

# US Ambassador sees future with Mexico in education and development



*“My **mission** as ambassador is to **acknowledge the common history** (between both countries) and to see ourselves **together** in the **same vision.**”*

These were the words of **Ken Salazar, United States ambassador to Mexico**, during a **conversation** with **José Antonio Fernández**, chairman of the board at the Tec, in the **auditorium** of the **library** at the **Monterrey campus**,

*“There is an **opportunity to build relations** (between Mexico and the United States). Unity in terms of **education, technology, and development,**”* Salazar said to students who attended this event.

The US diplomat visited [Tec de Monterrey](#) on December 7 to strengthen **bilateral relations** between the two countries.



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### **Salazar expects more student exchanges**

The diplomat aims to increase student exchanges between Tec de Monterrey and his country.

*“We need you (students) to go to **the United States** and many from **the United States** to come study here.”*

Salazar said that one of his goals **is to share the greatness of Mexico in the United States**, at the same time as **strengthening relations** between the two countries.

*“It’s perhaps the **greatest goal** I have: **that Mexico is known** for its **greatness, people, and culture**, and that Mexico gets to know the United States,”* he said.

Salazar says that although **Mexicans** have been **stereotyped** for some years in his country, the **current government’s** position is one of **openness and collaboration**.



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### **Addressing migration and development challenges of North American countries**

During **the conversation**, **Salazar** said that joint work will be sought between the **three countries** to face challenges such as **migration**, the **pandemic**, **climate change**, as well as a **trilateral development**.

*“The **two presidents** and the **prime minister of Mexico, the United States and Canada, (respectively)** are aware that they must tackle **migration** between **the three nations**.”*

*“We need Mexicans to help build the United States, but we need **humane treatment of migrants**,”* said the ambassador.

Some students also raised **questions** for Ambassador **Salazar** and **Fernández**.

These questions included **topics** such as the biggest **challenges** of **being an ambassador**, ways to attract **investors**, **developing** a new **Silicon Valley**, **migration** policies, and **human rights**.

*“It’s perhaps the greatest goal I have: that Mexico is known for its greatness.” - Ken Salazar.*

### **The Tec’s history: linked to the United States since its foundation**

**Fernández** highlighted the **relationship** that has existed between the **Tec** and **the United States** since it **was founded**.

“Our **founder** was a **graduate of MIT** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and we were **inspired** by that great **institution**, with whom we have built a very **productive partnership**,” said Fernández.

He also recalled that **Tec de Monterrey** was the **first university** outside the United States to receive **SACS** (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation **70 years ago**.

What’s more, he highlighted that the **Tec** ranks **number six in The Princeton Review** of the **best universities** with undergraduate **entrepreneurship** programs - the **only university outside the United States** in this category.

<https://twitter.com/jpmurra/status/1468360981776637954>

“We aim to continue **improving** and we look forward to **working closely** with the ambassador and the embassy to achieve our goals,” said Fernández.

He also said that there is a **willingness to cooperate** with the embassy in **solving problems** as part of the **Tec21 Model**, in which **learning** is based on solving **challenges** in conjunction with training partners.

“You can count on the Tec for any **research** and **information** you may need from **Mexico**. We can **challenge students** and they will bring **extremely valuable solutions**,” added Fernández in his message to the ambassador.



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## The diplomat learns about Tec de Monterrey initiatives

During the **visit**, **Salazar** learned about some of the **institution's projects and initiatives** in a meeting with **David Garza**, the Tec's rector and executive president, along with university executives.

**The diplomat** took a **tour** on which he witnessed the **[hologram teacher](#) project**, in which a teacher can give classes through a **two-dimensional** holographic-type projection in real time.

Another initiative is **DistritoTec**, an **urban project** in which the Tec, together with **municipal and state governments**, worked on the **development** of the **surrounding area** of the **Monterrey campus**.

*"We regenerated the entire district. There was desertion and insecurity, yet we've changed that within 10 years.*

*"Property value growth is much higher now, at 45%,"* Fernández said.

Likewise, **Garza** shared part of the **Tec's history** as well as some of the **initiatives** on which they have worked.



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Strengthening **research**, **attracting talent** from both students and professors, **educational innovation**, **entrepreneurship**, and **internationalization** are some of the themes that Garza shared.

*"Internationalization is part of our DNA. Every year, before the pandemic, more than 7,000 college-level students and 4,000 high school students went abroad.*

*“We received more than **4,000 students** with **mobility** in **60 different countries**,” he said while noting that **1,115 students** from the **Tec** went to the **United States** and **1,192 students** came from the **United States** to visit the **Tec**.*

Within the topic of **research** and **innovation**, David Garza pointed out that one of the **projects** in which they hope to receive support from the US embassy is inclusion within the **“Texas Triangle.”**

*“We could be an **important point** for **economic development, innovation and research**, and the **attraction of talent**. We’re doing **our bit**,” Garza said.*



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**Ken Salazar** was sworn in as Ambassador of the United States of America to Mexico on **August 26, 2021**.

In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed him Secretary of the Interior, where he spearheaded efforts on energy, climate, and the national conservation agenda.

**Ambassador Salazar** and his family have dedicated themselves to raising livestock in **New Mexico** and **Colorado**.

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