

## Report on the Sixth University Fair of Suchitoto, 2012

The three formal university scholarship and loan programs in Suchitoto organized the sixth university fair for high school graduates, which took place Sunday, June 24 in the Centro Arte para la Paz (Arts Center for Peace) from 8:30 to noon. Some 179 high school and 78 university students attended, the highest attendance in the six years of the fair. Two high school directors and one sub-director and representatives of eleven institutions of higher education as well as CENAR, EsArte, EducationUSA and the NGO Plan International were present. The Fair was opened with Manuel Asencio as master of ceremonies, with remarks by the recently elected Mayor Pedrina Rivera followed by the presentation of the institutions attending and the organizational sponsors and supporters. The representative of the National University (UES) took the opportunity to outline their new admissions process. Following the opening session 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. Ana Romilda Escamilla, technical advisor to Plan International, presented a report of a study of the labor market for youth in four departments including Cuscatlán. The Fair concluded with refreshments for the students and a lunch for the institutional representatives.

Statistics on the high school student attendance is 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 four of the five rural institutions including the first graduating class of the Complejo Educativo Copapayo. The relatively low percentage attending from the regular program of the INSU reflects the fact that many of the universities visit the INSU to seek students. Students attending represent 42% of potential graduates. Five students from other municipalities were present. Students were invited from the Instituto Nacional San Francisco Lempa in Chalatenango, but none attended.

New institutions attending were the NGO Plan International and observers of the scholarship program Programa Romero which currently includes one student from Suchitoto. Four institutions invited did not attend including the Universidad Francisco Gavidia, the Universidad Luterano, Ayuda en Acción and the National Police Academy (ANSP). Data on institutional assistance are given in Table III.

**Table I. Assistance of pre-university students, 2012**

<b>Institution</b>	<b># in Fair</b>	<b># to Graduate</b>	<b>%</b>
INSU	38	178	21
INSU- Flexible Mode	41	70	59
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	20	35	57
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Americas	2	28	7
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	42	45	93
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	19	42	65
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo	11	27	37
<b>Total from Suchitoto</b>	173	427	42
<b>Total from other municipalities</b>	5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>		

Table II. Assistance of high school students 2007-2012

<b>Institution</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
INSU	68	16	21	40	25	38
INSU-Flexible Mode					55	41
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Américas	5	5	3	13	11	2
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	10	22	5	31	21	20
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	9	8	4	14	22	19
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	0	0	3	6	24	42
INDEC (La Colima)	0	7	2	0	1	0
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo						11
<b>Total from Suchitoto</b>	92	60	38	104	159	173
IN San Francisco Lempa	13	8	0	0	0	0
Other	20	16	10	4	2	5
<b>Total from outside</b>	33	24	10	4	2	5
<b>Total</b>	125	84	48	108	161	178

Table III. Higher Education and Other Institutions in Fair

<b>Institutions Invited</b>	<b>New in 2012</b>	<b>Attended 2012</b>	<b>Years attending</b>
UES		x	5
UTEC		x	3
U Pedagógica		x	6
U. Andres Bello		x	6
UMOAR		x	4
U. Don Bosco		x	6
UCA		x	2
U. Francisco Gavidia			0
U.Católica/Megatec		x	3
U. Luterana			1
ITCA-FEPADE		x	2
ITCHA		x	3
ENA		x	4
CENAR		x	2
EsArte		x	4
ANSP			1
Ayuda en Acción			3
Plan	x	x	1
MITUR		x	3
Education USA		x	2
<b>Total</b>	1	16	

The Palo Alto University Loan Program, the Atlanta Friends Meeting University Loan Program, and the Comité Parroquial de Becas (Parish Scholarship Committee), Suchitoto 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. 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 Frank Cummings in early June to five high schools and of Robert Broz and Frank to the new high school in Copopayo in late April, 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. The national newspaper La Prensa Grafica was contacted, but did not publish an article. Aptitude testing, provided in previous years prior to the Fair, will be done later in the year with the cooperation of the Universidad Pedagógica and is a new element in the National University entrance process. Reinforcement tutoring is being carried out in the INSU, Complejo Educativo Caserío Guillermo Ungo and Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barrio by scholarship students and students from the Universidad Pedagógica.

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 made a substantial increase in its support this year and now provides the bulk of the funding for the Fair.

**Table IV. Finances, 2012**

Item	Amount(\$)
<b>Income</b>	
Family Cummings	\$42.00
Palo Alto Program	\$18.00
Municipality	\$500.00
Patrick O'Hare	\$100.00
Judith and Tom Dunham	\$100.00
Total	\$760.00
<b>Expense</b>	
Refreshments(300@ \$1.50 )	\$450.00
Lunches(60 @ \$4.00)	\$240.00
Rental of tables	\$18.00
Promotion and copies	\$17.00
Gas and mileage	\$35.00
Total	\$760.00

The Departmental Director of MINED as well as the three Technical Staff (Asesores Técnicos) for Suchitoto were invited, but did not attend.