



## THE MEXICO INSTITUTE



## MISSION STATEMENT

### **THE MEXICO INSTITUTE**

seeks to improve understanding, communication, and cooperation between Mexico and the United States by promoting original research, encouraging public discussion, and proposing policy options for enhancing the bilateral relationship.

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## IMPROVING U.S.- MEXICO RELATIONS

The Mexico Institute helps develop policy ideas, build dialogue, and assess progress in U.S.-Mexico relations. Its work focuses on five strategic issues: security cooperation, economic integration, migration, border management, and energy and the environment. In partnership with the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands, the Institute has convened a process to develop ideas for the relationship in the future.





## SECURITY COOPERATION

Security, security collaboration, and organized crime have continued to be major issues on the bilateral agenda in the last year. Efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement institutions, intelligence sharing, and investments in violence prevention programs have been the center piece of the bilateral security agenda. In this context, the Institute has continued its cutting edge research and publication focused on key areas of concern for policy makers such as money laundering, firearms trafficking, and efforts to build greater technical capacity within the police and justice sector. The Institute has also convened high-level meetings to consider some of the latest policy options and strategies available for confronting organized crime. In the future, the Institute will expand its research agenda to look at the role of civic engagement in promoting public security in Mexico.



## ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The Institute has substantially increased its engagement on the issues of regional economic integration and competitiveness.

With support from the Tinker Foundation and Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations, the Mexico Institute published a major report, *Working Together: Economic Ties between the United States and Mexico*, which was launched at an event with former U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan, Wilson Center President Jane Harman, Robert Pastor, Roberto Newell, and Ralph Watkins. The Wilson Center's Andrew Selee and Christopher Wilson co-authored op-ed columns in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Dallas Morning News* highlighting the importance of Mexico to the U.S. economy.

The Mexico Institute also published a translated and updated version of Mexico Institute Advisory Board members Luis de la Calle and Luis Rubio's latest book, *Mexico: A Middle Class Society*. The book, which challenges the commonly held notion that Mexico is a predominantly poor country, was featured in a front-page story in *The Washington Post* and has been the subject of several other news stories. The authors were joined by political analyst Macario Schettino and a number of other experts to present the book at the Wilson Center in January 2012.





## MIGRATION

The Mexico Institute's current immigration-related programming includes a partnership with the Wilson Center's Latin American Program and the Migration Policy Institute to facilitate a series of collaborative regional approaches to migration in the U.S., Mexico, and Central America. The Mexico Institute also manages a U.S.-Mexico Migration Dialogue that brings federal, state, and local policymakers from both countries together with members of civil society to address shared binational challenges on migration, including improving enforcement regimes, addressing development needs, and preparing both governments for the administrative challenges of legal reform. The Wilson Center recently released a report examining the links between development and migration in the U.S. and Mexico, and a brief analyzing the legal side of Mexican immigration.





## BORDER MANAGEMENT

In 2011, the Mexico Institute formalized its ongoing collaboration with COLEF and Arizona State's North American Center for Transborder Studies, forming the Border Research Partnership. The Partnership's first major initiative was to create an award for cross-border cooperation, which was presented to four outstanding regional government and civil society projects at the Border Governor's Conference in Ensenada, Baja California. The Wilson Center authored a publication highlighting the success stories of the 2011 awardees and finalists, creating a counternarrative to perceptions of violence and crime along the border which are so common in the media. The 2012 selection process is underway and with the generous support that the Council of State Governments-WEST and USAID continue to provide, the award is on pace to become a successful annual tradition.

Another major initiative of the Border Research Partnership is the creation of the first edition of the State of the Border Report. With our partners, we seek to provide a comprehensive yet accessible look at the state of affairs in border management and the border region, focusing on four core areas: trade and economic development, security, sustainability, and quality of life. Two of the report's authors recently joined Assistant Secretary of Commerce Michael Camuñez and the Chamber of Commerce to launch a joint U.S.-Mexico trade delegation to the border, releasing the report's chapter on border trade, competitiveness, and economic development issues.

