

*Guest Editorial*  
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**Education Working Group**  
**CoDirector, Civil Rights Project; and Professor Emeritus, GSOE, UCLA**

More than half a million U.S. citizens are students shared between the U.S. and Mexico, many of whom will return to the U.S. at the some point—educated or not. Many thousands of students who are in California now are not getting access to an education that will allow them to participate meaningfully in the economy of either country because of lack of communication between school systems, inadequate numbers of bilingual teachers, and inadequate educational materials and models for these students—all things that we are more than capable of providing if we had policies that supported doing so. Thus the UC-Mexico Initiative’s Education Working Group, in collaboration with our Mexican partners, is focusing its efforts on creating a more seamless system of California-Mexico educational collaboration so that the many students we share – now and in the future – can realize their aspirations.

We are dedicating our efforts towards understanding each other’s systems, how to navigate them, what are the expectations, as well as the challenges and resources available to improve the conditions of education in each system. We are undertaking several binational and multi-institutional activities that take advantage of collaborative efforts already underway, including: (1) development of a binational, bilingual open access coursework to allow students to continue their secondary education wherever they find themselves and receive credit; (2) mapping of the educational terrain and resources in the urban Southern California/Northern Baja (Mexico) border region to understand the current education and economic situations in order to recommend policies that can better link youth to educational opportunities, as well as to identify where new resources are critically needed for the economic health of the entire region; (3) Central Valley roundtables to address the needs of indigenous language speaking young children, and to provide early education in dual immersion settings incorporating indigenous languages; and (4) initiating an ongoing annual UC conference entitled “Los Estudiantes que Compartimos/The Students We Share.” The conference will bring together education researchers and policy makers from both countries to forge policies and programs to better address the educational needs of these students.

The Initiative provides an opportunity to connect with researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in novel ways. We are building a network of individuals from universities, governmental institutions, foundations, policymakers, and media that will bring the two countries into partnership in ways that could not have been imagined before, and we are connecting the UC campuses in whole new ways of interacting. We believe that the partnership concept as outlined by President Napolitano is actually being realized! We look forward to building these binational institutional opportunities for both the University of California and Mexican institutions. And please do not forget that your input and experience are welcome and needed!

## Mexico Leadership Updates

### UNAM



RECTOR ENRIQUE  
GRAUE

As of November 17, Dr. Enrique Graue Wiechers is the new Rector of UNAM. He is the former director of UNAM's School of Medicine, where he has been a professor for 35 years. Additional UNAM appointments include Leonardo Lomeli as Provost, Ken Oyama, Secretary for Institutional Development and Alberto Vital Diaz as Director of Humanities. Following up on a commitment made by Former Rector Jose Narro, UNAM recently provided a combined monetary contribution of over \$500,000 to support the activities of the Health and Energy Working Groups.

### Presidential Cabinet Changes

This summer also marked changes in President Peña Nieto's cabinet. Among other changes, Claudia Ruiz Massieu was appointed as Secretary of Foreign Affairs (SRE), Jose Antonio Meade as Secretary of Social Development (SEDESOL), and Aurelio Nuño Mayer as Secretary of Public Education (SEP). Other appointments unrelated to the cabinet reshuffle include the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., Miguel Basáñez and the Undersecretary for North American Affairs at SRE, Carlos Pérez-Verdía Canales.

### US Embassy in Mexico City

US Ambassador to Mexico Anthony Wayne retired in July 2015. His leadership and participation contributed to the successful launch of FOBESII among other notable achievements. The official confirmation of his replacement is still pending.

## Connecting with Higher Education Institutions in Mexico

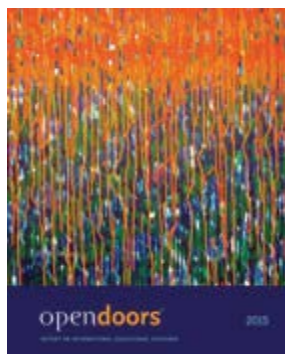
Building relationships and engaging with higher education universities and research institutions in Mexico is a continuous process of the Initiative. We are currently exploring opportunities to engage with entities along the border, like Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC); the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE); the Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior (CETYS Universidad) and UNAM's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and Institute of Astronomy. Additional institutions that we connected with this past fall include the Agencia Espacial Mexicana (AEM), the Instituto Tecnológico Autónoma de México (ITAM), CONACULTA, Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático, the Universidad de Guadalajara, and the Tecnológico de Monterrey system, among others.



