



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Since its launch just over a year ago, the UC-Mexico Initiative has made great strides. As you will learn in this issue of the quarterly bulletin, the five working groups—Arts and Cultures; Education; Energy; Environment; and Health, along with the Student Mobility Task Force—have begun to identify the key issues on which UC, with our partners in Mexico, can make the most impact. With representatives from each campus and the national labs, as well as counterparts from Mexico, these groups form the heart of the Initiative – the mechanism through which the real work will take place. I especially want to thank the chairs and co-chairs for their enthusiastic and energetic leadership on these efforts.

This leadership was in evidence last month when the Advisory Board, comprised of high level representatives from academia, the private sector, and foundations from both sides of the border, held its inaugural meeting in Ensenada, Mexico. The working group chairs presented their progress to date, and their ideas for the future. Board members helped to frame a long-term strategy for ensuring a robust and continuing academic collaboration that will redefine the California-Mexico connection.

Following recommendations made by the Advisory Board, we are now developing a strategic framework for the Initiative; this plan will articulate a mission and establish broad strategic goals. These goals will include near-term objectives for each of our working groups, as well as a longer-term view and a communications strategy to raise the profile of the Initiative for a wider audience.

I want to thank Rector José Narro and Provost Eduardo Bárzana of UNAM for helping us organize and host the Advisory Board meeting in Ensenada. Their support has been invaluable in taking this important step in advancing the work of the Initiative.

Sincerely,

Janet

Janet Napolitano
President

Advisory Board Holds Inaugural Meeting in Ensenada



UC President Janet Napolitano and UNAM Provost Eduardo Bárzana co-chaired the meeting of the Advisory Board of the UC-Mexico Initiative

UC President Janet Napolitano and UNAM Provost Eduardo Bárzana (on behalf of Rector José Narro) co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Board of the UC-Mexico Initiative on February 26-27, 2015 in Ensenada, Mexico. Following presentations from the Initiative's working group chairs and experts from UNAM, the Advisory Board discussed ways in which it can support the goals of the Initiative in terms of fostering student/faculty exchanges, supporting research collaborations on issues of common concern and establishing partnerships with private sector entities to leverage resources.

Among the main recommendations made by the Advisory Board are to:

- Develop a strategic framework that includes long term vision, timelines and specific goals
- Formulate a communications strategy to consolidate information resources for both internal and external audiences
- Collaborate with UNAM, ANUIES and SRE to identify opportunities for delivery of certificate programs for mid-career professionals in different agencies of the Mexican Government
- Organize a meeting with leaders from government, private sector and NGO's to generate support for the Initiative

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is tentatively scheduled for September 28-29 in Berkeley.

Advisory Board Members:

- UC President Janet Napolitano, co-chair
- Rector José Narro, UNAM, co-chair
- Salvador Alva, President, Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Gene Block, Chancellor, UC Los Angeles
- Enrique Cabrero Mendoza, Director General, CONACYT
- Geoffrey Cowan, President, Annenberg Foundation Trust
- Dorothy Leland, Chancellor, UC Merced
- Antonio López de Silanes, Laboratorios Silanes
- Monica Lozano, UC Regent and CEO of La Opinión and of ImpreMedia, LLC
- Jamie Merisotis, CEO and President, Lumina Foundation
- Juan Manuel Ocegueda, UABC Rector
- Hunter Rawlings III, President, Association of American Universities
- Rafael Tovar y de Teresa, Director General, CONACULTA
- Jaime Valls Esponda, Secretary General, ANUIES
- Kim Wilcox, UCR Chancellor

Report on Activities by Working Groups



First in-person meeting of the Energy Working Group

The UC-Mexico Initiative's five working groups and the student mobility task force are actively engaged in discussions to identify their top priorities for collaboration with Mexican partners. Chairs have been expanding membership among UC faculty as well as representatives from higher education institutions and government agencies in Mexico. For a complete list of working group chairs and membership, please visit our website at <http://ucmexicoinitiative.ucr.edu/>.






