am a facilitator, problem-solver, consensus builder, & student advocate. 5/5 #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q4 @MyIrvineValley. What are some creative ways @MyIrvineValley has utilized relief efforts/funds to support students, faculty, and administrators during the pandemic? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) IVC invested state & federal funds in the following major areas: direct student emergency grants & food assistance; equipment (i.e. laptops) for students and employees to support remote learning & operations; 1/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) meal distribution & health services drive-thrus; hotspots, software support, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitization supplies, COVID-19 tests, & other critical purchases to combat the coronavirus. 2/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) To transition to remote learning, we implemented a learning management system that could deliver lab classes, such as biology, physics, & dance. Another web-based learning management system that allows courses to be delivered virtually was also purchased. 3/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Most recently we dedicated resources for student re-engagement, focusing on students who stopped out during the pandemic. Targeted activities include a Call Center, debt discharge, & completion incentives for students who are 2-4 classes short of completing their program. 4/4

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 @MyIrvineValley. What has been your experience as an LGBTQIA+ leader, particularly as a community college president? What advice do you have for the next generation of LGBTQIA+ leaders? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Embracing my intersectionality as a Latino, gay, cisgender male has allowed me to be a more authentic leader although it wasn't always so. Often there is a presumption that I am straight, & I recognize this bestows heterosexual privilege. 1/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) As a young professional who was selectively "out," my race & ethnic identity was, for many years, prominent. Through the years, I learned to fully embrace my intersectionality & navigate my career as an LGBTQIA+ leader in a predominantly heteronormative world. 2/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Speaking your truth & bringing your lived experience as LGBTQIA+ leaders provide an understanding of the experiences of marginalized students. It allows us to navigate multiple communities, provides a unique understanding of power & privilege 3/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) ...and in building inclusive coalitions to dismantle structures that have often left us without a place or voice at the table. Be bold and be unapologetically you! 4/4 #EquityChat

[@ContinuousLrner](#) Grateful for mi hermano, Dr. John Hernandez. A kind leader.

<https://twitter.com/ContinuousLrner/status/1506832663490883588?s=20&t=6R8ZhKBisIGOV4PFPC4Qw>

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 @MyIrvineValley. As we end another academic year during the pandemic, what do you think we should be focusing on now to best support students and employees? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Students' ability to access online ed during the pandemic & how faculty incorporated virtual teaching modalities demands a dialogue on the future of distance ed (DE). We have an opportunity to redefine what we will look like in a post-pandemic world 1/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) ...and to retain "best practices" related to online learning, instructional, & student support. It is my hope and expectation that we NOT hit the "reset" button to teaching, student support modalities, or remote work that mirrored what we had in place before the pandemic. 2/4

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Student demand coupled with instructional expectations requires dedicated dialogue & planning to articulate a vision for the future of remote learning and work. 3/4 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) This should include a needs assessment, development of a comprehensive vision, & the design of an infrastructure that can support student demand & needs, instructional design, faculty expectations, professional development, & staffing considerations. 4/4 #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 [@MyIrvineValley](#). This question is an #EquityChat favorite – What's a book you've recently read and what book(s) should we consider reading? [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) The last book I read was our district-wide DEI Book Read "Minding the Obligation Gap in Community Colleges and Beyond" (Sims, Taylor-Mendoza, Hotep, Wallace & Conoway). I am in the process of reading Laura Rendon's "Sentipensante (Sensing/Thinking) Pedagogy." 1/3 #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Excellent choices!

[@MyIrvineValley](#) This summer I hope to do some leisure reading & have at least 1 remaining book in Hearn's Iron Druid Chronicles series. Two suggested books "Let Your Life Speak" by Parker Palmer. I returned to portions of this book over the years for guidance in my career-related decisions 2/3

[@MyIrvineValley](#) Another book is "From Equity Talk to Equity Walk" (McNair, Bensimon, Malcolm-Piqueux). I had the pleasure of hosting Dr. McNair as my guest for the spring 2021 president's opening day & that same semester the IVC management team engaged in a book read & monthly discussion. 3/3

[@Iamkeithcurry](#) Q8 [@MyIrvineValley](#). We're on our last question for the evening. What gives you hope? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) I ❤️ this question. Ironically, during the peak of the pandemic, I found myself in a position to restore hope & uplift employees & students. That's not something we necessarily think of as ed administrators, but it is a needed role for leaders, particularly during a crisis. 1/5

[@MyIrvineValley](#) To inspire hope, one must have reasons to hope. Many things give me hope among them: I am optimistic that we learned much while creatively responding to a global crisis. IVC came together as a community & as we reengage in person we are stronger & better equipped. 2/5

[@MyIrvineValley](#) I find hope & inspiration in the students I meet & their resilience & dedication in spite of balancing multiple life responsibilities. The pandemic has challenged me to be more reflective on my vocation & the reasons why I entered this noble profession. 3/5 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) I'm encouraged by our employees who authentically show up in our educational spaces to be fully engaged & genuinely committed to creating & sustaining learning environments, so every student's experience is designed for success. 4/5 #EquityChat

[@MyIrvineValley](#) While we may not directly shape the narrative that continues to spew hate-filled rhetoric & actions that aim to dehumanize & target members of our community, I'm hopeful & encouraged at how we impact our local sphere of influence, sustaining an inclusive environment. 5/5



**EQUITY**  
AVENGERS

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY Dr Hernandez [@MyIrvineValley](#) for sharing your work & for your leadership! Join us next wk -we wrap Season 2 of #EquityChat @CollegeFutures-featuring [@SDMesaPrez](#) as she retires from [@sdmesacollege](#)! More in Season 3 as [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & #PrezPam host new guests! #WeOUT  
[@MyIrvineValley](#) Thank you so much [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@equityavengers](#) for this opportunity to #EquityChat with you all tonight. The topic of equity is near and dear to me. There's still a lot of work to be done, but we will do it together.