CICESE FACILITIES IN ENSENADA

## Academic Mobility

### U.S. and UC participation in study abroad



The 2014 data for U.S. students study abroad has been released and is available on line at the Institute for International Education's Open Doors website (<http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Data/US-Study-Abroad>). In 2013/14, 304,468 U.S. students participated in study abroad for academic credit, an increase of 5% from the previous year. 62% of these students opted for short-term stays (summer or up to 8 weeks); 35% for mid-length (1 – 2 quarters or 1 semester); and 3% for long-term (academic year).

Although Mexico is not yet in the top 10 leading destinations for U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit, the 2014 data shows 4,445 students studied in Mexico, a 19.2% increase from 2013. What is also noteworthy, is that Mexico was the top destination of the 22,181 U.S. students that participated in non-credit work, internships and volunteering.

And the following table provides a glimpse of how the UC is faring in comparison to the U.S. in terms of student mobility. The numbers provided for UC Students represent the minimum number of students who participated as we are working on developing a system-wide tracking of student participation in both formal and informal study abroad programs.

<b>Study Abroad (all destinations)</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Total Number of U.S. Students:	283,332	289,408	304,467
Total Number of CA Students:	26,008	27,322	29,177
Total Number of UC Students:	4,684	4,992	5,232
<b>Study Abroad: Mexico</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
Total Number of U.S. Students:	3,815	3,730	4,445
Total Number of UC Students:	<i>n/a</i>	133*	173*
<b>Then and Now (to Mexico)</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>	
U.S. Study Abroad	9,244	4,445	
UC Study Abroad:	124	173*	

*\*source UCEAP, individual UC campus study abroad, individual UC campus research/course opportunities*

Postdoctoral fellow opportunities are moving forward, with the first 3 CONACYT energy sectorial funded fellows to start at UC Berkeley and 1 fellow to start at LBNL this January 2016.

The UC-Mexico Initiative's Academic Mobility Task Force is releasing a call for applications for undergraduate students studying in Mexico to participate in the inaugural MSRIP-México. This 8-week faculty mentored summer research internship program will launch summer 2016 and will ultimately serve as an academic pipeline to engage Mexico students to undertake their graduate studies at a UC campus.

## Engagement with Private and Non-Profit Sectors

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands convened a meeting in Los Angeles last August with leaders from the private and non-profit sectors to discuss strategies that the UC-Mexico Initiative could pursue to develop partnerships in support of academic mobility and innovative research. Among the main ideas were to focus in areas of strategic importance for Mexico and the U.S., such as energy, climate change, food, health and technology (linked with entrepreneurship and innovation) and increase the profile of the Initiative with the business community.



Advances from the UC-U.S. Chamber of Commerce agreement have resulted in the development of a pilot summer UC-Union Pacific internship program for UC students to serve as interns at the Union Pacific Roseville, CA location. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Veronique Rorive, [Veronique.rorive@ucr.edu](mailto:Veronique.rorive@ucr.edu) or phone at 951.827.4558.

## Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health



The Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health was held at UCSF on October 6, launching the XV edition of the Binational Health Week. This annual series of health promotion and health education activities includes workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings supported by the consular network of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Nicaragua to benefit over 300,000 people. Participants in the Binational Policy Forum

included Mexico's Secretary of Health Mercedes Juan, along with officials from Mexico's National Institutes of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Carlos Slim Foundation and faculty collaborating in the Health Working Group of the UC-Mexico Initiative. The forum presentations can be accessed [here](#).

