

RECORDER NAME: Marion Boenheim

DATE/MEETING LOCATION: November 6, 2003/El Centro

**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?)

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

- Have all options for funding a science building been explored?
- The need for a Science building renovation
- Did not know that zoology was offered
- Liked information sent prior to group meeting
- Liked the historical perspective

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

- Priority is the Science Building, but there were three shots of a student jumping into the pool
- Highlight actual careers that are available at IVC
- No emphasis on nursing
- Traffic moved fast, not what his experience has been

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?

- Appreciate response to increased educational needs for childcare workers
- Joint uses with commercial and other endeavors including personnel

- Cooperation with Northern Arizona University (BA in Social Work)
- Appreciated willingness to collaborate with high schools when asked – IVC was first to step forward

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

- Stay in contact with professions to anticipate needs
- Shift to service (retail as well as customer service)
- Needs stronger business emphasis
- Needs Math/Science emphasis for new fields for transfer to four year college and university

3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

- Need to explore new ways to get to campus

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

- Movement from agriculture – labor intensive crops
- Become more specialized (seed) or become less agricultural (commercial)
- Will need math for hydraulics – new skills needed
- 1,660 new jobs at the new mall (marketing, displays, merchandizing)
- Housing developments – 17,000 new homes will double the population (270,000)

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- Cannot get into classes and finished in a timely manner
- Need more student clubs
- Son went to Arizona Western College and got classes on the last day – was not able to get classes during first week at IVC

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

- New programs, need engineers, subcontractors from San Diego currently, but because of fires will not be coming here

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

- New ethnic groups in Valley, need to teach Korean, Cantonese speak English
- Advantages of two year colleges should be emphasized

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

- Aging population need recreational activities
- Adult education for “snow birds” new way to present classes (begin classes at different times)
- Use skills of snowbirds

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

- Should have on-line courses
- Have graduates come back and talk with students about the impact of IVC (RE: four year school or career)

4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

- High school students have negative impression of IVC “taco tech”
- IVC should offer incentives to attract students
- Rigor not what it should be
- Should have football, wrestling teams

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

- 1 out of 11 high school students cannot pass exam to get into military service (must score 30 to pass)
- Faculty is open and friendly – students should contact faculty
- Cheaper – cost effective
- Good ESL program
- Good Nursing program
- Poorest county – lack of housing and jobs

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

- Description of classes should be accurate

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?

- Parking lots
- Access roads are not well maintained
- Automated phone is antiquated
- Numbering system for courses
- More technology
- Part timers make up to many faculty

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

- Degrading to some
- You were not successful before

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

4.8 What are IVC's strengths?

4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?

- Cannot get classes
- Need more student/faculty interaction - mentors

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?

- More tutoring and people with degrees --- not other IVC students
- Unearned income credits go unclaimed
- Need for classes in leadership and communication
- More vocational courses “roll up doors”
- Planners, demographic estimating: construction theory, HVAC, plumbing, building inspectors – partner with unions

5.2 What kinds of services are you looking for—and not finding—from IVC?

- Use recording studio – make it available to the public
- Community service courses needed
- More bilingual classes (German, French, etc)
- Hard to get – GE classes; Spanish not as a major; Statistics; English – especially for transfer; Business: accounting, legal assistant; Biology - sciences

5.3 Many colleges offer their courses on line. Do you think an online program at IVC would be beneficial in your community?

- Out of touch if not moving forward on this
- On-line access is beneficial to students – would increase enrollment
- Allow courses at time convenient to students – less costly to students
- Satellite courses

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

- Sectional interventional to be prepared for future - jobs

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

- Internships in business community
- Sears has tuition reimbursement but courses are not offered that would be reimbursed
- CEOs in Valley to all get together and let IVC know what skills are needed

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?

- Sport that does well would earn money (water polo, boxing, wrestling)
- Joint programs with SDSU

6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE

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

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

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

- Stronger relationship between instructors and the community

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

- Should play more proactive role in shaping the future direction.

7.0 FACILITIES

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

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

- Grounds are nice

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

- Long term plan taking into account increased population, dorms, need jobs
- Auditorium
- ASG Offices

- Need larger classrooms
- Chalk boards (500 and 900 buildings)
- Chairs – desks to small

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

- Students think IVC is behind in technology

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Website
- US Mail
- Radio
- Ad on TV
- Word of mouth

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

- High school counselors said go to IVC -- he could not get into four-year school

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Must use information from visioning groups and give feedback to those who have participated "Don't let us down!"

CONCLUSION

- Dream is important –turn life around
- Thanks for doing this
- Need a Journalism Program
- We need to be resourceful because of isolation