

RECORDER NAME: Dr. Marion Boenheim

DATE/MEETING LOCATION: November 5, 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?)

- 0 - currently
- 6 out of 15 have attended

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

- Lab so out of date where chemistry/sciences are taught

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

- In video IVC is referred to as “SCHOOL” but rather use the term “COLLEGE

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?

- Strong relationship
- Community needs to be more involved with IVC
- Miss a lot of people because of distances - location

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

- Educate students for jobs
- Transfer students to four year colleges and universities
- Supplies lots of activities for the community i.e. sports

- Take college out into the community rather than expecting people to go to the college campus all the time

3.0 IVC'S LINKAGE TO SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES

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

- IVC uses local schools for classes
- Has presence in community with extended campuses

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

- El Centro becoming a bedroom community for San Diego
- New audiences, thus need things like "babysitting certificate"
- Have dessert at someone's home with a faculty speaker

3.3 What is the reputation of IVC in your community?

- Difficult to get into classes
- Courses don't always transfer due to counselors being misinformed
- Need more short-term certificate programs
- School to Career is an excellent program
- Certificates should list the required courses on the back for potential employers to review

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

- Disabled students program is good
- Need radio broadcasting program
- Journalism majors hired by IV Press

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

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

- Have student speakers
- Faculty go out to service clubs and groups, especially theatre, speech departments to give productions and performances

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

- Adding Saturday classes: bus schedules to reach campus
- Open house – let the community sit in on campus activities i.e. play rehearsal
- Let community know about great faculty

4.0 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

4.1 What are your general impressions about IVC?

- Times classes offered not convenient
- Senior citizen classes i.e. exercise, dance needed
- Need to publicize activities more
- Have activities at local churches, etc.

4.2 Would you recommend IVC to your friends today?

YES!

4.3 What should your community college do for you?

- Saturday classes
- Classes in Spanish, especially child care—as need to maintain certification

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

- Nursing is outstanding
- Need more ESL to get into nursing
- Survey occupational needs

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

- Add classrooms – science labs
- Build public health – nursing offerings

4.6 IVC’s slogan is “Where Success Begins.” Do you agree?

- Yes

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

- Money
- Getting classes

- 4.8 What are IVC's strengths?
- Nursing
 - Preschool – provides service and training
 - Good relationships among and between students

- 4.9 What are IVC's weaknesses?
- Science lab
 - Shortage of classes and teachers, especially ESL

5.0 PROGRAMS

5.1 What do you think of the future of IVC? What courses or programs should it be offered in the next 3 to 6 years?

- AIM Program – get into SDSU (does the program still exist?)
- Find out information about new homebuyers – What are their needs?
- Intensive English needed
- Accelerated program – fast track guarantee to finish in two years; incentive to top 10% to 15% of local high school students; guarantee transfer to four year would motivate students.

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?

- Good for working people, new residents, stay at home moms

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

- Well educated, trained workforce
- Participate in surveys to align programs with job

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

- Do demographics study, hear from the community what is wanted and needed
- Classes in vocation, cosmetology, gardening, landscaping, desert horticulture, air-conditioning, swimming pool and building maintenance.

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.

- Basketball
- Take theatre productions into the community

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?

- Kept me eating (from retired faculty member)
- Educated my children

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

- Positive
- Classes mandated by courts in parenting, anger management, etc...could these classes be offered as private institutions are too expensive

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

- Can't get classes, cannot graduate---it will take five years to get through

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?

- Science lab
- Temporary 500 building has been in existence for 40 years
- Connection to the Pioneers Museum – IVC supplies water and sewer

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

- Auditorium in Nursing Building
- Gym
- Pool
- Planetarium

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

- Science Labs

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?

- Newspaper, catalogue, some TV, radio

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

- Class schedule
- Web page
- Send out card asking if household wants to receive schedule; if not, save money by not sending

8.3 How would you like to receive information about IVC?

- Alumni publication to begin distribution again
- IVC Students going to high school, elementary schools
- Speakers series i.e. when Mars was in sky a guest lecturer i.e. How to be a better critical TV or video renter. How to be a better reader of newspapers. How to prepare children for college, etc.

CONCLUSION