## ENERGY INITIATIVE

The Mexico Institute embarked on an innovative new project to address the practical possibilities for renewable energy investment along the U.S.-Mexico border region. With support from the Council of State Governments – West and USAID, the Mexico Institute has released three reports as part of this project that outline the potential for wind, solar and bioenergy opportunities in Northern Mexico. These reports also seek to assess the impacts of renewable energy projects on border communities with respect to employment, infrastructure, human capital, and social participation.

The Mexico Institute has also begun work to track the energy debate in Mexico and assess the challenges that have arisen since the passage of reforms in 2008. The Institute will begin work to identify the potential for a U.S.-Mexico energy dialogue and cross-border energy collaboration.



## MEXICO INSTITUTE'S ELECTIONS GUIDE

**The Mexico Institute's Elections Guide provides a comprehensive guide to the best resources on the 2012 Mexican elections.**

**This webpage can be accessed via:  
<http://mexicoinstituteonelections.wordpress.com/>**

## SPECIAL ELECTIONS INITIATIVE

Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Mexico Institute has developed a comprehensive program related to Mexico's federal election on July 1st, 2012. A significant part of this work involved the creation of a specialized web-based resource guide for a U.S. audience to follow and understand Mexico's elections and electoral system. *The Elections Guide* provides background information on each of the major candidates, a summary of the major issues, a weekly update on campaign developments, and periodic analysis of the election. The Mexico Institute also hosted in public for a the three major presidential candidates, as well as senior representatives from each of the campaigns and political parties. The Institute organized a number of panel discussions with experts from Mexico to provide background and in-depth analysis of the election process. The Institute hosted a post-election conference to analyze the results in July 2012.



## CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE

The Mexico Institute organizes frequent briefings on the Hill to bring analysis and discussion of key issues in U.S.-Mexico relations to Members of Congress and their staff. In the last year the Institute organized staff briefings on the 2012 presidential election in Mexico, and on money laundering efforts for the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control. Additionally, the Institute organized, along with the Embassy of Mexico, two Members' only briefings which focused on the extensive commercial ties between both countries.

## SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Wilson Center organizes a Public Policy Scholars program with the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (Comexi) to bring Mexican researchers to Washington, DC for periods of residency at the Center. The Center also organizes the "Don Eugenio Garza Laguera" Scholars Program with Monterrey Tec and Georgetown University which brings two professors from the Public Policy School at Monterrey Tec (EGAP), and two advanced Ph.D. students to Washington, DC for this trilateral program.

## DIALOGUES WITH MEXICO DIÁLOGOS CON MEXICO

The Woodrow Wilson Center is committed to providing a forum for discussion and analysis of ongoing events in Mexico. The *Dialogues with Mexico* initiative provides a neutral space for leading figures in Mexico to make presentations on salient issues in the bilateral relationship before a Washington audience. Co-Chaired by former Governor Lazaro Cardenas and Mexico Institute Associate Director Eric L. Olson, the Diálogos initiative brought President Calderón and all three major presidential candidates to the Wilson Center in 2011. We also hosted Secretary of Public Security Genaro Garcia Luna, numerous governors, and representatives from Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute, among others.



## MEXICO WEB PORTAL

**The Mexico Institute has expanded its web portal on current events in Mexico and U.S.-Mexico relations, which receives over 30,000 visitors per month. Frequently updated news and original analysis make this a must-read site for english speakers who follow Mexico and U.S.-Mexico relations.**

**The portal can be accessed via:  
[www.wilsoncenter.org/mexicoportal](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/mexicoportal)**



## PUBLICATIONS

The Institute has recently published *Working Together: Economic Ties Between the United States and Mexico*, and *Mexico: A Middle Class Society, Poor No More, Developed Not Yet*. As part of an ongoing project to identify successful projects along the U.S.-Mexico border that highlight cross-border collaboration and innovation, the Mexico Institute released *Our Shared Border: Success Stories in U.S.-Mexico Collaboration*. *Considering New Strategies for Confronting Organized Crime in Mexico* challenges the conventional wisdom about crime and violence in Mexico.



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