Following is an update on recent progress:

- **Arts & Culture** – At core this working group is engaging in an understanding of arts and cultures as a locus for critical research into and through artistic and cultural practices and processes. They are in the process of identifying core issues, provocations, and themes that will enable them to explore, examine, investigate, and disseminate together, across the UC-system and with Mexican partners. Research interests identified to date include transnational connectivity, land and freedom, and mobilities and mobilizations. In addition they are moving forward on defining their launch venture in 2016; establishing collaborations between UC Press and CONACULTA publishing divisions; and facilitating interactive, experimental laboratory arts processes across the UC-campuses and with multiple Mexican collaborators, including Scenic Arts, *Museo Universitario del Chopo*, UNAM and *La Máquina de Teatro*.
- **Education** – Themes of interest include online social capital and the internet (e.g., post-secondary online learning), bilingual curriculum and bi-literate skills development; mapping of educational terrain between US and Mexico; language education and cross-national student migration; and addressing these issues among indigenous peoples of Mexico who are non-Spanish speakers. The working group is also developing a teacher exchange pilot program (late June 2015) as part of the binational curriculum. Collaborations are being established with Mexico counterparts Universidades de Colima, de Guadalajara, Nacional Autónoma de México and Autónoma de Baja California, and are exploring opportunities with SRE Proyecta 100,000. And finally, planning of an annual “*Los estudiantes que compartimos*” conference to be held in Mexico City (or border area) to share what is being learned and to update the research agendas.

- **Energy** – The energy working group held its first in-person meeting at UC Riverside on January 30. Carlos Ortiz, Director General for Research, Technological Development and Human Resources at Mexico’s Ministry of Energy (SENER) and Herman Tribukait, representative of SENER’s Sustainability Fund in the U.S, participated in the meeting with a presentation on the implications of Mexico’s energy reform. Members identified six general areas of interest: innovative materials for storing energy; energy generation and production; smart grid; computation, oil and gas, water/energy nexus and economic analysis/modeling.
- **Environment** – The environment working group has identified climate change as the overarching theme for its efforts. The in-person meeting held on February 18 provided an opportunity to come up with a list of topics that could be studied from a binational perspective, including: binational implications of climate change; human and natural adaptation; Mexican rural households’ vulnerability and adaptation; effects on vegetation productivity and demographics; migration and deforestation; biotic range shifts and reptile extinctions; dispersal of fungal pathogens; maize genetic resource conservation; fisheries management; water resources adaptation; forest transitions; environmental quality and monitoring; and the human-wildland interface. Mexican institutions participating in this working group are UNAM, El Colegio de México and the Center for Research and Teaching of Economics (CIDE).
- **Health** – Jaime Sepúlveda and Stefano Bertozzi, co-chairs of the health working group, held several meetings in Mexico in January with representatives of governmental agencies in the health sector and higher education institutions to discuss involvement with the working group. In these conversations and during an ensuing conference call with members from UC faculty, the group identified the themes of obesity/diabetes, maternal and neonatal health, and violence as the areas of main focus. Currently, Mexican Institutions represented in the health working group include UNAM, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), and the Ministry of Health (within which the various agencies and institutes will be involved, such as the National Commission of Institutes of Health and Tertiary Care Hospitals, the National Institute of Psychiatry, the National Institute for Public Health and the National Institute for Medical Sciences and Nutrition). In addition, the Carlos Slim Foundation will participate as an observer.
- **Student Mobility Task Force** – The first activity undertaken by the Student Mobility Task Force is the identification of the types of student engagements at the UC. In addition considering the breadth and issues to be addressed, it is forming subcommittees to address (a) compilation of best practices, (b) how to advance student mobility (fostering faculty led courses/clinics, summer research experiences; identifying funding strategies), (c) identifying and addressing conflicting UC campus policies, and (d) collaborations with government agencies.

For further information on activities of the working groups of the UC-Mexico Initiative and possible opportunities to participate, please contact Veronique Rorive (Arts and Cultures; Education and Student Mobility Task Force) at veronique.rorive@ucr.edu or Alberto Diaz (Energy; Environment and Health) at alberto.diaz@ucop.edu

UC-Mexico Activities

 <p><i>Credit: iStock</i></p>	<p>Multi-campus research collaboration on immigration</p> <p>UC San Diego, UC Los Angeles, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine and UC Riverside will collaborate on a research project to study the impacts of immigration in California. The project is supported by \$525,000 grant over four years from Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) at UC's Office of the President.</p> <p>Link to full story</p>
 <p><i>Chris Nugent / UC Irvine</i></p>	<p>Visit by Director of Mexican Space Agency to UCI</p> <p>Francisco Javier Mendieta, Director of the Mexican Space Agency, visited UCI on March 3 to meet with faculty and students and discuss possible collaborations, including academic exchanges, research projects and technology transfer.</p> <p>Link to full story</p>
 <p><i>Photo by Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego Publications</i></p>	<p>Tijuana-San Diego University Presidents' Summit</p> <p>UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla participated in the Tijuana-San Diego University Presidents' Summit held at the U.S. Consulate General in Tijuana on February 19, 2015. The event launched the CaliBaja Consortium for Higher Education.</p> <p>Link to full story</p>
 <p><i>Photo by Kevin Johnson/UC Davis</i></p>	<p>UNAM International Immigration Conference</p> <p>UC Davis School of Law, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and the Monterrey Institute of Technology held a joint conference on Immigration at UNAM in Mexico City on March 26. The conference follows an "Immigration Dialogue" for law deans from the Pacific Rim that Dean Kevin R. Johnson hosted in October 2014.</p> <p>Link to blog report</p>
 <p><i>Photo by Sonia Fernández</i></p>	<p>Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos</p> <p>The scholarly research journal moves to UCSB; Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, Co-chair of the Working Group on Arts and Cultures of the UC-Mexico Initiative, named executive editor.</p> <p>Link to full story</p>

