

Mexico and US Reaffirm Commitment to Academic, Scientific and Educational Cooperation

Press release 348

- The FOBESII Colloquium will address issues such as improved language management, sustainable financing and academic mobility.
- Academics and researchers from UNAM, University of Arizona and University of Texas are participating.
- Undersecretary for North America Jesús Seade and U.S. Ambassador Christopher Landau inaugurated the colloquium.

The Colloquium of the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII), organized by the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. embassy in Mexico, was inaugurated at the Mexican Foreign Ministry today.

The purpose of the colloquium is to reaffirm the commitment of both governments to academic, scientific and educational cooperation, said Undersecretary for North America Jesús Seade at the inauguration, where he was accompanied by the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Christopher Landau.

“Educational cooperation, although not an issue that is seen much in the media, has profound implications for the bilateral relationship because it helps us to create a workforce that is prepared for the challenges of the 21st century while forging lasting and meaningful ties between our citizens,” said Undersecretary Seade.

Ambassador Landau said that the entry into force of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will create greater opportunities for trade and academic mobility between the two countries.

“Mexico and the United States are each other's number one trading partners and they make significant investments, creating



jobs on both sides of the border. Entry into force of the USMCA will give us even more opportunities to grow our business relationship, and academic mobility will allow our workforce to be better prepared to take advantage of these opportunities,” said the US ambassador to Mexico.

More than 80 representatives from leading universities and research centers, as well as individuals from the public and private sectors in both Mexico and the United States are participating in the colloquium, which will include a conversation between experts in international mobility on Mexico-U.S. educational exchanges and the current and future panorama of FOBESII.

Sergio Alcocer, a researcher from the Engineering Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and president of *Mexico Exponencial*; Francisco Trigo, UNAM International Relations and Affairs Coordinator; Stefano Bertozzi, Interim Director of the University of California Systemwide programs with Mexico, José Lever, Assistant Vice President, Mexico - US Affairs, and Hazel Blackmore, Executive Director of COMEXUS, will participate in the opening conversation.

“We must envision a North America in which academic exchanges take place on a large scale in all disciplines, in which joint research is the norm and not the exception, and in which our students don't face language barriers to acquire knowledge,” said the Undersecretary for North America.

The colloquium will include four sessions on improving language management, models for long-term sustainable financing, challenges to academic mobility, and joint research programs, which will serve as a basis for boosting collaboration and developing synergies.

Created in 2014, FOBESII has become the main platform for cooperation in higher education between the academic, public and private sectors of both countries, allowing them to explore opportunities that translate into benefits for our societies.





Among the forum's main achievements are: more than 185 collaboration agreements between institutions of higher education; more than 149,655 Mexican students and academics involved in mobility programs registered by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID); a 29% increase in the number of U.S. university students in Mexico (from 4,445 in 2013/2014 to 5,736 in 2016/2017), and the opening of representative offices by U.S. institutions of higher education in Mexico, in addition to the opening of a campus of the Arkansas State University in Querétaro, the first of its kind in our country.

The colloquium is one of the actions taken by both governments to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation in commercial, security and migration matters, among others.

