

## Presidential forum

The search for a new President/Superintendent of Imperial Valley College has been narrowed to five finalists, and the campus community as well as the public at large will have an opportunity Tuesday, May 1, to hear from the candidates at a Public Forum and give written comments to the Board of Trustees.

The trustees have scheduled a special meeting at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, when they will be doing their own closed-session interviews. Announcement of the new President/Superintendent is expected at May 16 IVC Board of Trustee meeting.

The candidates are:

- Robert A. Frost, Ph.D, currently (interim) Dean of the John Adams Campus of City College, San Francisco.
- Martha Garcia, Ed.D, currently vice president of student services at IVC and Interim Vice President of Instruction;
- G.H. Javaheripour, Ed.D, currently Yuba College President;
- Christopher Villa, Ed.D, Vice President of Student Services at Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC).
- Wei Zhou, Ph.D, past President of Crafton Hills College

The candidate selected will replace Victor M. Jaime, Ed.D, who is retiring from IVC after 38 years of service as an administrator, vice president and president/superintendent.

The public forum will begin at 5 p.m. with a “meet and greet” followed by the forum at 6 p.m. The event will take place in room 2734 on campus.

Each candidate will be given up to 2 minutes for an introduction. Each candidate will be asked a question in round robin format. Not each candidate will get the same question. At the end of the round robin question and answer period, each candidate will be provided 2 minutes for closing remarks. The form is scheduled to end at 8 p.m.

Questions for the candidates can be sent to the Chief Human Resources Officer at [clint.dougherty@imperial.edu](mailto:clint.dougherty@imperial.edu) . All questions must be prescreened by Human Resources and asked by the moderator at the open forum.



**Martha Garcia, Ed.D**

Dr. Martha Garcia currently serves as Imperial Valley College's Vice President for Student Services and Acting Vice President for Academic Services. She was previously responsible for developing and coordinating a \$5.8 million California Career Pathways Trust Grant, *Salud y Seguridad para la Comunidad*, a project that enabled Imperial Valley College to create Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Level One. Dr. Garcia has developed a multitude of categorically funded programs that focused on serving minority and underrepresented students. Through her successful grant writing competence, she has secured more than \$14 million for Imperial Valley College, since 2009. Additionally, she has developed numerous Career Technical Education Programs that integrated a comprehensive student services approach. She has been employed at Imperial Valley College since 1999 and has held several positions under Student Services and Academic Services. Dr. Garcia earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Community College Leadership from San Diego State University, and possesses a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling from National University, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, and an Associate's Degree in General Major from Imperial Valley College.

Dr. Garcia is committed to making a difference for her students and her community and serves on various community organizations: she is a board member for Justice for Our Neighbors; Live Your Dream Scholarship coordinator for Soroptimist International of El Centro and a member of Imperial Valley Breakfast Rotary. She will be participating in IVROP Community Foundation's "Dancing with the Stars Gala" this year in an effort to help raise funding for student scholarships. Moreover, she was honored as one of the 56th California Assembly District's "2018 Woman of the Year." She is commended for her commitment, tenacity, and leadership to improve our community through continuous leadership efforts. Finally, Dr. Garcia enjoys traveling and spending time with her family, which resides in Brawley.



**G.H. Javaheripour, Ed.D**

Dr. G.H. Javaheripour currently serves as the Yuba College President. The college provides education and training for approximately 9,500 students and a service area that covers five counties. Dr. Javaheripour has guided reaffirmation of the College's Radiologic Technology, POST and Fire Technologies programs. He has stabilized the college by recruiting permanent faculty, staff and administrators, developing a barrier-free relationship that is based on transparent shared-governance principles, and encouraging an environment where risk taking and innovation are encouraged. Under his guidance, the college has reengaged with the community, public educational partners, community service organizations, Beale Air Force Base, and city and non-profit agencies. The Alumni and Friends association has been established to reach alumni of the past ninety graduating classes, and organized Puente and Umoja programs to support students.

His career spans the academic, student services and administrative services arena. Celebrating his 37th year of service in public education, Dr. Javaheripour began his higher education career at the University of New Mexico in 1981. He started his community college career in New Mexico at Gallup Community College in 2001 and continued at Santa Fe Community College. In 2006, he joined Chabot College, continuing at Victor Valley College, and Yuba College in California. He has served at the policy level for 23 years and in executive capacities for the past 18 years. He received his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education from Southern Illinois University, MBA from Webster University, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of New Mexico.



**Robert A. Frost, Ph.D.**

Dr. Robert Frost has worked in community college teaching and administration since 1989. In addition to teaching history and humanities for 12 years, Dr. Frost has served as a Curriculum Committee Chair, Director of International Education, Vice President of Academic and Student Services and interim President/Superintendent at College of the Siskiyous in Northern California and President of Centralia College in Washington.

He speaks fluent Spanish, having lived and worked in Mexico and South America for over three years. He is a widely published author and scholar, with interests that range from small town economic challenges to current higher education issues. In California, he has served on the board of the Farmworker Institute for Education and Leadership Development (FIELD), founded by Cesar Chavez. Nationally, he serves on the NAFSA board of directors, based in Washington, DC.

Currently, Dr. Frost is the (interim) Dean of the John Adams Campus of City College, San Francisco. As a member of the administration, he oversees several academic departments in the district, college athletics, and serves on the Participatory Governance Council.

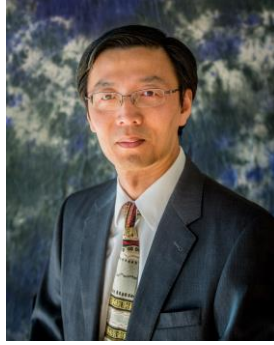
Rob and Dr. LaDona Martin-Frost have been married 30 years. They have two adult daughters.



**Christopher Villa, Ed.D**

Dr. Christopher Villa currently serves as the Vice President of Student Services at Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC). Prior to joining LAMC, he served as Vice President of Student Services at Fresno City College and Vice President of Student Support Services at Long Beach City College. At LAMC he is leading the college in developing and implementing its Guided Pathways Program and the revitalization of the Student Success Center. He has served as a Board Member for the State of California Community College Chief Student Services Administration Association and as a mentor within the National Hispanic Community College Hispanic Council, an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges (AAAC).

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah. Currently, he is a part-time faculty with the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department at California State University, Northridge and has taught doctoral and masters level courses to practicing community college administrators, faculty, and staff. Dr. Villa participated in the Executive Leadership Institute sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College.



**Wei Zhou, Ph.D**

Dr. Wei Zhou holds a Ph.D. from the nation's oldest and best doctoral program of its kind at the University of Texas at Austin specializing in community college education and leadership

He has served as Dean of Math, Science and Engineering, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President of Instruction, Interim President and President at Evergreen Valley College, Copper Mountain College, Cuyamaca College, and Crafton Hills College, and a variety of teaching, research and administrative assignments at two-year and four-year institutions.

Thanks to the support from talented, hardworking faculty, staff and students, during Dr. Zhou's leadership, his colleges have committed to equity-minded student success and global vision, ranked among the nation's fastest-growing community colleges, achieved regions' top student success and graduation rates, joined the international Tuning project and national Achieving the Dream project, secured multi-millions dollars of federal and state grants as well as funding through business and industry partnerships and fundraising activities, expanded higher education access to underserved communities, and brought baccalaureate degrees to local students.

Dr. Zhou has also fostered collaborative relationships with local business and industry, K-12 school districts, higher education institutions, government and community organizations, and legislators, and served on a number of local, county, regional, state and national boards and committees.