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**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?)

- Everyone had either attended IVC or had family members attend. (7 individuals)
- Two were currently enrolled. One of which was a concurrently enrolled High School Student.

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

- Video did not include the counseling centers located on the main campus and the extended campuses. This is important because students need to know that they are there to help them reach their educational goals.

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

- Did not like the fact that only the extended campus in Calexico was shown.
- Needed more information about the other extended campuses and where the one in Brawley was re-located. Thought the Brawley campus had completely shut down.

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?

- Definitely a benefit to the Imperial Valley.
- Provides training in specialized programs as opposed to formal education.
- IVC should give Imperial Valley residents registration priority.

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

- Getting information out to students and perspective students.
- Informing Imperial County on what is available. (i.e. Financial Aid)
- Maintain the IVC Web site. Currently outdated – Summer Schedule still posted.
- Avoid scheduling conflicts of required courses in the Business Management certificate program. (Record Management / Principles of Managerial Accounting?)
- Provide more of the general education courses.
- Police Department Education. Perspective Police Officer post training.
- Increase extended campus locations.

3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

- Class completion is difficult because of public transportation. Virtually impossible to graduate in 2 years.
- Until 1999 Westmorland had an extended campus.
- Would like to see Westmorland provide basic classes.
- Westmorland Elementary School District has a facility that well equipped and will soon have fiber optics.
- The City of Westmorland currently encourages and reimburses for training that is provided through IVC.
- Esparza Welding does hire Welders that have obtained their certificates from IVC.
- City of Westmorland has benefited from the water treatment classes.

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

- Population really hasn't changed in Westmorland.
- School enrollment has declined.
- Would like to see IVC counselors reach Westmorland Jr. High students to begin setting early educational goals.
- Reach out to the business community.

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- Good Community College.
- Excellent experiences.
- Classes are over crowded.

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

- Nursing program is excellent and has benefited Westmorland.
- Water treatment courses have benefited Westmorland.

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

- Offer extended campus classes.
- Work on transportation issues.
- Arrange for school aged children to visit IVC's main campus.

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

- Not much since 1999.

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

- Offer extended campus classes.
- Communicate with Imperial Transit.

4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

- Compacted. Too many students or not enough classes.
- Registration process difficult. Can't get classes that you put in for.
- Full time enrollment difficult to obtain.
- Concurrent enrollment is available and is a benefit.
- Books are too expensive.
- Instructors are wonderful. They make themselves available, they are very helpful, and care about the educational needs of students.
- Excellent counselors there to help students achieve educational / career goals.
- 1/3 of the students are women going to college to find some way to support their children/ families.

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

- Yes – IVC has been a positive experience for over 4 decades.
- Absolutely – excellent
- A definite option to consider.

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

- Distant learning. More satellite locations.
- Delete some classes that are not necessary and offer more basic college course.

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

- Good quality education.
- Concerned instructors.

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

- The price of food, parking and books.
- Some instructors are too difficult to understand because of their accents, dropping the class as the result.

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

- Yes (unanimous)

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

- Not being able to take two classes a semester because of course over lap time. It has to be worth going out there to the main campus.
- Customer Service. Being respected and not looked down to.
- Cost per unit is still affordable – this is a big factor.

4.8 What are IVC's strengths?

- Community oriented.
- Instructors go the extra mile.
- Excellent computer labs and equipment.
- One Stop
- Work Investment Board

4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?

- Class scheduling.
- Website update (summer schedule still posted).
- Outreach program probably not strong enough.
- Matriculation (Transferable Nursing Courses from College of the Desert.)

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?

- Pre-engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Drafting and field Engineering

- Agriculture
- Nursing

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

- Online Registration.
- IVC Orientation.
- Distant learning – trying courses on line.
- Better services for veterans and non-resident veterans.

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

- Yes, and we will have fiber optics soon.

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

- (Good Question)

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

- Adult education classes CBET – Community Based English.

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.

- Average

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

- Football Team.

6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE

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

- Many successful business men here in Imperial Valley have graduated from IVC.
- Success stories: Nursing program, liberal studies, welding certificates, transfer students..

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

- Positive experiences

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

- More basic classes offered. Classrooms too crowded.
- Extended campus in Westmorland.

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

- Being able to get required courses.
- Classes overlap.

7.0 FACILITIES

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

- No.

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

- Library
- Swimming Pool
- Learning and Tutoring Center
- Computer Labs

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

- 800 Building has really old computers.
- Sinks in the Science Building are in bad shape.

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

- College Center is always cluttered with trash.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Schedule that was received in the mail.
- Imperial Valley Press

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

- No

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Radio / TV
- Need schedules readily available at various locations in the community.
- Difficult to determine in the schedule WHERE the classes are held. Separate the extended campus classes.
- Channel 61 – ICOE
- Make the Web site a major form of communication.
- Would like to receive information about IVC activities on a regular basis.
- Use of elementary school bulletins that go out to families.

CONCLUSION