

RECORDER NAME: _____Dennis Carnes_____

DATE/MEETING LOCATION: _____11/4/03/Ocotillo Community Center_____

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 lady had taken two art classes at IVC.
Two other gentlemen said that they had a lot of exposure to IVC,
but did not mention whether they had taken classes or not.**

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

Information was new to some people.

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

- **The small fact sheet was very well received; a suggestion for a map on the fact sheet was made.**
- **The quality of the video presentation was poor, it was stated by several people there.**
- **Field trips for some classes should have been shown on the video.**
- **The content of the video was otherwise praised: “Good information” “I learned a lot about IVC from the video.” “The historical perspective was excellent.”**

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?

- **There was a period a few years ago when the image of IVC was at its lowest**
- **It's reputation is on hold now; it seems to be improving.**
- **It is a good "feeder" school for students who have little money but have a desire to get a four year college education.**
- **The museum is revered and should be opened. It would bring people to Ocotillo. It would attract tourists.**
- **It was suggested that the museum could hold other collections than what it has now.**

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

- **We do not have to worry about the cost of education at IVC.**
- **When there was a paleontology department at IVC, there was more community interest.**
- **There were archeological field trips. This should be part of the new IVC also.**

3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

- **Ocotillo at one time had several classes in arts and crafts and field trips for community.**
- **Transportation to the main campus is a major issue for seniors and young alike.**
- **Several comments were made to the effect that in recent years Ocotillo felt left out.**
- **They viewed the focus group as an indication of renewed interest by IVC in Ocotillo.**

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

- **Ocotillo has had an influx of younger people and they need access to IVC.**
- **Some good classes might include: carpentry, plastering, masonry, electrical.**
- **Construction classes to build houses and auction them off.**
- **Classes on state regulatory permits, especially concerning water management.**

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- **On hold now. Very bad in the last couple of years. There was a lot of bickering.**
- **The reputation of backbiting and fault finding killed the last bond issue.**
- **It is turning around.**
- **IVC was getting in its own way.**
- **Quality of instructors is excellent. This was especially true of community programs.**
- **Faculty should get out into the community.**

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

- **Significant contribution up to now.**
- **There is natural attitude of the faculty. But should become more visible to community.**
- **One lady stated that frequently needed classes are not available at IVC. She has to drive to San Bernardino to take a class on grant writing.**

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

- **Participate in the improvement of English language usage in the county. This problem is not just with non-native speakers. Public service is often hampered by poor understanding and use of English.**

- **Remedial classes; stress articulation and clear expression**
- **Offer more community classes.**

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

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

- **Improved bus service is needed to the main campus so that more people can participate.**

4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

Generally positive

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

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

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

- **More lingering ties to the college by the recent and not-so recent graduates.**

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

- **General agreement with the slogan.**

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

- **Transportation and access to useful classes**

4.8 What are IVC's strengths?

- **Practical education with hands on learning.**

4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?

- **It needs more laboratory classes.**
- **Relevant classes on new county regulations and state regulations; especially concerning water.**
- **Class could be offered that are currently offered by county agencies.**

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?

- **Trades educations (entrepreneurial) classes**
- **Construction classes**
- **English writing and general English literacy**
- **More public service classes for licenses and certificates**
- **More mathematic literacy classes**
- **On-line instruction through the internet**

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?

5.4 How can IVC help with economic development in your community?

- **Museum should open up.**
- **Beautification course for Ocotillo.**
- **Social anthropology for development of tourism.**

5.5 What type of training programs would you like to see IVC add to its curriculum to suit the needs of your community?

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.

5.7 What kinds of arts or sports programs should IVC be offering to students and the community?

- **Increase art courses as extra-curricular activities; rock hunting. Gems and mineral hunting**
- **Exercise classes; more music classes, cooking classes, sewing classes**

6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE

6.1 How has IVC affected your business? Your livelihood? Your family?

- **“Enriched my life; my son works in the reading/writing lab.”**
- **DSP&P has helped community members.**

6.2 What has been your experience and impressions in working with IVC?

- **Local girl: “They are there for me.”**
- **Personal experience: “I was given a free hand; allowed to express myself within reason.”**
- **There was a period at IVC when there was a dictator.**
- **Gene Hill at the foundation is a good sign.**
- **There was a president of IVC who said, “ You stay out of my office and I’ll stay out of your classroom.”**

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

- **More money**

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

- **The individual instructors; not the entire institution.**

7.0 FACILITIES

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

- **Great library.**

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

- **Administrative offices**

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

- **Laboratories; science labs**
- **Health educational facilities**
- **Larger bookstore, better service at the cafeteria**

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

- **Science Lab**
- **Bookstore, cafeteria**

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

- **I seek it out.**
- **Hand outs and mailing**
- **Good press**
- **TV coverage is very lax**

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

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- **Internet**
- **Community meetings; “we care”**

Questions from the audience

- **Is there any problems with drug abuse on campus**
- **Teen pregnancy?**
- **Gangs?**
- **How do we hear at high school about IVC?**

CONCLUSION