Welcoming New Leadership at MiraCosta College and Imperial Valley College

September 2026

This fall brings leadership transitions at two of the region's community colleges, as Dr. Lennor M. Johnson begins his tenure at MiraCosta College and Dr. James Limbaugh steps in as Interim Superintendent/President of Imperial Valley College (IVC).

MiraCosta College welcomed Dr. Johnson as its new Superintendent/President in June, following a unanimous vote by the MiraCosta Community College District Board of Trustees. He succeeds Dr. Sunita "Sunny" Cooke and brings more than 28 years of educational leadership experience to the role.

Dr. Johnson comes to MiraCosta from IVC, where he first served as Interim Superintendent/President in 2021 before taking on the permanent position. During his tenure, IVC earned the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges.

Throughout his career, Dr. Johnson has focused on expanding access and removing barriers to academic and career success, particularly for first-generation students, foster youth, veterans and other historically underserved populations. His appointment also marks a milestone for MiraCosta, where he is the first African American Superintendent/President in the college's 92-year history.

Following Dr. Johnson's departure, IVC welcomed Dr. Limbaugh as Interim Superintendent/President while the college searches for its next permanent leader.

Dr. Limbaugh brings more than 30 years of higher education experience, most recently serving nine years as president of West Los Angeles College, where he became the longest-serving president in the institution's history. He previously served as interim president of Oxnard College and chancellor of Montana State University-Northern.

At IVC, Dr. Limbaugh will focus on maintaining stability during the transition while advancing key college priorities, including its Vision 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan. He has also emphasized clear communication and continued support for the programs and services that serve IVC students and the broader Imperial Valley community.

SDI RC looks forward to working with both leaders as they step into their new roles and continuing its partnerships with MiraCosta and IVC to strengthen education and workforce pathways across San Diego and Imperial counties.

Learn more about Dr. Johnson here.
Learn more about Dr. Limbaugh here.