

**RECORDER NAME: Kathy Berry/ Patty Biley interpreter.**\_\_\_\_\_

**DATE/MEETING LOCATION: \_Calexico, November 20, 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?)

The majority of participants have or are attending IVC, (an ESL class attended) stated that they had family member attending IVC.

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

The majority of participants spoke Spanish only (this session was conducted in Spanish) Many of the participants stated that they didn't understand the video.

The science labs were not in line with the rest of the film.

Need something more dynamic for the young people, needs to be more dynamic.

Need to translate the video in Spanish.

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

No response

**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?

It is isolated, it is not relating to the whole community, not enough relations with the community.

Not enough interaction or involvement with the community

Needs to have more contact with the local communities and government

Very little contact between (ESL) student and college

Are not enough spaces in the classes, limited parking.

Appreciate having the classes in Calexico, however the classrooms are not big enough

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

What should be the best role? IVC should be the leader in all areas of education, Such as conferences, seminars, workshops to inspire, bring in to top level speakers to inspire the public, but bring it to Calexico, not just El Centro, and Brawley.

IVC is a way for kids and for us to get into college. This is a poor community, and if we had to pay for college outside of the valley or at a university it would be out of our reach. The college has been the way to a higher education.

The role could be much better, it is not just the Valley, but Mexicali as well, IVC needs participation in all areas.  
We have to go far to get anything done, because we can't get it done here.

## 3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

Our community is growing very rapidly, Enrollment in all schools are growing, especially in Calexico, IVC needs to be much bigger, there is not enough space. I work for the Calexico school district, 95% of students use to go to IVC, but not any more because there isn't enough room. The whole valley is losing opportunities because of the lack of space or resources, classes.

More classes could be offered using technology.

Can not get classes.

IVC needs more publicity.

We have almost 35000 residents, business development is increasing, how can we make a program, not everyone wants to go to the university, some people want to just take classes, like technical programs, Relationship with businesses is very important, IVC needs to work with them.

Not everyone wants to be in higher education.

You need to offer new options to the students, ask them what they want, (technical and business related jobs)

Reputation: Can not get classes.

My daughter was very persistent so she was able to get her classes. Most people are not that determined. It is difficult to get classes.

We need to find some way so we will not have the excuse that we can not get classes.

I have always heard that you can't get classes.

Having a car with a sticker on it is a big thing for us; it is a cultural transformation that students are trying to make.

I do not understand English, A lot of students do not understand the process, students do not understand what to do, where to go. It needs to be in Spanish and English,

Orientation and it needs to be in Spanish.

Every college has a reputation, San Diego State has a party reputation, this is what the young people say.

This college is one of the most important things in the Valley. I have noticed that it produces a lot of leaders.

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

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

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

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?

A lot of students do not know about PEL grants, you can buy a car for transportation, buy books, a lot of the information is not getting to the families. We lose some stars that would like to study, because they do not have the money to go to school.

There has been a Valley Population explosion in the last year and half and IVC is not adjusting to the rapid growth.

I work at one of the External campus I have seen students now and in the past, there are not enough facilities at the external campus.

There are a lot of housewives that cannot go to the main campus, for instance, ENG 14 requires a lot of lab, that can not be offered at the extended campus. They do not understand why these lab classes can't be offered at the extended classes. The classes are not the same as the main campus.

The man who was talking earlier, There are a lot of people who need technical education to get jobs. The school systems need to change and offer more technical education. We are not trying to change. IVC is very traditional, and does not change easily. It must change, we must decide how to change it. The Valley is exploding, there are going to be more opportunities, IVC must work to educate and change to meet these needs.

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

**4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS**

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

I need to take English Classes but I have very good expectations, and want to improve my way of life

Work study is very helpful

Does the college have flexible scheduling? Not just classes, but majors and programs. A lot of people are working during the daytime and need to go to school at night, and do not have classes at night.

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

YES

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?

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

Maybe there should be a contest to come up with another.  
It implies that there wasn't success prior to coming to IVC.

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

Getting classes

You do not get all of your money back when you drop the class. That you have to pay back the money if you drop the class. In other words we need to provide more information prior to the beginning of financial aid.

Transportations problems. It is difficult to get to IVC.

The buses are difficult to use, it takes about 1 – 1 ½ hour to get to the college on the bus. We need a shuttle

4.8 What are IVC's strengths?

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?

San Diego State is developing 4-year programs, IVC needs to give them some competition. Examine more what types of classes they need to offer and how well they dovetail with San Diego State.

Classes on how to use the internet, not just the main campus, but all campuses.

International communications so people can work in other countries

IVC wants to be accessible to the public, the transfer classes need to be available in the extended sites. You will benefit, and have more students with access to these classes, so that would give us a higher percentage of transfer students.

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?

Need to study on the internet, they can't get into classes. Adults want to take classes, but because of family and work obligations they cannot attend classes, but on line classes would give them the opportunity.

Need a computer lab, for people can meet at a certain time to receive the class, because a lot of people do not have computers at home.

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

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.

We have been told that we cannot participate in sports until we speak English. This is very discouraging.  
Music, classes, but it would be nice to have classes in Mariachis? Other schools have them, but not IVC, Dancing, such as International folk dancing  
Volleyball class taken last summer, the quality was very poor; no one taught them the basics. You cannot have competition if you do not teach how to play the game.

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

I am in the first level of English, and was told that we could not be in sports or take sports until we learned English.

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

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

It has helped my family economically.  
It was an opportunity for me to decide what I wanted to do back in the 60's, if I had gone to a university first I would not have been successful  
Career Choice  
Accessible preschool

I did not receive any information about financial aid, who is going to worry about me if I do not get this information.

Follow up on students who are serious about their education

In high school they start to hear bad things about IVC, that they do not offer classes, and leave, but end up coming back. It is better for them to start out here,

My daughter went to San Diego for the summer, and decided to come back here, but they need some kind of a guide to tell them what they are going to do.

We offer more options for the disabled; more people go to San Diego for these opportunities.

IVC is really good, the counselors come to the high schools, and so the students know about financial aid and scholarships. IVC has been our companion; every school in the Valley has a high number of students that go to the college. There are a lot of Hispanics in San Diego but they do not go to college like here.

Also the campus is one of the prettiest ones I have seen.

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?

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

## **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?

Health Science Building, Room 2131 is the best  
The Gym

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

Cafeteria is difficult to navigate.

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

Science Classrooms

## **8.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Radio, TV, Catalog

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

Yes, by mail

They say it in English, not Spanish. The information on TV should be in Spanish too. In K-12 material are in English and Spanish, it would be nice if the college did that

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

Mail

E-Mail

## **CONCLUSION**

If more people could have entered, such as allowing 30 in instead in 20 when only 19 finish.

In University, classes have up 120 students in a class.

The city is growing, and we do not have enough English Classes

We need more classes.

Transfer some of FTES from underserved classes to IVC so it hire more teachers.

Some of the teachers do not use all of the books that are required for the course. The books are sometimes not appropriate for the classes.