

RECORDER NAME: Dr. Marion Boenheim

DATE/MEETING LOCATION: October 23, 2003 – El Centro

**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?)

10 have been enrolled

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

- Half of students want to go on to four-year schools, but only 200 do transfer
- Science Building pitch
- Purpose of video – PR, tells about IVC

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

- Same shot – boys playing basketball
- Diver is overworked
- Faculty appeared to be reading lines from cue cards
- More student comments needed and use alumni not just faculty

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?

- On a scale of 1 to 10 IVC scores a 4
- Perception is that courses (quality: quantity) not adequate to transfer to four year
- Cannot get classes in a timely manner to graduate

- Students do not want to go to IVC, classes are overcrowded
- Lots of students from Mexicali enrolled and then drop, however once they drop others are not put into class
- Had to take three PE classes in order to carry full load and remain on health insurance of parents.
- Alumni, lifelong residents and supporters of college, yet children cannot get required courses – let locals in first
- Daughter at Southwest High School – IVC is not college of choice
- Need skill development for emerging business needs and flexibility
- IVC courses did not transfer even though they checked with counselors
- IVC has good working articulation with childcare
- Nursing is highly thought of
- Perception that many nursing graduates leave the area and that they are from outside the area

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

- Anticipate needs, supply skilled workers, keep people in the Valley, bring in businesses that provide decent living standard.

3.1 **IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES**

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

- Needs to be improved

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

- Growth, lack of skilled workers
- Need to do reunion of classes
- Make campus more user friendly – cannot find rooms because of numbers – they are not sequential – call building by discipline name i.e. Liberal Arts Building

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- 4/10 on scale of 1-10
-

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

- Conferences/meetings on campus are good
- Is IVC responding to needs, flexible?
- Needs (engineering) not being met; last five years this has been an issue but IVC does not respond to this need.
- Need more involvement with community i.e. chamber and other service groups
- McMillan homes would build more homes but there are not enough sub contractors, 2,000 homes in Calexico, 1,000 homes in Calexico, 3,000 homes in El Centro needed in next few years
- Lack of trades people
- Childcare – good program but not enough students being trained
- Need to anticipate needs i.e. electricians and vocational trades
- Population to double by 2020 will need 75,000 homes.
- Can IVC develop CAD programs – certificated trades.

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

- Training – better lives for students

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

- Training

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 on 10 point scale

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

- Guarantee students that they will get through in two years
- Provide students with better communication skills
- Not memorize but be able to apply knowledge; rethink, view things differently

- 4.4 In general, what do you think about IVC as an educational institution?
- Cannot get needed classes
- 4.5 If you could change anything at IVC, what would you change?
- Need to keep trained people in the community
- 4.6 IVC's slogan is "Where Success Begins." Do you agree?
- Link in chain: must plant seeds at high school level to encourage people to attend
 - Begin in home – preschool
 - Slogan does not hit point – does not portray reality to students
- 4.7 What is the single most critical factor in your determination to either attend or not attend IVC or support its endeavors?
- Accessibility; difficult to get classes
 - Full load GE transferable
 - Need contract to get classes in order to finish in two years for those who wish to be fast tracked (certificate: transfer)
 - Need to create high paying jobs in community
- 4.8 What are IVC's strengths?
- Good teachers
- 4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?
- Go to industry to see what is needed so courses can be up to date
 - Cannot get courses to graduate in two years

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?
- Computer programming

- Medical assistant
- Engineering

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

- Engineering
- Relevancy in courses – stay up to date with needs of physician assistants, etc.
- Continuing education for professionals

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

- Three have taken on-line courses
- Not very satisfactory experience – must be committed, disciplined, mature to benefit when taking on-line courses
- Classes need to be standardized

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

- Need advisory committees – TAKE THEIR ADIVCE
- Get the best people to participate
- Alumni faculty for a day – bring person (alumni) from community into the classroom

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

- Be flexible, more trades electricians
- Engineering
- GE courses – English and math
- Shortage of almost anything anticipated i.e. casino personnel, physical and occupational therapists

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.

- Go out into community to have games i.e. volleyball at high schools

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

- Don't put class in catalog unless it is offered
- Why not recruit local athletes to IVC

6.0 PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH COLLEGE

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

- How many people on campus belong to service clubs
- People from college should go to community to be updated (re: skills)

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?

- Need to do more to publicize arts, performance communications, classes in dance

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

- Do more outreach into communities i.e. sports camps

7.0 FACILITIES

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

- Let local swim teams use pool

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

- Grounds are well maintained

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

- 34 buildings
- Student union needs to be larger
- Guarantee use to community on Sundays - if IVC wants a successful bond drive
- Have community utilize facilities for a charge (i.e. to raise money)

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

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Catalogue, class schedule

CONCLUSION