

Report on the Seventh University Fair of Suchitoto, 2013

The formal university scholarship and loan programs in Suchitoto organized the seventh university fair for high school graduates, which took place Sunday, June 30 in the Centro Arte para la Paz (Arts Center for Peace) from 8:30 to noon. Eighty high school and 73 university students attended. The attendance of high school students, particularly from the rural area, was low compared to previous years due to heavy rains that continued into the early morning. One high school director and representatives of fifteen institutions of higher education as well as the National Police Academy (ANSP), EsArte, EducationUSA and the NGO Ayuda en Acción were represented. The Fair was opened with 4th year scholarship student Ricardo Joel Argueta Portillo as master of ceremonies, with remarks by the President of the Supreme Electoral Council (TSE), Eugenio Chicas, Mayor Pedrina Rivera and the director of the Complejo Educativo El Barío, Profa. Nicolaza Gonzales, followed by the presentation of the institutions attending and the organizational sponsors and supporters. 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. 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 decrease in the number of potential high school graduates attending due to the rain. Most of the INSU students who attended are from the rural area. It is worth noting that the number of high school students planning to graduate was less this year than last, 340 versus 357. Students attending represent 23% of potential graduates. One student from another municipality was present.

New institutions attending were Zamarano (Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Honduras), the Evangelical University of El Salvador (UEES), and the University Francisco Gavidia. Zamarano is the first university from outside El Salvador to attend the Fair. For the first time, all the institutions invited attended. Data on institutional assistance are given in Table III.

Table I. Assistance of pre-university students, 2013

Institution	# in Fair	# to Graduate	%
INSU	6	162	4
INSU Educame	49	50	96
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	8	28	29
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Americas	1	22	5
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	6	43	14
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	7	24	29
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo	3	11	27
Total from Suchitoto	79	340	23.2
Total from other municipalities	1		
Total	80		

Table II. Assistance of pre-university students, 2007-2013

Institution	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
INSU	68	16	21	40	25	38	6
INSU-Flexible Mode					55	41	49
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Américas	5	5	3	13	11	2	1
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	10	22	5	31	21	20	8
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	9	8	4	14	22	19	7
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	0	0	3	6	24	42	6
INDEC (La Colima)	0	7	2	0	1	0	0
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo						11	3
Total from Suchitoto	92	60	38	104	159	173	79
IN San Francisco Lempa	13	8	0	0	0	0	0
Other	20	16	10	4	2	5	1
Total from outside	33	24	10	4	2	5	1
Total	125	84	48	108	161	178	80

Table III. Higher Education and Other Institutions in Fair

Institutions Invited	New in 2013	Attended 2013	Years attending
UES		x	6
UTEC		x	4
U Pedagógica		x	7
U. Andres Bello		x	7
UMOAR		x	5
U. Don Bosco		x	7
UCA		x	3
U. Francisco Gavidia	x	x	1
U. Católica/Megatec		x	4
Zamarano	x	x	1
UEES	x	x	1
ITCA-FEPADE		x	3
ITCHA		x	4
ENA		x	5
CENAR			2
EsArte		x	5
ANSP		x	2
Ayuda en Acción		x	4
Plan			1
MITUR			3
Education USA		x	3
Total	3	18	

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 Robert Broz and Frank Cummings to the six high schools in late April with verbal reminders to the directors by e-mail 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 Universidad continues to provide tutoring to high school students in the Complejo Educativo Guillermo Ungo and did aptitude testing in all but the high school in Copopayo earlier in the year.

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 the bulk of the funding.

Table IV. Finances, 2013

Item	Amount(\$)
Income	
Palo Alto Program	\$80.00
Municipality	\$500.00
Patrick O’Hare	\$100.00
Judith and Tom Dunham	\$100.00
Total	\$780.00
Expense	
Refreshments(200@ \$1.50)	\$300.00
Lunches(80 @ \$4.00)	\$320.00
Rental of tables	\$40.00
Promotion and copies	\$0.00
Gas and mileage	\$40.00
Total	\$700.00