



## A Message from Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox, UCR

January marks one year since President Napolitano launched the UC-Mexico Initiative, an effort for UC to turn its collective face to the south, embracing the neighbor with whom we share a rich history and traditions. The Initiative allows UC as an institution to re-orient and be deliberate in shared planning with key groups and leaders in Mexico. Through the Initiative, UC is developing a new strategic direction with our Mexican partners, strengthening relationships and identifying issues of mutual interest upon which we can bring our collective expertise to bear. The goal is to better support UC faculty in their work with Mexico.

The organizational structure includes:

1. A high-level advisory board, co-chaired by President Janet Napolitano and UNAM Rector José Narro, to guide strategic direction and policy.
2. Working groups in key areas of importance, with members from UC campuses and institutions in Mexico.
3. An internal coordinating committee, to improve internal communications and coordination among UC campuses and programs.

This structure will support the real work of the Initiative: facilitation of existing faculty efforts and the development of programs to bring us closer to our Mexican partners. In this bulletin you will learn about an impressive array of inaugural events – only the beginning of all we hope to achieve.

## Working Groups Established, Leadership Identified

In keeping with the conclusions reached by UC faculty and Mexican partners during the January 2014 workshop that launched the UC-Mexico Initiative, five working groups have been established in the areas of energy, health, environment, education, and arts and culture. These working groups are tasked with identifying key issues of mutual interest and developing collaborative strategies to address them. In addition, each working group will develop opportunities for increased student and academic exchange. Working groups are chaired or co-chaired by UC faculty members, and membership will be made up primarily of UC faculty and colleagues from Mexican universities and research centers. The newly appointed leadership includes:

- **Energy:** Horst Simon, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
- **Education:** Patricia Gandara, UC Los Angeles
- **Environment:** Ed Taylor, UC Davis
- **Health:** Co-chaired by Stefano Bertozzi, UC Berkeley, and Jaime Sepulveda, UC San Francisco
- **Arts & Culture:** Co-chaired by Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, UC Santa Barbara, and Robert Irwin, UC Davis

The working groups are in various stages of formation. To read more about working group structure and charge, see the website at <http://ucmexicoinitiative.ucr.edu/>. For specific information regarding the working groups on energy, environment, and health, contact Alberto Diaz (tel: 510.987.9847; [alberto.diaz@ucop.edu](mailto:alberto.diaz@ucop.edu)); and for arts and culture and education, contact Veronique Rorive (tel: 951.827.4558; [veronique.rorive@ucr.edu](mailto:veronique.rorive@ucr.edu)).

## New UC Partnership with Mexico's Secretariat of Energy

Mexico's Secretariat of Energy (SENER) and the UC system formally entered into a strategic partnership through the signature of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by President Janet Napolitano and SENER's Undersecretary, Leonardo Beltrán. The event was part of a two-day visit by a high-level delegation representing SENER and other entities of Mexico's energy sector to the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) and UC Berkeley campus. The Mexican delegation included other officials from SENER, directors of the energy innovation centers (solar and wind), a representative from the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), the Mexican Petroleum Institute, and the Sustainable Energy Fund (FSE-SENER) in the U.S.

Activities included visits to the LBNL facilities, presentations on UC and LBNL energy-related research, and discussions between UC faculty and SENER delegation regarding Mexico's energy reform. Undersecretary Beltrán described three pillars of needs in which UC may be interested in partnering with SENER: (1) information generation for the new energy labor market; (2) development of the labor force at skill and degree levels (certificate programs, undergraduate and graduate education, and postdoctoral fellow opportunities); and (3) creation of conditions that encourage researchers to collaborate, and to link and develop innovation with the new players coming into the energy market.



*President Napolitano and Undersecretary Beltrán sign an MOU between UC and SENER.*

During this visit, the inauguration of a UC-SENER postdoctoral fellowship program was announced, starting in January 2015 with a pilot program at LBNL. Subsequent actions resulting from this visit include UC and LBNL faculty and researchers to visit SENER in early 2015; development of a UC survey to identify SENER needs for energy law certificate programs and executive management and leadership training; and the development of other UC certificate programs and extension courses (online or hybrid).

For more information regarding the SENER visit, please click [here](#). If you are interested in learning more about research collaborations and exchanges with SENER, please contact Horst Simon, chair of the energy working group, or Alberto Diaz at 510.987.9847 or [alberto.diaz@ucop.edu](mailto:alberto.diaz@ucop.edu).

## Mexican Diaspora Forum at UCSD

UC and the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) collaborated for the first time with the U.S. State Department to sponsor a forum on the Mexican Diaspora, held at UCSD on October 13. The forum was one of 65 events included in this year's Global Diaspora Week promoted by the International Diaspora Engagement Alliance (IDEA), an initiative of the U.S. State Department aimed at highlighting the critical

role Diasporas play as a factor of economic development around the world.

The symposium on the Mexican Diaspora was organized by UC San Diego's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX), with special support provided by the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, the Institute of the Americas, and the Scholars Strategy Network.

