The UC Davis-Mexico Initiative brings together students, scholars and administrators from UC Davis and distinguished institutions in Mexico to celebrate our shared heritage and populations, facilitate student and faculty exchanges, and conduct collaborative research and scholarship. I am honored to support the partnerships and programs highlighted in this first issue of the initiative's newsletter, such as the Research Experience for Undergraduates. I invite you to share with me information about other research endeavors or partnerships involving UC Davis and Mexico.

The enthusiastic collaboration between UC Davis and Mexican faculty in founding the initiative has created positive energy for expanding its scope. As we establish innovative research projects and foster academic exchanges, I look forward to a long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationship.

Thank you,
Adela de la Torre
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity

The Consulate General of Mexico is honored to work with the University of California, Davis, on an array of academic programs aimed at enhancing education and promoting binational understanding. It is our goal to engage with and strengthen the academic exchange between UC Davis and Mexico, in particular the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. Research Experiences for Undergraduates allows students from Mexico to work on a specific research project, giving them the opportunity to learn advanced research techniques and to work with the preeminent faculty of UC Davis.

The Consulate General of Mexico, in collaboration with UC Davis, has united diverse organizations to sponsor the students, the majority of whom have worked in STEM disciplines. We are sure the REU will continue as a highly productive exchange program given our reinforced collaboration, and the professionalism and determination of Dr. Adela de la Torre and her team. Partnership between the consulate and UC Davis will also be expanded through the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education Innovation and Research (FOBESII), specifically created to develop academic synergies between Mexico and the United States, giving students and faculty further opportunities to study abroad.

The Consulate General of Mexico is committed to supporting and promoting partnerships with the University of California, Davis, that exemplify academic excellence.

Alejandra García Williams
Consulate General of Mexico

Overview

The University of California, Davis-Mexico Initiative advances the systemwide UC-Mexico Initiative by creating additional capacity for addressing transnational issues and educating the next generation of leaders through increased student exchange, continuing education for professionals in Mexico and collaborative scholarship. UC Davis-Mexico enthusiastically supports stronger partnerships with Mexico and welcomes ways to leverage existing research programs and initiatives.

To learn more about the UC Davis-Mexico Initiative, and explore the variety of programs and research projects currently under way, please visit sa.ucdavis.edu/initiatives/ucdavis-mexico.
Binational Business Program

For the past decade, UC Davis has served as a receiving university for Mexican students who participate in the Binational Business Program. The program was created in 1996 by the U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange, the Fulbright Commission to promote mutual understanding among the business communities in Mexico and the U.S.

Open to U.S. grantees, student participants intern with a multinational company in Mexico and simultaneously take graduate classes focused on international business at one of Mexico’s two most prestigious private universities: Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.
End of Farm Labor Abundance Project
Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, UC Davis, El Colegio de Mexico

Data from the Mexico National Rural Household Survey, which tracks the movement of a nationally representative sample of rural Mexicans into and out of farm jobs, shows a significant decrease in the probability of workers remaining in agricultural jobs over time.

The transition of Mexican workers away from agriculture, both in Mexico and the U.S., will have profound impacts for the U.S. farm sector. While it has historically depended on an elastic supply of Mexican farm labor, it will now have to compete with Mexican farms for a declining number of workers.

The survey reflects more than 125,000 person-years of data and includes agricultural work in villages, Mexico and the U.S. The downward trend in farm labor supply is pervasive across Mexico’s five census regions.

In the short run, the ramifications of a dwindling agricultural labor supply are partly mitigated by a decreased labor demand because of the California drought.

The UC Davis-Mexico Initiative has begun collaborating with UC Davis faculty members Josue Medellin and Richard Howitt to integrate labor statistics into their California crop model, which was originally designed to evaluate the impacts of drought on specific crops.

Immigration Law Clinic
UC Davis Law School

The UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic was among the first of its kind in the United States and is one of the only clinics in the nation devoted to representing detained immigrants before the immigration court, challenging conditions of confinement and contesting confinement in federal court.

Under the guidance of supervising attorneys, students in the clinic interview clients and witnesses, collect facts, research and develop legal arguments, draft pleadings and motions, prepare legal briefs, write trial briefs, prepare clients and witnesses for direct and cross examination and represent immigrants at immigration court hearings. The students also prepare federal court challenges to conditions of confinement and custody, and represent clients before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit with cutting-edge appellate representation.

With a documented and undocumented immigrant population concentrated nearby in California’s agricultural Central Valley, the clinic is uniquely located to serve these communities. The clinic stands alone in its statewide role providing critical advice to public defenders about the need to challenge unlawful and prolonged detention and the potential immigration consequences facing criminal immigrant defendants.
UC Davis Quarter Abroad Mexico
Latino/a Health Internship Program in Oaxaca

Students in the UC Davis Quarter Abroad Mexico program take classes at UC Davis on transnational (U.S.-Mexico) health issues and participate in approximately 180 hours of clinical rotations through internships in hospitals and clinics in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The UC Davis courses provide students with cultural competencies that are crucial for effective health care professionals. The in-depth clinical experience leads not only to greater Spanish fluency, but also helps participants clarify career goals.

Students reside with families in Oaxaca, organized through Child Family Health International (CFHI-UCD Oaxaca Program) during the program. Serving faculty advisers are Drs. Adela de la Torre and Yvette Flores.

Students who complete the program can then take one additional course to fulfill requirements for a UC Davis minor in Chicana/o Studies.

International Education Week
November 16-20, 2015

Join in celebrating worldwide International Education Week! This joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of State and Education celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

Searchable Faculty Database

Global Affairs at the University of California, Davis, has developed an interactive faculty database to identify faculty at UC Davis who are leading international research projects.

To review the full listing of UC Davis faculty and scholars working on research projects with ties to Mexico, visit globalaffairs.ucdavis.edu/internationalfaculty/index.cfm.

Contact us

We want to hear from you. Please contact the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity. Ask questions, offer suggestions or relate concerns. We are always looking for other projects and initiatives to highlight in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Vanessa Segundo
vsegundo@ucdavis.edu
530-752-1381