

## President Napolitano's Trip to Mexico

Although President Napolitano's trip to Mexico took place in March, it continues to reap results. The purpose of the trip was to reaffirm the UC's commitment to strengthen its collaboration with partners in Mexico — "Building bridges, not walls." Conversations were focused on areas such as NAFTA, education, academic mobility, energy, and health. To conclude the trip President Napolitano hosted a reception at Casa de California. Following are a few highlights:



*President Janet Napolitano, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Roberta Jacobson, and Chair of the UC Board of Regents Monica Lozano meet in Mexico City.*

### NAFTA

- Because of the upcoming re-negotiations, NAFTA was a major discussion point in meetings with business groups (US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce & COMEXI) and the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs.
- President Napolitano proposed a UC-sponsored forum to elevate the discussion on the value of trade and to correct misinformation, with the goal of affecting current political dynamics around NAFTA. UC is working with Tecnológico de Monterrey to convene this summit, which will be co-chaired by President Napolitano and Dean Alejandro Poiré of the Tec. Additional information can be found below.

### Education

- With English now being compulsory for K-12 students in Mexico, UC is developing a "train the trainers" program that will target the people who train the teachers on both sides of the border. This program is expected to infuse Mexico teachers with pedagogical skills to teach English and foster critical thinking and analytical skills in their students.
- Students We Share is establishing a bilateral higher education task force to identify ways in which to assist students moving between California and Mexico to continue their education. This work is a direct result of the President's meetings with the Secretary of Education and Mexican Legislators and will be led by Patricia Gándara, Director of Education for the UC-Mexico Initiative and Co-Director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA.



### **Trip Outcomes**

- June 21 was the deadline for SENER’s request for proposals on building energy efficiency. Proposals were submitted by Mexican institutions, each with a participating UC partner. Awards will be granted in September.
- As a result of the Students We Share program, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson met with Mexico’s Secretariat of Public Education in mid-June. The focus was on promoting closer educational ties between CA and MX, expanding bilateral educational exchange, and providing training for teachers to teach bilingually.
- The NAFTA forum will be held at the UCDC center on September 21, bringing together a diverse group of thought-leaders across the US, Mexico and Canada. For more information, see: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/initiative/uc-mexico-initiative/nafta-conference>

### **Academic Mobility**

- UC proposed a three-track program has been developed in cooperation with COMEXUS and the US-Mexico CEO Dialogue to provide internship experience with a binational company for Mexican students.
- The Mentored Summer Research Internship Program (MSRIP-MX) is an eight-week hands-on research experience guided by a faculty member at a UC campus for qualified Mexican students.
- Discussions regarding these programs were held at UNAM and Tec de Monterrey. Leadership for UC was provided by Guillermo Aguilar, Professor of Engineering at UCR, and Exequiel Ezcurra, Director of UC MEXUS.

### **Energy**

- The President participated in the Secretaría de Energía (SENER) and CONACYT’s announcement of \$200 million pesos (\$10 million USD) for research on energy efficiency focused on buildings and cities.
- UC and Tec de Monterrey are planning a workshop at Casa de California to help Mexican institutions learn from UC’s experiences with the Carbon Neutrality Initiative.
- Participating in discussions with the Secretary of Energy were David Phillips, Associate Vice President for Energy & Sustainability; Albert Pisano, Dean of the Jacobs Engineering at UCSD; and David Auston, Director, UC TomKat Carbon Neutrality Project at UCSB.

### **Health**

- A health forum held at Casa de California and lead by Jaime Sepulveda, Executive Director of Global Health Sciences at UCSF, and Stefano Bertozzi, Dean of Public Health at UC Berkeley, brought together health experts from UC and Mexico. Discussions focused on pandemic preparedness, migration and violence, sugar taxes and diabetes prevention, and health insurance portability. Two new areas of focus emerged— HIV and diabetic retinopathy.



*Director of International Affairs Jimena Lara accepts a digitized copy of the Sabrina Osuna collection on behalf of the Mexican Ministry of Culture.*

### **Sabino Osuna Collection**

The trip concluded with a reception hosted by President Napolitano at Casa de California for academic, business, political leaders, and UC alumni. During the reception, Regent Lozano presented the Mexican Ministry of Culture with a digitized, annotated copy of the 427-photo collection by Sabino Osuna, as well as a set of prints donated by UC MEXUS. These images capture the story of the Mexican Revolution. Through the California Digital Library system, Mexico academics and students will have access to the entire collection.