

Nuevo León's new Secretary of Education from Tec and Harvard



Sofialeticia Morales, Secretary of Education for Nuevo León, proposes **promoting academic development** under a **model of innovation and resilience**.

*“We want **to connect knowing with doing and transformation**, to make **evidence-based decisions** that consider the uniqueness of the state of Nuevo León,”* says the official appointed by Governor **Samuel García**, who took office on **October 4**.

She holds a degree in **Philosophy and Literature** from [Tec de Monterrey](#), as well a **master's degree in Education** and a **PhD in Education** from [Harvard](#).

She's also a **distinguished professor** and **Director** of Education and Development at the Tec's **School of Humanities and Education**.

During an interview with **CONECTA**, Sofialeticia shares her **proposed objectives**, the **challenges to overcome**, her **pedagogical vision**, and her **strategy** for the **educational future** of Nuevo León.

Track record of the Secretary of Education for Nuevo León

Dr. Morales has **experience of roles in the education sector**, including:

- Director General of International Relations and Director General of Innovation and Academic Reinforcement at the **Secretariat of Public Education** in Mexico City.
- Director of Social Development and Education at the **Organization of American States (OAS)**
- Senior Advisor on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals at WHO/PAHO

Her experience at the Second Summit of the Americas in Chile stands out, where under the leadership of President Ernesto Zedillo, the central theme was **education**.

*“The **themes of that summit are applicable in education today**, since they’re about **equity, quality, and relevance**,” she says.*

She’s also acted as consultant for the **Natura Institute on its Learning Project in 6 Latin American countries** and has been a **professor** at the Tec’s **Monterrey campus**.

Main challenges: equity and inclusion

Although **the return to face-to-face classes** is one of the **priority issues on the agenda**, Dr. Morales explains that there are a **variety of related situations** that must be **addressed in parallel** with this first challenge.

As well as **coordinating an informed effort to reintegrate students into classrooms**, Morales highlights how imperative it is to address **challenges** such as **equity** for women and the **inclusion** of indigenous groups.

*“It’s essential to draw upon the **wealth and diversity that characterize this state**,” says Morales.*

What’s more, the Secretary says that her team is working to collect and **analyze data** that will allow them to **make effective use of the budget**.

The official also says that **despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, lessons have been learned** as part of this experience.

*“One of the **most important realizations is that peer learning is the best way to learn**,” she says, highlighting the importance of the use of **mechanisms** that promote **diverse interactive groups**.*

Nuevo León, a unique player on the national educational scene

As part of her **plan of action**, Sofioleticia **highlights the characteristics** that make **Nuevo León a unique player** on the **national scene**.

According to Morales, **around 130,000 people come to the state each year**. What’s more, **Nuevo León** is the **state with the second largest diverse indigenous population** in the country,

*“Nuevo León has **great wealth in terms of language and culture**. However, there are challenges in terms of **discrimination and educational inclusion**,” she said.*

Despite this, she shares her confidence in the nature of the people of Monterrey, which becomes apparent when she speaks about **the interest of civil society in volunteering and their resilience**.

*“We don’t give up. We always put **innovation, persistence, and passion for work first**. That’s what makes us exceptional,”* she said.

Dr. Morales also says that **alliances with the corporate commitment that exists in Nuevo León** will be a firm path to **carrying out educational projects**.

“Nuevo León has great wealth in terms of language and culture, however there are challenges in terms of discrimination and educational inclusion.”

Empowering women, one of her objectives

One of **the main objectives of Morales’ team** is to focus on **equity and equality of educational opportunities** in the state, proposing a “level playing field” for the people of Monterrey.

*“We have a **responsibility** to address these issues through an **approach that allows us to feel proud** of who we are,”* added the professor.

Alongside this first theme are issues such as **improving quality of education, reexamining the importance of each academic level**, and increasing **support for women** to prevent school desertion.

*“We’re going to **empower women**, because by doing so, we empower mothers, families, and the state,”* she stressed.

In turn, Morales has set herself the task of highlighting **the benefit** of a national education system that allows **the possibility of this level playing field** for the way in which students are educated.

<https://twitter.com/SofialeticiaM/status/1445029787362279437/photo/1>

The strategy to involve families and teachers

In order to **meet her objectives** and ensure **this approach is reflected during her term**, Sofialeticia proposes implementation of an **intersectoral strategy**.

This plan of action includes **working** not only with **students**, but also with **families and teachers** so that **quality education is coupled with the emotional wellbeing** of those involved.

According to the professor, **one of the first steps** to take is related to **diagnosing students** through standardized tests designed to measure **their performance throughout the school year**.

*“Education is a gradual process, but we propose **demonstrating our progress with evidence**,”* Morales concludes.

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