

Report on the Eighth University Fair of Suchitoto, 2014

The formal university scholarship and loan programs in Suchitoto organized the eighth university fair for high school graduates, which took place Sunday, June 22 in the Centro Arte para la Paz (Arts Center for Peace) from 8:30 to noon. Eighty-nine (89) high school and seventy-seven (77) university students attended. The attendance of high school students from the rural area increased from the previous year due in part to the provision of transport and good weather, while that of the INSU decreased. Several high school teachers, representatives of thirteen institutions of higher education as well as the National Police Academy(ANSP), EsArte, EducationUSA and the NGOs Ayuda en Acción and SACDEL attended. The Fair was opened by 5th year scholarship student Omar Alexander Marroquin Cruz as master of ceremonies, with remarks by the President of the Supreme Electoral Council(TSE), Eugenio Chicas, Mayor Pedrina Rivera and Sister Peggy O'Neal of the Center followed by the presentations 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. A group of new participants in ESArte added an artistic touch as golden and silver statues.

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 again less this year than last, 292 in 2014 versus 340 in 2013. Students attending represented 26.4% of potential graduates. Eleven students from other municipalities were present.

Two institutions attended for the first time, the Salvadoran University Alberto Masferrer (USAM) at its own request and the NGO SACDEL-FESPAD. Two institutions usually present were not able to attend, Escuela Nacional de Agricultura and University Andres Bello. Data on institutional assistance is given in Table III.

Table I. Assistance of pre-university students, 2014

Institution	# in Fair	# to Graduate	%
INSU	15	132	11.3
Complejo Educativo Caserío El Barío	5	35	14.3
Previous years	1		
Complejo Educativo Caserío Las Americas	11	26	42.3
Complejo Educativo Caserío Ciudadela Guillermo Ungo	20	56	35.7
Complejo Educativo Caserío Los Almendros	21	32	65.6
Complejo Educativo Caserío Copapayo	5	11	45.4
Total from Suchitoto	78	292	26.4
Total from other municipalities	11		
Total	89		

Table II. Assistance of pre-university students, 2007-2014

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

Table III. Higher Education and Other Institutions in Fair

Institutions Invited	New in 2014	Attended 2014	Years attending
UES		X	7
Utec		X	5
U Pedagógica		X	8
U. Andres Bello			7
UMOAR		X	6
U. Don Bosco		X	8
UCA		X	4
U. Francisco Gavidia		X	2
U. Católica/Megatec		X	5
Zamarano		X	2
UEES		X	2
U. Luterano			1
USAM	x	X	1
ITCA-FEPADE		X	4
ITCHA		X	5
ENA			5
CENAR			2
EsArtes		X	6
ANSP		X	4
Ayuda en Acción		X	5
SACDEL/FESPAD	x	X	1
Plan El Salvador			4
MITUR-CAT Suchitoto			3
Education USA		X	4
Total	2	18	

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 the Municipal government, Santa Cruz-El Salvador program, the Palo Alto University Loan Program, and Patty Lawless. 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 early 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 the 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 Complejos of Los Almendros, Las Americas, Guillermo Ungo and Copopayo.

Table IV. Finances, 2014

Item	Amount(\$)
Income	
Palo Alto Program	\$140.00
Municipality	\$565.00
Patrick O’Hara	\$100.00
Familia Cummings	\$23.00
Santa Cruz-El Salvador	\$30.00
Judith and Tom Dunham	\$100.00
Total	\$958.00
Expense	
Refreshments(200@ \$2.00)	\$400.00
Lunches(80 @ \$4.00)	\$320.00
Rental of tables	\$ 70.00
Promotion and copies	\$3.00
Transport of students	\$135.00
Gas and mileage	\$ 30.00
Total	\$958.00