

Holtville Notes
October 9, 2003

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22 people, Holtville residents: 12

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?)

- Six attended IVC
- Studied Sociology and Business courses
- Not ready for a four year college, attended IVC
- Took courses for own pleasure
- In retail business, took courses at IVC
- Great experience at IVC
- Counselors assisted in informing about requirements to transfer to university

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

- Average age of student population, thought it would be lower
- Enrollment growth being 30%
- Number of classes available (1,000)
- Use of Old Holtville train depot for Art Museum
- Cost of sports programs at IVC
- How important are the sports programs
- Does the sports provided at IVC attract students they attract students to stay in the Valley
- Is the amount of money spent on the sports program cost wise
- Number of student that participate in the sports programs
- Do sports attract students to attend IVC

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

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?

- Do something about getting high school graduates into classes
- It is great that two thirds of high school graduates are recruited to IVC
- There are a lot of complaints that students can't get enrolled in classes

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

- Encourage Imperial Valley students to enroll in Ag classes
- Inform the community about the Ag programs available in order to change the perception that none are offered
- The need of more ESL courses in Holtville to help students
- Availability of a four year degree
- Offering distance learning courses
- Help students that began IVC and don't complete General Ed courses or a degree
- Students can't wait to graduate and leave the Imperial Valley there is nothing to do
- Imperial Valley great place to raise a family, need to offer student something more
- Make students more aware and help them realize that good grades and skills are needed in order to succeed
- More recruiting
- Major concern is trained workforce for the businesses coming to the community
- Contact business to access the needs
- Need an Ag program
- Spanish as a Second language program, students are required to be bilingual
- Impressions of I.V.C.
 - Very well appreciated by the general population
 - A great opportunity
 - Distance adequate
 - Bus route available a plus
 - Good class size and access to instructors
 - Due to the economy and cost of attending other schools puts IVC in the driver's seat
 - Negative publicity: Students that cross the Mexicali border and course at IVC take up class space from our local students
 - IVC does not do enough publicity compared to other schools that prey on the seniors
 - Students that want to complete General Ed requirements save money by attending IVC

3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

- Home visits to recruit new students would be nice
 - Need an outreach program
 - A plan to recruit students that dropped out and encourage them to return and complete their studies
 - Short term plans to provide skills such as: plumbing and air conditioning
- 3.2 What changes do you see in your community? How is IVC responding? How should it respond?
- New housing coming to town
 - New apartment complex coming soon
 - Enrollment increasing with population growth
 - Inter-district transfer (50-60) has been a problem try to discourage
 - One reason for decline in enrollment is home schooling
 - Offer classes in Holtville
- 3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?
- Difficult times student's have meeting with their counselors, due to the student load
 - Students need to be streamlined better into the possibility of a four year career
 - Students get frustrated when they meet with different counselors and get different information regarding the courses they need to complete to transfer
- 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?
- Give tests to help students know what they want to study
 - Survey of high school seniors
 - IVC and SDSU dove tailing to get educators
 - Work with SDSU to offer more classes for students unable to leave the Imperial Valley due their financial situation in order to give them an opportunity
 - Articulate with schools for programs that are needed
 - IVC attend the high schools career day
 - Computer classes in the community to help older adults to learn how to use the internet
- 3.6 What does IVC do for your community? Could you elaborate?
- 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?

- 4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?
- 4.3 What should your community college do for you?
- Offer more training programs: business, maintenance, landscaping, air conditioning, electrical and food service.
- 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?
- More community involvement
 - Parking lots
 - Don't sense a community atmosphere
 - External campus in Holtville offering business and computer classes "Quick Books"
 - Short term computer classes for older people
 - Small Business Development is impressive
 - Make students more aware of the availability of financial aid
- 4.6 IVC's slogan is "Where Success Begins." Do you agree?
- 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?

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

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?
- Students need more office skills
 - Experience on how to apply for a job and how to respond better
 - Contact with IVC very positive
 - Calls and responses to IVC were very cooperative
 - Received help that was needed
 - Contact was very positive
- 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?
- Preschool
 - Nursing
 - Gymnasium
 - Swimming facilities
- 7.3 What facility improvements, if any, would you like to see at IVC?
- 7.4 In your opinion, what is the worst facility at Imperial Valley College?
- College Center lunch area
 - Counseling is a zoo
 - Science Building

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Class schedule mail out
- Newspaper
- Television

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

- More emphasis on what Disabled Students Program has to offer
- Prepare a hand out of all the services available to the students

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Spanish newspapers: El Sol del Valle
- Valley Shopper
- Insert flyers or brochures in the high school seniors packets
- More contact with the high schools
- Brochures with information about services available to students

CONCLUSION