

Report on the Fifth University Fair of Suchitoto, 2011

The three formal university scholarship and loan programs in Suchitoto organized the fifth university fair for high school graduates, which took place Sunday, July 3 in the Centro Arte para la Paz (Arts Center for Peace) from 8:30 to noon. Over 160 high school and 70 university students attended as well as two high school directors and representatives of nine institutions of higher education, the National Center for Art (CENAR), Suchitoto-Stratford Initiative (EsArtes), educational programs of the U.S. State Department (EducationUSA) and the Spanish NGO Ayuda en Acción. The Fair was opened with the presentation of the institutions attending and the organizational sponsors. The session included remarks by the city council member for youth, Orlando Manzano, the director of the Complejo Educativo Guillermo Ungo, María Paz Ascensio, two university scholarship students, Roxana de Jesús Santamaría Pichinte of the Comité Parroquial de Becas and José Wilfredo Noyola González of the Palo Alto Friends Meeting El Salvador Program and Jorge Miranda told of his experience as a recipient of a U.S. State Department scholarship. The programs recognized the group of university students serving as teachers in the Saturday math and science courses in four of the high schools as well as recipients of Presidential Scholarships and an awardee of the University of El Salvador. Following this the students talked 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. The Fair concluded with refreshments for the students and a lunch for the institutional representatives.

Statistics on the high school student attendance are given in Table I and compared to that of previous years in Table II. There was a notable increase in the number of potential high school graduates attending with good representation from all four rural institutions, perhaps reflecting the influence of the Saturday courses. Nearly all of the students who only attend in the INSU on Sundays (Modalidad Flexible) came, but relatively few in the full-time program. Students attending represent 48 % of potential graduates. One student attended from La Colima and two from Perquin (Palo Alto Friends Meeting scholarship students). Students were invited from the Instituto San Francisco Lempa in Chalatenango, but none attended.

New institutions attending in 2011 were the University of Central America (UCA) the National Center for the Arts (CENAR) and the educational programs of the US Department of State EducationUSA. Four institutions invited were not able to attend including Universidad Francisco Gavidia, Universidad Tecnológica, ITCA-Fepade and the National Police Academy (ANSP). Data on institutional assistance are given in Table II

Table I. Attendance of pre-university students, 2011

Institution	Number in Fair	Number to Graduate	Percent of potential H.S. Graduates
Instituto Nacional de Suchitoto-INSU	25	128	20
Instituto Nacional de Suchitoto-INSU - Flexible Mode	55	63	87
Centro Educativo Caserío El Barío	21	31	68
Centro Educativo Caserío Las Americas	11	30	37
Centro Educativo Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo	24	45	53
Centro Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	22	34	65
Total High School Students from Suchitoto	158	331	48
Instituto Nacional El Coyolito (la Colima)	1		
Instituto Nacional de Perquin	2		
Total High School Students from other municipalities	3		
Total Attendance	161		

Table II. Attendance of high school students 2007-2011

Institution	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Instituto Nacional de Suchitoto-INSU	68	16	21	40	25
Instituto Nacional de Suchitoto-INSU - Flexible Mode	0	0	0	0	55
Centro Educativo Caserío Las Americas	5	5	3	13	11
Centro Educativo Caserío El Barío	10	22	5	31	21
Centro Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	9	8	4	14	22
Centro Educativo Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo	0	0	3	6	24
Instituto Nacional El Coyolito (la Colima)	0	7	2	0	1
Total from Suchitoto	92	60	38	104	159
Instituto Nacional de San Francisco Lempa	13	8	0	0	0
Other	20	16	10	4	2
Total High School Students from other municipalities	33	24	10	4	2
Total Attendance	125	84	48	108	161

Table III. Higher Education and Other Institutions in Fair, 2011

Institutions Invited	New in 2011	Attended	Years attending
UES		x	4
UTEC			2
U Pedagógica		x	5
U. Andres Bello		x	5
UMOAR		x	3
U. Don Bosco		x	5
UCA	x	x	1
U. Francisco Gavidia			
U.Católica/Megatec		x	2
ITCA			1
ITCHA		x	2
ENA		x	3
CENAR	x	x	1
EsArte		x	3
ANSP			1
Ayuda en Acción		x	3
MITUR			2
Education USA	x	x	1
Total	3	13	

The sponsoring organizations were the Palo Alto Friends Meeting University Loan Program, the Atlanta Friends Meeting University Loan Program, the Comité Parroquial de Becas (Parish Scholarship Committee), the Municipality of Suchitoto, the Centro Arte para la Paz, Patrick O'Hare of the Parish of Sta. Catherine, Judith and Tom Dunham of the Santa Cruz El Salvador Project, and Casa Clementina. The incorporation of representatives of the Santa Cruz El Salvador Project is a very welcome addition of a group that has had a long-standing relation with Guillermo Ungo that includes work with university students who benefit from the formal programs.

Earlier in the year a battery of three aptitude tests was administered to all the seniors in the Instituto Nacional Suchitoto (the INSU), and a selection of students from the Complejo Educativos Los Almendros, El Barío and Guillermo Ungo with the help of testing staff of La Gavidia University. The other high school in Las Americas was invited to send students, but none attended.

The Fair was preceded by 1) visits of Robert Broz and/or Frank Cummings in early June to the five high schools 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, and 3) and through inserts in the newspapers sold in Suchitoto.

There was no formal evaluation but the institutional representatives all expressed their support for this event and the desire to participate in future Fairs.

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 and were very responsive to the special requests of the participating institutions. The Municipal government made a substantial increase in their support this year.

Table IV. Finances, 2011

Item	Amount(\$)
Income	
Cummings Family	73.00
Palo Alto Friends Meeting Program	47.00
Municipality of Suchitoto	300.00
Patrick O'Hare	100.00
Casa Clementina	50.00
Judith and Tom Dunham	100.00
Total	670.00
Expense	
Refreshments(200@ \$1.50)	300.00
Lunches(60 @ \$4.00)	240.00
Promotion and copies	30.00
Gas and mileage	45.00
Aptitude testing	55.00
Total	670.00

No efforts were made to get media coverage given our previous year's experience. The Departmental Director of MINED as well as the three Technical Staff (Acesores Tecnicos) for Suchitoto were invited, but did not attend. Given her interest in education, an invitation was sent to the U.S. Ambassador who declined given the 4th of July holiday. Indications are that she may visit at some other time.