Attended by 150 from the San Diego border region, the program featured the participation of the Director of IME, Ernesto de Lucas, who explained the programs developed by his agency to connect hometown associations across the U.S. with their communities of origin in Mexico. Other speakers included Andrew Erickson, Consul General of the United States in Tijuana; UCSD Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla; the Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, Remedios Gomez Arnau; and USMEX Senior Policy Advisor, Denise Ducheny.

Two panel discussions were held. The first, moderated by UCSD Extension Dean Mary Walshok, was a roundtable on the dynamics of the San Diego-Tijuana binational economy, and the role of the Mexican diaspora in the economic importance of the border region. The other panel, moderated by Wayne Cornelius, UCSD distinguished professor of political science, discussed the Oaxacan diaspora in the communities of Los Angeles and Vista, southern California.



*Panelists at the UCSD Diaspora event.*

UC-Mexico Initiative and IME representatives expressed their intention to develop a long-term collaboration with the U.S. State Department to organize a series of diaspora-related events at different UC campuses in future editions of the Global Diaspora Week.

For more information on the event, please click [here](#) .



*CONACULTA meets with UC faculty at UC Riverside.*

### **Fostering UC-Mexico Collaborations in the Arts and Culture Scene**

Faculty from eight UC campuses met with a high-level delegation from Mexico's National Council for Arts and Culture (CONACULTA) on November 12-13, 2014. The meetings at the UCLA and UCR campuses explored possibilities for collaboration in the areas of literature, performing arts/arts, cinema/film, anthropology and archaeology, and history.

Led by Ambassador José Luis Martínez, Director General for International Affairs at CONACULTA, the delegation included the Director of Hellenic Cultural Center and classical guitarist, Jaime Márquez, as well as Cristina Barragán, Director of Academic Development of the

National Center for the Arts (CENART).

Discussions revolved around the development of long-term collaborations and exchanges between UC and CONACULTA to enhance educational, artistic, technological and cultural connections, while developing mechanisms that showcase a different model of interaction and highlight a different view of Mexico. Proposed activities to initiate in 2015 include concert/symphony exchanges; rolling museum exhibits and performance art exchanges; film studies and production collaborations between UC and Mexican schools of film; seminar series in disciplines of interest; and joint UC Press and CONACULTA publications.

The arts and culture working group will be actively engaged in the development of these UC system-wide and CONACULTA opportunities. For more information, contact Veronique Rorive by phone at 951.827.4558; or email at [veronique.rorive@ucr.edu](mailto:veronique.rorive@ucr.edu).



*Casa de California.*

### **Casa California Update**

A new advisory board for Casa California is in the process of formation. The announcement on the full board will be made soon and it is expected that the first meeting of this group will be scheduled at the end of January.

UCOP is currently working on facilities upgrade and maintenance issues. Further work is in progress to engage programs and activities to be located at Casa.

### **Student Mobility Task Force**

During campus visits by Initiative staff, faculty talked about the formal and informal student education, research and exchange activities already taking place with Mexico. Last summer alone, more than 120 students and faculty participated in such exchanges. Examples of faculty course-led exchanges or summer research programs include:

- 37 UCB undergraduates who studied in Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Mexico City
- 20 UCD students studying transnational health issues who participated in clinical rotations in Oaxaca
- 17 engineering undergraduates from Mexico hosted by UCR
- 27 Mexican students participated in summer research experience at UCD

The UC-Mexico Initiative is looking into ways of increasing student participation in programs such as Education Abroad, undergraduate summer research experiences and internships, UC summer and quarter abroad programs (faculty led courses), and Pathway Programs. Non-degree students interested in participating in extension programs (e.g., certificate programs, ESL courses) are also of interest, and a goal is to explore ways of increasing participation in such activities in a viable and sustainable way.

To achieve these goals, the Initiative is establishing a systemwide Student Mobility Task Force that will be charged with compiling and sharing best practices, identifying funding sources, and fostering student mentoring. Membership in this task force will be comprised of one faculty and one staff member from each UC campus and National Laboratory, as well as a representative from the following Mexican institutions: ANUIES, COMEXUS, SRE, CONACULTA, CONACYT, and UNAM. To learn more about this task force, contact Veronique Rorive (tel: 951.827.4558; email: [veronique.rorive@ucr.edu](mailto:veronique.rorive@ucr.edu) ).

### UC Campuses Receive ESL Students as Part of Proyecta 100,000

Four UC campuses (UCLA, UCR, UCSD and UCD) received a total of 350 ESL students in November and December in response to the call issued by the *Proyecta 100,000* Initiative, managed by Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Extension Offices at the four campuses accepted Mexico students to participate in a customized, 4-week intensive ESL course. The experience had a positive impact on the students' understanding of the U.S. and their mastering of English. According to organizers, it has also provided them with hope and enthusiasm for future opportunities to study abroad.

*Proyecta 100,000* is a Mexico initiative from academia, the private sector and the government to foster academic and scholar cooperation in higher education, research and innovation.



*Group of Mexico ESL students at UCR.*

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