

# IVC earns 'energy and sustainability' award

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Imperial Valley College is one of five winners in this year's California Community Colleges Board of Governors annual Energy and Sustainability Awards competition.

The awards are presented to community colleges or districts that promote energy efficiency and sustainability on their campuses, according to a statement from the organization. The awards were given to colleges that maximized Proposition 39 funding, which is distributed to California community colleges for energy-efficient upgrades.

IVC is being lauded for upgrades that reduced its natural gas usage. The college replaced its aging gym and library boilers and its pool heating system, which consumed a large amount of natural gas. The gym boiler replacement will save more 6,600 therms per year and about \$8,600 in energy and maintenance costs, according to a statement from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

"We always apply for Prop 39 funding," said Victor Jaime, IVC superintendent and president. "Anytime there is state funding, we apply for it."

Under Proposition 39, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act, about \$550 million is available each year for energy-efficiency projects in schools.

IVC's new landscaping is water efficient, and all of the school's new architectural designs have resource efficiency in mind, Jaime said.

The college is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for two of its career technical buildings, he said.

**Leadership** in Energy and Environmental Design standards encourage the design and construction of energy-efficient structures.

"The drought we are confronting is a stark reminder of the scarcity of the resources we take for granted," according to Manuel Baca, president of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. "Every effort should be made to conserve those limited resources. The colleges and individuals we are honoring are paving the way toward a sustainable future. I congratulate the winners of these awards and all of the other colleges who have made energy sustainability and conservation a way of life on their campuses."

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