## Mexican states commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

High level meetings facilitated by Energy working group, California Energy Commission (CEC), and Mexican government officials led to the signature of Under 2 MOU's between California and Mexico City, State of Mexico, Yucatan, Hidalgo and Durango for a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [The Under 2 MOU](#) brings together subnational governments willing to commit to either reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050 or achieving a per capita emissions target of less than 2 metric tons by 2050. Other Mexican states that previously joined the Under 2 MOU are Jalisco, Baja California and Chiapas. Additional activities supported by the Energy Working Group and CEC include a workshop on California-Mexico energy efficiency, renewables and grid management at UCSD and participation in the California-Mexico Clean Tech trade mission to Mexico City and Monterrey. For further information, please contact Alberto Diaz (Energy, Environment and Health Working Groups) at [alberto.diaz@ucop.edu](mailto:alberto.diaz@ucop.edu)



SUMMIT OF NORTH AMERICAN  
GOVERNORS IN COLORADO

## Mexico across the UC System



### UCSD-PS graduate returns to Mexico to propel higher education

Alfredo Martinez '15 shares how the Master of Advanced Studies in International Affairs (MAS-IA) program at UCSD gave him a new perspective to prosper in his home country.

Read story [here](#)



### Education at Top of Agenda at Mexico Moving Forward Symposium

Education reform was a key focus of this year's Mexico Moving Forward symposium, organized by UC San Diego's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

Read story [here](#)



### New Nanomaterials Taking Research to Mexico, Possibly into Space

Two UC Merced professors received a \$25,000 seed grant from a collaborative program offered by UC MEXUS and Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT).

Read story [here](#)



### The Cultivated Maya

A new book co-authored by a UCSB researcher details how the Maya have farmed sustainably and survived for millennia.

Read story [here](#)



### 'Window to the Brain' Research to Ramp Up

Scientists from UC Riverside and three Mexican universities receive nearly \$5 million to further study method that could make it easier to treat brain conditions.

Read story [here](#)

## Upcoming activities

### Call for Papers

XXII Annual Juan Bruce-Novoa Mexican Studies Conference, UC Irvine, May 5-7, 2016. The Department of Spanish & Portuguese at UC Irvine and UC-Mexicanistas announce the twenty-second annual Mexican Studies Conference. This year's conference will be dedicated to the various manifestations of mobility, movements, and mobilizations. This conference brings together academics from Mexico, the U.S. and other parts of the world who are conducting research on related themes. Keynote address will be delivered by CLAUDIO LOMNITZ (Campbell Family Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University). Abstract deadline is January 22, 2016. For additional information please contact Jacobo Sefami or Viviane Mahieux, [mexconf@uci.edu](mailto:mexconf@uci.edu), tel: 949.824.6901.



### Call for Proposals



The UC MEXUS-CONACYT *Call for Proposals for Collaborative Projects and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships* are open:

The Collaborative Projects grant program provides seed funding to teams of UC and Mexican researchers with beginning projects in basic and applied collaborative research, instructional development, and public service and education projects that apply research to public issues. The primary objective of the program is to enable the establishment of new collaborative initiatives with the potential for creating permanent ties between UC campuses and Mexican institutions that will grow and continue with the support of other institutional and extramural funds. Deadline for receipt of proposals: March 7, 2016. For additional information and proposal submission, please visit the website at [http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/funding/grant\\_collaborative.html](http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/funding/grant_collaborative.html).

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship advances the academic scholarship by emerging Mexican researchers and UC scientists and scholars in the early stages of their careers, after obtaining their Ph.D. In addition, the program seeks to support existing or developing binational academic networks by enhancing collaborative research projects between UC and Mexican faculty and institutions through the innovative involvement and training of new researchers. For additional information and proposal submission, please visit the website at [http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/funding/fellowship\\_post\\_doc.html](http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/funding/fellowship_post_doc.html). Deadline for receipt of proposals: March 7, 2016

### Upcoming Meetings

- Urban Affairs Association 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, *Globalization and Cities on the US-Mexico Border*, San Diego, 16-19 March, 2016. Registration is now open. For additional information: <http://www.urbanaffairassociation.org>.
- CENIC (Cooperation for Education Network Initiatives in California) 2016 Conference, *The Right Connection*, UC Davis, 21-23 March, 2016. See <http://www.cvent.com/events/cenic-2016-annual-conference/event-summary-7ce9a8e4e25244329b1cf1fffeeb781.aspx>.
- Gender Summit 8 North America 2016, *Science without borders. Breaking gender, geographic, disciplinary and educational borders through science*. CONACYT 28-29 April, 2016, Mexico City. See <https://gender-summit.com/g8-about>.