

RECORDERS NAMES: Cathy Zazueta

DATE/MEETING LOCATION: Seeley - October 16, 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?)

- One person's mother had gone to IVC.
- One woman has just started IVC this semester.

Note: Six attendees total, one came at the end.

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

- How big IVC is. Didn't realize it was so large and that there are so many classes. Didn't realize there was vocational training.
- Comment: El Centro had a really great citizenship class.

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

- Nothing.

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?

- Seeley is a very small town, at a distance from IVC. Maybe high school students know about IVC, but neither parents nor elementary school students know enough about IVC.
- Information needs to reach parents in Spanish. Classes need to be offered at a time when parents can take them. A lot of people in Seeley need English classes. Child care, transportation and money are the major obstacles to taking classes.

- IVC needs to let people know it's easy to go to college. People don't know about scholarships and financial aid. IVC employees need to speak in schools, but not just in schools. The general community, including parents, need to get the information.

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

- IVC should offer more short-term job training, leading to employment. People go to San Diego to find short-term job training. Why can't they stay in Imperial Valley for that?
- Classes needed: computer repair, agriculture, real estate, insurance. Also need English classes for those who do not speak English.
- Let everyone know there are opportunities for children to go to college. They don't realize they can go to college. Let them know.

3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

- The graduation in the gym was great.
- Hard to make an appointment with a counselor.
- Parents and children don't know about the opportunities available. For this focus group meeting, the priest at the church gave them information.

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

- Short-term job training needed. This was mentioned many times.

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- Good, but IVC is so far away.

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

- The English class one person took helped a lot. Next year she wants to take a computer class. IVC is a big help to the community because of classes like these.

- 3.5 What is the best role IVC can play in your community?
- Maybe IVC can help with transportation.
 - Community members need to know about financial aid.
 - Suggestion was made to make an appointment with the parents of 11th graders so that the PARENTS will also know the opportunities available.

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

- ESL classes. Nice campus, but far away.

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

- Offer more classes closer to Seeley.

4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

- IVC can help people improve themselves and offer study opportunities.
- IVC can help you get a career.

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

- Yes, it's a good opportunity to prepare.

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

- People need more knowledge about financial aid available at IVC.
- Allowing people opportunities to come volunteer at IVC would be useful.

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

- Has an okay reputation. Friends who go there.
- A lot of people leave college because there aren't classes for the career they want. A big concern is finding work.

- 4.5 If you could change anything at IVC, what would you change?
- Soccer field.
 - Campus in Seeley.
- 4.6 IVC's slogan is "Where Success Begins." Do you agree?
- Yes, agreed.
- 4.7 What is the single most critical factor in your determination to either attend or not attend IVC or support its endeavors?
- Transportation is an obstacle.
 - Money is an issue.
 - Want to go to IVC in order to get a good job.
 - Lack of time in order to go take classes.
- 4.8 What are IVC's strengths?
- IVC has small, friendly campus. It's a family environment.
 - The students know each other. The faculty members know the students.
- 4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?
- Need to improve the repertoire of classes.
 - Not enough financial aid. Need information about financial aid. Many students are working and going to school. Money and transportation are obstacles.

5.0 PROGRAMS

- 5.1 What do you think of the future of IVC? What courses or programs should be offering in the next 3 to 6 years?
- Need short-term career classes. Electronics, computer repair, agriculture, real estate, insurance.
 - More variety of classes need to be offered. Also, find a way to alleviate how expensive books are, and give the students more time to find a used book for a class.

- 5.2 What kinds of services are you looking for—and not finding—from IVC?
- Short-term career programs. More information about opportunities to parents and Spanish-speakers.
- 5.3 Many colleges offer their courses on line. Do you think an online program at IVC would be beneficial in your community?
- Two of the six people had Internet access. The others had a computer, but no Internet access.
 - One person said she would like to get her GED online.
- 5.4 How can IVC help with economic development in your community?
- Training programs to help students get a job: electronics, computers, real estate, computer repair, agriculture, and so on.
- 5.5 What type of training programs would you like to see IVC add to its curriculum to suit the needs of your community?
- English classes and job-training classes. More classes in general.
- 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.
- IVC's athletic teams are great. They are high profile because they are in the Imperial Valley Press.
- 5.7 What kinds of arts or sports programs should IVC be offering to students and the community?
- Painting and art.
 - Crafts, sewing, cooking, cosmetology.
 - La Crosse, soccer and golf.
- 6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE**
- 6.1 How has IVC affected your business? Your livelihood? Your family?
- IVC is good. Need transportation and financial aid to take advantage of more opportunities.

- 6.2 What has been your experience and impressions in working with IVC?
- Went to a very nice graduation of a nurse. Impressive ceremony.
 - Participants just out of high school made comments they haven't had any contact with IVC, but their friends say IVC is really good. Word of mouth is positive.
- 6.3 If you could change anything about IVC, what would it be?
- No charge for parking.
 - Make IVC bigger.
 - Have a snack bar.
- 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?
- Video surprised participants because they didn't know there were so many vocational programs, such as auto mechanics.
- 7.2 In your opinion, what is the best facility at Imperial Valley College?
- Auditorium – gym.
 - Mentioned Pioneers Museum across the street.
- 7.3 What facility improvements, if any, would you like to see at IVC?
- Participant offered to donate her deceased grandfather's Braille books to the Spencer Library.
- 7.4 In your opinion, what is the worst facility at Imperial Valley College?
- None.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Mail, television, radio, newspaper.

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

- Yes. Receive class schedule in mail, but it is hard to understand.

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Didn't know about this meeting except for the church. Would like more information distributed to work places.
- Mail.

CONCLUSION

Final comments. Dr. Pai invited people to other focus group meetings. He invited them to the IVC main campus on January 10.