

A nationally recognized publisher of college resources and independent rankings has ranked Imperial Valley College as one of the best community colleges in California.

IVC was ranked sixth among California's 116 community colleges, based upon four data points: affordability, student satisfaction, academic quality and salaries of former students after attending. EdSmart used data from the U.S. Department of Education.

"It is important to recognize the colleges and universities that go above and beyond," said Tyson Stevens, managing editor of EdSmart after release of its 2023 report on the Best Colleges and Universities in California. "Our goal is to highlight these schools and their commitment to higher education, he said."

It published annual reports to assist prospective students and their families in researching the top educational institutions in California.

This latest distinction comes as IVC is awaiting results of a campus visit this Fall from another prestigious national organization, the Aspen Institute. The institute, which has already ranked IVC in the top 10 of community colleges nationally, is considering whether IVC will receive its \$1million 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

"This is a nice surprise and is another reaffirmation of the high quality of dedication to our students' success from all of our full time and part-time employees here at IVC," said IVC Superintendent/President Lennor Johnson, Ed.D.

To determine its rankings, EdSmart uses publicly available data to produce independent ranking assessments of various educational programs, in addition to student guides and resources.

EdSmart gave IVC a score of 92.2 out of 100 possible points. The top community college in the rankings, Mt. San Antonio, received a score of 94.

In its comments, EdSmart noted that IVC was founded in 1962 and its highest degree level is an associate degree. It offers 24 transfer degrees as well as 50 other degree and certificate programs.

"Imperial Valley College provides students with online course options that remove time and location restrictions from learning. Attendees are still provided a high-quality education but are offered more convenience and flexibility to complete their courses," the evaluation stated.

It went on to note some of the online courses currently being offered include Accounting, Applied Health Professions, Administration of Justice, Art, Biology, Business Administration, Child Development, Chemistry, Counseling, English, Geology, Health Education, History, Mathematics, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Spanish.

EdSource cited net costs to IVC students of \$2,206, a retention rate of 75 percent; graduation rate of 40 percent and an average salary of students after attending IVC of \$30,438.

Two other community colleges in the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College area were also ranked in the top 10: Grossmont College was ranked eighth and Palomar, ninth. Another regional community college, Cuyamaca, was listed as an honorable mention.