Casa de California Board convenes at UCOP



The recently appointed Board of the Casa de California Civil Association convened for the first time in early February to discuss the status of the Casa de California facility in Mexico City and to begin exploring opportunities to increase academic programs and other education activities there.

UC Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Aimée Dorr and Julie Henderson, Senior VP for Public Affairs at UCOP, serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. The 11-member Board includes from Mexico, Sergio Alcocer, Undersecretary for North American Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Eduardo Bárzana, UNAM Provost, and Jose Luis Martinez, General Director for International Affairs at the National Council for Arts and Cultures in Mexico (CONACULTA). Other members include Kim Wilcox, Chancellor of UC Riverside, Adela de la Torre, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UC Davis; Patricia Gándara, Research Professor of Education and Co-Director of the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto de Derechos Civiles at UCLA; Jean-Xavier Guinard, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of UC Education Abroad Program; Peggy Arrivas, UCOP Associate Vice President and Systemwide Controller; and, California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross.

If you would like to know more about Casa de California, please contact Patricia Osorio-O'Dea at Patricia.Osorio-ODea@ucop.edu or (510)587-6147.

Mark your calendars:

*The Center for US-Mexican Studies at UCSD (USMEX) will host the second **Frontera Friday** at the Tijuana River Estuary with special guest Maria Elena Giner, General Manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC). **Date: April 10th, 2015** More information: mfloca@ucsd.edu*

*Barry Sinervo, Professor of Ecology/Evolutionary Biology at UC Santa Cruz and member of the Environment WG of the UC-Mexico Initiative, will give a **TEDx** at UC Santa Cruz talk on collaboration with Mexico on the discovery of extinctions of the world's lizards. **Date: April 24th, 2015** More information: (831) 459-5358*

*The Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL) at UC Berkeley will host a conference on potential environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing in Mexico. **Date: April 27-29, 2015.** More information: petervailmarsters@gmail.com*

*LéaLA, the Spanish language book fair in Los Angeles that has been held for three years through the efforts of Universidad de Guadalajara, invites UC faculty, students and librarians to attend its fourth edition. **Date: May 15-17, 2015.** [Link to more information](#)*

*The 10th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health offers researchers, faculty, graduate students and professionals working with migrant communities around the world, a unique opportunity to learn about different health issues that affect mobile populations. **Date: June 22-25, 2015** [Link to more information](#)*

Publications

Health:

An update on the health status of California agricultural workers, over 90% of whom were born in Mexico, as well as policy recommendations for making related health-care advances, was presented on March 17, 2015 at the UC Center Sacramento. The event was sponsored by the UC Global Health Initiative, with support from the California Program on Access to Care, Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, Migration and Health Research Center and the Health Initiative of the Americas. To read the white paper, please click [here](#).

Migration and Health: A Research Methods Handbook. This path-breaking handbook is the first to engage with the many unique issues that arise in the study of migrant communities. It offers a comprehensive description of quantitative and qualitative methodologies useful in work with migrant populations. By providing information and practical tools, the editors fill existing gaps in research methods and enhance opportunities to address the health and social disparities migrant populations face in the United States and around the world. This book is the result of a collaborative effort of researchers from the University of California and several other national and international universities and organizations. Order your book [here](#).

Literature:

In the tradition of the Floricantos, *alternaCtive publicaCtions* pays homage to Chicano/a and Latino/a authors who passed away. *Floricanto en Mictlan* is a collection of quotes from their works, book covers and pictures so that it may serve as a way to remember these writers. For more information, please click [here](#).

Education:

The Bilingual Advantage: Language, Literacy and the U.S. Labor Market, edited by R. Callahan and P. Gándara, Bristol: Multilingual Matters, 2014, deals largely with the language skills of the heavy Mexican population in the U.S., and in California. It provides some of the evidence for the recent CA bill 1174 that put bilingual education back on the ballot in California. Order your book [here](#).