

Report on the Ninth University Fair of Suchitoto, 2015

The formal university scholarship and loan programs in Suchitoto organized the ninth university fair for high school graduates, which took place Sunday, June 14 in the Centro Arte para la Paz (Arts Center for Peace) from 8:30 to noon. Ninety-nine (99) high school and fifty-two (52) university students attended. The attendance of high school students from the rural area was high due in part to the provision of transport and good weather; the amount of students at the fair from the INSU almost doubled this year but is still lower than expected. Several high school teachers, representatives of twelve institutions of higher education as well as the National Police Academy (ANSP), EsArte-Primer Acto and SACDEL/FESPADE attended. The Fair was opened by Ricardo Joel Argueta Portillo who is currently working on this thesis he acted as master of ceremonies, with remarks from the Mayor, Pedrina Rivera, Sister Peggy O'Neal of the Center and Nicolaza Gonzalez de Casco principal at the school in El Barío, this was followed by the presentations of the institutions attending and the organizational sponsors and supporters. Following the opening session students were able to talk with the different university and other institutional representatives, were provided material on the scholarship and loan programs and had the opportunity to talk to current university students in different fields of study. The Fair concluded with refreshments for the students and a lunch for the institutional representatives. A group of participants in ESArte added an artistic touch as personalities in costume from one of their recent productions.

Statistics on the high school student attendance is given in Table I and compared to that of previous years in Table II. It is worth noting that the number of high school students planning to graduate was slightly higher this year with this year than last, 313 in 2015 versus 292 in 2014. Students attending represented 31.6% of potential graduates. At least ten (10) students from past or future promotions were present.

Some institutions that confirmed participation were not able to attend; these included the ITCHA and Education USA. We were unable to get commitments to participate from the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura, CENAR, University Francisco Gavidia or the Lutheran University of El Salvador. Data on institutional assistance is given in Table III.

Table I. Assistance of pre-university students, 2015

Institution	# in Fair	# to Graduate	%
INSU	26	170	15.3
First year students	3		
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío Previous years	15	19	78.9
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Americas	1	27	3.7
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	26	46	56.5
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	18	37	48.7
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo	10	14	71.4
Total from Suchitoto	99	313	31.6
Total from other municipalities	0		
Total	99		

Table II. Assistance of pre-university students, 2007-2015

Institution	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
INSU (including graduates)	68	16	21	40	25	38	12	15	29
INSU-Flexible Mode					55	41	43	0	0
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Américas	5	5	3	13	11	2	1	11	1
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	10	22	5	31	21	20	8	6	15
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	9	8	4	14	22	19	7	21	18
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	0	0	3	6	24	42	6	20	26
INDEC (La Colima)	0	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo						11	3	5	10
Total from Suchitoto	92	60	38	104	159	173	79	78	99
IN San Francisco Lempa	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	20	16	10	4	2	5	1	11	0
Total from outside	33	24	10	4	2	5	1	11	0
Total	125	84	48	108	161	178	80	89	99

Table III. Higher Education and Other Institutions in Fair

Institutions Invited	New in 2015	Attended 2015	Years attending
UES		X	8
UTEC		X	6
U Pedagógica		X	9
U. Andres Bello		X	8
UMOAR		X	7
U. Don Bosco		X	9
UCA		X	5
U. Francisco Gavidia		NP	2
U. Católica/Megatec		X	6
Zamarano		X	3
UEES		X	3
U. Luterano		X	2
USAM		NP	1
ITCA-FEPADE		X	5
ITCHA		NP	5
ENA		NP	5
CENAR		NP	2
EsArtes		X	7
ANSP		X	4
Ayuda en Acción		NP	5
SACDEL/FESPAD		X	2
Plan El Salvador		NP	1
MITUR-CAT Suchitoto		NP	3
Education USA		NP	4
Total	0	15	

The Palo Alto University Loan Program, the Atlanta Friends Meeting University Loan Program, and the Comité Parroquial de Becas (Parish Scholarship Committee) organized the Fair. The Municipal Council provided the major funding for the Fair with further assistance of Patrick O’Hare of the Parish of Sta. Catherine and Judith and Tom Dunham of the Santa Cruz El Salvador Project. Transport costs were covered by Santa Cruz-El Salvador program and the Palo Alto University Loan Program. The Centro Arte para la Paz, as in previous years, provided all important in-kind services and support.

The Fair was preceded by 1) visits of Robert Broz and Frank Cummings to the six high schools in late May with verbal reminders to the directors by calls and in meetings just before the Fair, 2) contacts by Robert by phone, e-mail and a formal letter with all the institutions invited to send representatives starting in mid-May and continuing to just before the Fair.

The finances for the Fair are shown in Table IV. The Centro Arte para la Paz provided substantial in-kind support for use of their space, sound equipment, tables and chairs, and preferential prices for food. The Arts Center for Peace staff provided excellent service. The Municipal government continued its substantial support this year providing more than half of the funding.

The relatively low participation of INSU students is of concern especially as the bulk of the students who continue their studies are from the INSU and as institutions with their own scholarship programs such as the Catholic University do not make individual school visits. Effort of individual professors and directors lead to high participation of students from the Schools of Los Almendros, El Barrio, Guillermo Ungo and Copopayo.

Table IV. Finances, 2014

Item	Amount(\$)
Income	
Palo Alto Program	\$175.00
Municipality	\$600.00
Patrick O’Hara	\$100.00
Familia Cummings	\$50
Judith and Tom Dunham	\$40
Total	\$965.00
Expense	
Refreshments(200@ \$2.00)	\$400.00
Lunches(70 @ \$5.00)	\$350.00
Rental of tables	\$70.00
Promotion and copies	\$15.00
Transport of students	\$100.00
Gas and mileage	30.00
Total	\$965.00