

Oklahoma Governor and academics seek ties with Tec de Monterrey



Kevin Stitt, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, United States, visited the Monterrey campus to learn about **projects** and **exploring alliances** between the **government** and **universities** in **Oklahoma** and [Tec de Monterrey](#).

On **November 4**, 2021, Stitt and members of his government and [University of Oklahoma](#) executives visited the Rector's Building on Monterrey campus.

*"Something I think we in **Oklahoma** should also do is challenge our **universities** to **solve the problems** of **business**, **governments**, and **non-governmental organizations**."*

*"We're very focused on creating the **workforce** of tomorrow. I think **you're** already **doing it**, and it's something we can take from you,"* Governor Stitt said.

Also present during the visit were [David Garza](#), Rector and Executive President of the Tec; [Juan Pablo Murra](#), Rector of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies; and **Mario Adrián Flores**, Vice President of North Region campuses, along with other directors.



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Seeking partnerships for the education of the future

The **leaders** from the two **universities** and the **government of Oklahoma** met to learn about the Tec's **initiatives** and **projects** in areas such as **educational innovation**, **research**, and **student mobility**.

David Garza began the presentation with a journey from the **beginnings** of the **Tec** in **1943** to the most recent **international rankings** that place the Tec at number **1 among private universities** in **Mexico**.

Scott A. Fritzen, Associate Provost for **Global Engagement** at the **University of Oklahoma** highlighted the Tec's work in designing an **educational system** for the **future**.

“We’re very focused on creating the workforce of tomorrow. I think you’re already doing it, and it’s something we can take from you.” – Kevin Stitt

During the visit by the Oklahoma delegation, Juan Pablo Murra explained that the **Tec21 Model** is based on **4 pillars**:

Flexibility, Inspiring **professors**, Memorable **university experiences**, and **Challenge-based learning**, allowing students to have experiences with real organizations and enter the work world with previous experience.

*“Your **university** is very consciously **trying** to create the **future of higher education** and add it to your systems, culture, practices, and DNA,” Fritzen said.*

*“Educating **leaders** and **entrepreneurs** and preparing them for **technology** that **hasn’t been invented** yet is something that **impacted** me,”* added Kevin Stitt.

Similarly, **Scott Fritzen** highlighted the **alliances** between the **Tec**, **governments**, and **universities** to solve **social problems** with initiatives such as **DistritoTec**, in which the Tec is taking action together with the government to improve public spaces.

*“I would like to express my **appreciation** for what they’re doing and emphasize our **intention to collaborate**, from **exchanges** to **research alliances**,”* Fritzen said.



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International mobility opportunities

Governor Kevin Stitt pointed out that **Oklahoma** and **Mexico** have similarities in **family values** and **entrepreneurship**, as well as other areas, so he said that the visit to the Tec can be an **incentive** for **new alliances** and **projects**.

*“We need to create more partnerships for the **University of Oklahoma** and **Oklahoma State University** to send **more of their students here**. We want to invite more of your students to **come to our universities**,”* Stitt added.

The **Governor** also highlighted the **work** of the **Tec** in ensuring that around **30% of its students** have **international experiences**.

Garza also mentioned that they will also seek to increase the **options** for a **greater exchange of professors** between the Tec and Oklahoma universities.

*“Of course, we’d be excited to have more of your students, but I think it’s a **good opportunity** to have that **partnership** in the **faculty** area as well,”* Garza said.

*“Having these **experiences** is **important** to open one’s mind and get to know other cultures. I’m personally **excited** to be here. The hospitality you’ve shown us has been incredible,”* Stitt said.



width="900" loading="lazy"> **Learning about educational innovations at Tec de Monterrey**

After the talk at the **Rector’s Building** of **Tec de Monterrey**, the representatives of **Oklahoma State University** and the **University of Oklahoma** learned about some of the campus **facilities**.

They saw projects such as **holographic projection**, in which a teacher appears **life size** to several **online distance learning groups**, where the groups can interact as if the teacher were present.

Also on the tour taken by the members of the delegation was the use of **Virtual Reality** for areas such as **medicine**, **architecture**, and other applications.

“We need to create more partnerships for the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University to send more of their students here.” – Kevin Stitt

Another project was the **Virtual Campus**, in which **students**, **professors**, and **tutors** can interact at an online campus, where they can visit facilities and have classes or meetings as if it were a face-to-face space.

The university representatives also learned about **DistritoTec**, the **urban initiative** in conjunction with state and local governments to **improve public spaces** around the Monterrey campus.

To end the visit, they **toured** the campus **library**, where they interacted with students and experienced some of the **Day of the Dead** festivities, ending the tour at the **Rectory Building mural**, created by the artist Jorge González Camarena.



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