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**DATE/MEETING LOCATION:** Calexico, Unified School District Curriculum Center:  
November 18, 2003

**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?)

7 people stated that they had either attended IVC or had a family member attend the college.  
11 people present are associated with the college, as employees, or consultants

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

The video should address the following:

how many students transferred to a 4 – years school

how many students enroll (over 7,000) 300+ graduate, and what is the ratio between academic and vocational.

Should add a comparison in the video regarding how IVC compares with other colleges

The video should show how many local high school students who attend IVC graduate or transfer to a 4 year school.

If high school students do not attend IVC or another College what happens to them.

Concern is that only 50% transfer who state that they wish to transfer. (IVC is rated #5 in Region 10 which is San Diego and Imperial County for transfer)

How can IVC support students who want to transfer

Why is the science lab in poor shape? Are science classes actually taught there, and why hasn't it been updated. ( It was noted that the public did not support a bond)

It is recommended that we update the science lab and teach more science classes.

Science should be taught, because it is the one of the most important class that students take

We recommend that the college develop a strategy to develop to update the science building

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

Glad to see the graduation, which included a student with a disability in the ceremony.  
Let the community know about the different programs available, such as programs for disability, certificates, and transfer majors.

Comments such as: you can see, as you know, recommend a little tweaking of the language  
Show more academics, those classes that send you on to a 4 year college

It should not isolate the problems with the science lab

Need to determine what we want to use the video for, if it a recruiting the negative images of the science lab may not be such a good idea

The same guy with the black bathing suit in three different shots was distracting.

## 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?

The Valley is very proud of IVC and sees it as its college  
It is beautiful college

As a representative of disabilities for all of Imperial County, I have the following concern.

Currently at the high schools we have programs for 14 to 21 years olds with disabilities.

We do not have a place for these students after the age of 18. We need to develop a collaborative for these students, so that at age 18 these students could exit the high school and attend IVC, under the county program. These students need access to courses that they could take, such as adaptive PE. It could be an advantage for both institutions.

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

It needs to have a variety of roles; it shouldn't have just one role. The college must meet the community needs.

The college mission should be: An anchor to success, parents and teachers are the anchors.

## 3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

Calexico: It has a good relationship. IVC is waiting for the students after high school.

If we didn't have it where would they go.

It is economically "in reach" of students, and gives them the chance to start college.

The fact that IVC can give students grants, who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford school is great

A bridge between high school and a 4 year school, both emotionally and culturally.

The number of students at the college tells you how important it is to the community.

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

The population is growing very quickly, but jobs are lagging behind.

IVC is going to be very important in training for this growth

IVC needs to project growth to ensure that student needs can be met. IVC must strive to have enough teachers and classrooms for students.

However, some students still can't get classes; one person noted her son didn't get an English Class until he almost graduated.

3 other campus besides main campus, is this enough?

IVC needs to go to the community.

IVC needs to give the community more graduates

Need to use technology to reach the community. It needs a technology center.

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

Very proud of IVC, but need more graduates that go on to 4 year schools.

Need to go to students who have graduated and transferred and ask them if they were prepared for upper level college courses.

Many colleges are lowering their standards, because students are not prepared, IVC shouldn't do this.

Another participant disagreed, noting that students have better thinking processes, but may not have as many facts. A discussion regarding the preparation of students followed.

A faculty member from San Diego State noted that she teaches at both campus, and notes that there is no difference between students in the two sites. As a matter of fact students at Calexico are more focused in some cases.

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

IVC contributed immensely to the community and acts to hold educated people in the community because it provides an opportunity for continuing education.

The smallness of the classes creates an atmosphere for students and faculty to connect, that isn't seen in larger campus.

The college is the only way for some students to attend college.

Commend IVC and staff for making the college accessible.

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

Answered previously

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

IVC provides a bridge for 4 year schools.

IVC also has great technical programs.

IVC allows for students to attend college.

Articulation between IVC and high school programs needs to be expanded, so that students have better chances to go on.

Need to promote the idea that children can go on to college with parents.

Puente project is a great idea and reaches students.

IVC need to help within the community to transform the community, empowering families to seek college education.

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

If the students can't get to the main campus, need to go to them.

Use technology, and faculty should move across the valley

Take the information about IVC to the high schools at events like career fairs.

#### 4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

Students have difficulty getting classes, IVC needs more faculty and facilities.

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

Yes

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

Make it accessible for disabled students.

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

Good institution

Quality faculty

The focus groups are wonderful and the fact that the college is asking community for input shows the concern for the community.

One criticism, it seems that there is a mix of regular academic counseling, and adjunct counselors. The adjunct counselors give misleading advice to students, and then the students become frustrated.

IVC offers a wonderful, wide range of services

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

The science lab

Course on Women's History

More courses that could provide kids that are not academically inclined skills

IVC needs more academics

Need to get more community members involved to provide vocational course offerings. For example Daily living skills for disabled students so that your faculty is not overloaded.

To many of the faculty have large overloads, which cuts down on the ability for faculty to serve on committees, etc.

Too many students have to repeat classes because they are not prepared.

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

IVC is an anchor to success

Brand new person – thought it meant people who are already successful and are coming back to retool themselves.

Average age 27.5, older students.

Success is a positive word that resonates.

But does it discredit all the others that contribute to success of a student from others such as parents, and other educational institutions.

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

Need to work instead of going to college. (Economics)

Student preference.

A lot of families do not have it in their experience to go to college, it is good that students are given the opportunity.

Language barrier.

4.8 What are IVC's strengths?

That we have the community college  
Proximity to home  
Dedicated faculty  
Beautiful campus  
Very supportive atmosphere  
Very supportive services  
Makes students proud that they are going to college

4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?

Not enough classes to meet the needs of students.

**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 academics so more students can transfer to SDSU and other schools  
Full program for sign language interpreters

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

No answer

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

Maybe, one of the most important things about IVC is the interaction with the faculty member. Technology and online courses are helpful, but would hate to see IVC become so impersonal.

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

As our community grows, and IVC course offerings grow, people will be able to get jobs, it is part of a whole.

Some day the education will pay off in that an alum will establish a business that will help both IVC and SDSU.

It would be nice to see to see more professional jobs skills taught.

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

The majority of teachers that will educate our children come from IVC. IVC lays the foundation for our future. The foundation to move away from an atmosphere of failure to success begin at IVC

Need basic skills so that our students (children) can go on to better schools.

Need to raise self esteem, such as a women's history course.

Is there a need in the community for business such as public speaking, customer service, etc. – yes there is

IVC needs to help the growth in the community with construction courses.

It would be nice if Imperial Valley College had courses on construction engineering, etc.

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.

History and Arts good programs

IVC does have plays

To attract better athletes, IVC should build dormitories,

Cross country track

Develop exchange programs with other community colleges outside the valley

IVC could establish a foreign exchange program

Fire Science program

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

See above

## **6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE**

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

Employed spouses affects income

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

Good

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

No answer

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

**Already answered**

## **7.0 FACILITIES**

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

Need to grow, need more facilities and updated facilities  
Use existing facilities throughout the valley  
Beautiful rose gardens

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

Nursing Building  
Preschool  
Swimming Pool  
Computer Labs

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



Would like to take a tour the campus

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

Science Lab

Some classrooms need updating

Have the campus operations look into updating and audit facilities at the college

## **8.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Newspaper

Radio

Computer

Counselors need to be accessible to high school students more than once a year

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

We receive information about activities that they want us to participate in through letters.

Newspaper, radio

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

Would like to see more positive things in the newspaper.

Talk about your accreditation.

## **CONCLUSION**