MÉXICO-US BILATERAL FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH (FOBESII)

Four years from its establishment, the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII), has expanded the opportunities of educational exchanges, scientific research partnerships, and cross-border innovation, supporting traditionally less favored demographic groups to ensure a larger economic and social inclusion.

The goal of FOBESII is to help both countries develop one 21st century workforce contributing to mutual economic prosperity and sustainable social development, turning North America into a competitive and dynamic knowledge-based region.

FOBESII also seeks to establish and strengthen bilateral knowledge networks, with the opening of research and innovation centers in both countries.

Through FOBESII, Mexico and the U.S. bring together the public and private sectors, the higher education community, and civil society to promote workforce development, in fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and also in social sciences.

On February 25, 2016 a High Level Meeting was held at México City to highlight the achievements of FOBESII since its establishment and expand the fields of action to include the social sciences and the participation of new players to contribute to the goals of the Forum.

On March 14, 2017 a Roundtable of FOBESII was held at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, DC, which had the participation of more than 60 representatives of the public and private academic sectors from both countries, who dialogued about FOBESII’s main achievements since its launching in 2014 and established the next steps to go ahead on this effort.

PROYECTA 100,000

• Proyecta 100,000 is a program designed by the Mexican Government in collaboration with the private and academic sectors that seeks to increase bilateral academic and student mobility, promote English language learning, and establish knowledge networks between Mexico and the United States.

• Proyecta seeks to place Mexico as the third largest source of international students in the United States, to match the level of our bilateral trade. Its goal is to have 100,000 Mexican students studying in the United States by 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE E-MAIL: FOBESIIDAN@SRE.GOB.MX
FOBESII’s ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Thanks to the work done under FOBESII, academic and scientific cooperation between Mexico and the United States is rapidly expanding through the reinforcement of existing partnerships and the creation of new collaborations. Among FOBESII’s achievements reached to date, we can highlight the following:

- Mobility of 101,000 students, academics and researchers in academic programs in the United States since 2014 through Proyecta 100,000.
- A 26% increase of U.S. students in Mexico from 3,730 in 2012-2013 to 4,712 in 2014-2015. An 18% increase in Mexican students studying in the United States, from 14,199 in 2012-2013 to 16,733 in 2015-2016.
- Over 115 cooperation agreements have been signed between higher education institutions from both countries, including with authorities from the states of California, New Jersey, Arizona, Minnesota and Texas.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mexico and the U.S. for the creation of a Bilateral Internship Program.
- The launching of pilot internship programs with collaboration of the Mexican consular network in the United States in sectors such as the automotive, aerospace, energy, and advanced manufacture, among other fields.
- Various binational research and innovation centers have been created:
  - Logistics and Distribution;
  - Intelligent Maintenance;
  - Advanced Nonferrous Alloys and Materials;
  - CaliBaja Center for Resilient Materials and Systems;
  - Arid Lands.
- The National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have forged a successful and high-quality collaboration among universities, research centers and industries from both countries.
- Through FOBESII, companies of the energetic and electricity sectors and higher education institutions from Mexico and the United States are working to expand and improve the teaching of English language and technical skills to meet the increasing demand of qualified bilingual workforce on these sectors.

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