

September 13, 2003

OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY:

Imperial Valley College is embarking on one of the most exciting projects in recent memory, and we want you to be part of the process.

More than forty years ago, residents of Imperial County collectively developed a vision of a freestanding community college in our area. The result was the beautiful campus we have at the intersection of Highway 111 and Aten Road. Since it opened in 1962, it has educated thousands of local residents. Perhaps you are one of our graduates.

As our County grows and continues to change, we find ourselves in need of redefining IVC's vision. In order for us to continue to provide quality educational services, we must be in synch with the needs of all of our District's residents.

You have heard the saying:

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish.” “If not us, then who?”  
“If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there.”

All of these sayings apply here. That is where you come in. Your name has been suggested to us as someone who can help us define our new 21<sup>st</sup> Century vision. At the end of this process, we will have a comprehensive three-year plan for IVC, as well as community input, and advice that we need for our accreditation process. We also will have a comfort level that we are truly heading in the direction as our broader community.

This process will begin this fall with small focus groups in each community. In January, we have scheduled a major Stakeholders' Summit, followed up by meetings of a 2006 Visioning Task Force. During these sessions, local residents and college representatives will mutually evaluate material from the focus groups and develop the vision statements that will define IVC for years to come.

We encourage you to submit your comments and opinions either in person at the Focus Group Meetings or on this website.

If you have any questions, please give my office a call at 355-6219.

I am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Paul Pai, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/President