

**RECORDER NAME: Betsy Riehle**

**DATE/MEETING LOCATION: November 3, 2003/Heber**

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE  
VISIONING PROCESS – FOCUS GROUPS**

*Questions by Category*

**1.0 WARM UP QUESTIONS**

1.1 How many of you have either attended IVC or have had a family member attend IVC? (Follow-up to affirmative answers: How many of you are CURRENTLY students at IVC?)

- One currently attending taking business administration
- One son attended paramedic training

1.2 What part of the video or fact sheet surprised you?

- Why hasn't school grown
- Students can't get into classes

1.3 What part of the video or fact sheet did you dislike (or disagree with)?

- Why so many extended campuses?
- Traffic and too far to drive
- How do you apply for scholarships
- Museum is a joke! Needs improvement outside
- No transportation after 2:00 P.M.

**2.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO TOTAL DISTRICT**

2.1 What do you think of the relationship between IVC and the Imperial Valley at large?

- Good, but not enough information

2.2 What is the best role IVC can play in Imperial County?

- Offer more classes

### **3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES**

3.1 What do you think of the relationship between IVC and your community?

- IVC does early outreach in the Heber community
- Don't concentrate on the border—concentrate in the cities
- Concerned that students from across the border are taking up the classes and have priority to register

3.2 What changes do you see in your community? How is IVC responding? How should it respond?

- IVC needs to grow (concentrate on main college campus)
- Why don't they have sports facilities – a football stadium
- No concession stands
- No sidewalks in front of IVC

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- People from out of area laugh at IVC sports facilities
- Need a snack bar, restrooms, only basketball as a good facility

3.4 How has IVC contributed to your community? What do you think about those contributions?

- Would recommend IVC to a friend

3.5 What is the best role IVC can play in your community?

3.6 What does IVC do for your community? Could you elaborate?

3.7 How can IVC overcome distance issues to serve your community?

- Better bus service
- Bus service for evening classes

### **4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS**

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

- Good

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

- Concerned about the fees

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

- Lower fees

4.4 In general, what do you think about IVC as an educational institution?

- OK

4.5 If you could change anything at IVC, what would you change?

- Make the library better; more access to computer and more books
- More of a presence on Heber school campus

4.6 IVC's slogan is "Where Success Begins." Do you agree?

- Don't agree - it puts too much pressure on students
- Same slogan as Heber School

4.7 What is the single most critical factor in your determination to either attend or not attend IVC or support its endeavors?

- More personal contact and close to home so not as much strain and stress on students

4.8 What are IVC's strengths?

- Known for sports in the 60s and 70s; get back to sports (football)

4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?

## **5.0 PROGRAMS**

5.1 What do you think of the future of IVC? What courses or programs should it be offering in the next 3 to 6 years?

- Courses over internet
- More programs for disabled students

- Courses online would not reach the low income students because they can't afford computers or internet
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- 5.2 What kinds of services are you looking for—and not finding—from IVC?
- 5.3 Many colleges offer their courses on line. Do you think an online program at IVC would be beneficial in your community?
- Not to the low income families who can't afford internet
- 5.4 How can IVC help with economic development in your community?
- Expand
  - Help students grow
- 5.5 What type of training programs would you like to see IVC add to its curriculum to suit the needs of your community?
- Fire science
  - More computer training
- 5.6 Please evaluate the quality of IVC's co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, such as sports or cultural/arts opportunities for the community and students.
- Bring back football
  - Get a track and soccer program
- 5.7 What kinds of arts or sports programs should IVC be offering to students and the community?
- Should be more emphasis on soccer and softball – only basketball has priority
  - Should promote all sports
- 6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE**
- 6.1 How has IVC affected your business? Your livelihood? Your family?
- Son dropped out because instructor was facially biased.
- 6.2 What has been your experience and impressions in working with IVC?
- Services to explain financial aid are not available

6.3 If you could change anything about IVC, what would it be?

- Do away with extended campuses
- Counselors should be more accessible

6.4 What have been IVC's limitations in meeting your expectations?

- Not being able to get classes

## **7.0 FACILITIES**

7.1 Are there any relationships you can think of between IVC's facilities and its capability to meet student needs?

- Not enough classrooms

7.2 In your opinion, what is the best facility at Imperial Valley College?

- The Reading/Writing Lab
- The gym and swimming pool because they are open to the public

7.3 What facility improvements, if any, would you like to see at IVC?

- Need new automotive facility
- Parking facilities
- The Art Gallery needs improvements

7.4 In your opinion, what is the worst facility at Imperial Valley College?

- The 500 buildings

## **8.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

8.1 How do you hear about IVC's programs, services and registration dates?

- Newspaper (sports only)
- Class schedules via mail
- Word of mouth

8.2 Do you get regular information about IVC? By what means?

- Mail, newspaper, word of mouth

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Through the mail, newspaper and TV

**CONCLUSION**