

Binational research: Tec welcomes Mexican and U.S. universities



[Tec de Monterrey](#) hosted a meeting of the [The Puentes Consortium](#), an organization made up of **Mexican** and **United States universities** that promotes **multidisciplinary research** on issues of importance to both countries.

During the **March 7** meeting, directors of participating universities and the Puentes Consortium reviewed their progress and reflected on the **actions** that need to be taken in the **future**.

*“Congratulations to the **team** which has been **working** in spite of the **pandemic**. It’s very exciting to know where we are today in terms of university students,”* said **David Garza**, Rector and Executive President of Tec de Monterrey.

[The Puentes Consortium](#) is made up of a group of **universities** that stand out for their high academic standards, international programs, and research, which seek to promote **multidisciplinary research**.

Tecnológico de Monterrey, **University of the Americas Puebla**, and the **University of Monterrey** are the Mexican institutions which lead the **Puentes Consortium**, along with the **University of Miami** and **Rice University** in the U.S.



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Puentes Consortium updates

Some **updates from the organization** were shared during the **online discussion** between the **rectors** and the **Puentes Consortium** team.

They mentioned that the group had organized around **40 research stays** for visiting professors at institutions within the consortium between **2011 and 2021** (with 7 in 2022), which have resulted in around **50 scientific publications**.

What's more, they pointed out that **Puentes** has created **4 inter-institutional projects** between members of the consortium.

Some of the projects corresponding to these **bilateral** initiatives include Financial Intelligence Units, Affordable Housing, Political Parties in Mexico and Democracy, and New Geographies of Energy in Mexico.

Student participation is also included within the research work carried out by the consortium. As **David Garza** explained, the inclusion of students is a necessity which the group had contemplated in the past.

“Congratulations to the team which has been working in spite of the pandemic.” - David Garza

On this point, the Puentes Consortium team announced virtual **international research experiences** for university students.

They highlighted that **10 students** have worked together on an **international research program**, developing **scientific publications** while being supervised by consortium professors on various topics:

- *Geopolitics and COVID*
- *Border issues due to gasoline demand*
- *The impact of Foreign Direct Investment on the future of the Mexican automotive industry; to name but a few.*

“Puentes has brought students together for the past 10 years and will continue working to do so.

“The pandemic is definitely not going to stop us, and I think we have great things ahead of us,” said **Ivonne Cruz**, Program Administrator at **Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy**.



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Talking about future challenges

The directors shared some **reflections** regarding future **challenges** for the **Puentes Consortium**.

David Leebron, President of **Rice University**, pointed out that **migration** is an important issue now and will be in the **future**. Work must therefore be done to **find solutions** to the issue.

Some of the other **issues** raised by directors of the institutions were **supply chains**, **democracy**, and **climate change**.

“Northern Mexico and the southern United States face water supply problems. Some cities have problems, and it’s an important issue to resolve.

“Lessons learned during the **pandemic** mean we will also have to think about which things we must **restart** from scratch, which to **rebuild**, and which to **restore**. It’ll be **interesting** for **Mexican and U.S. universities**,” said David Garza.



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Also participating in the visit were **Mario Páez González**, Rector of the University of Monterrey, and **Julio Frenk**, President of the University of Miami.

Also present were **Cecilia Anaya Berríos**, interim rector of the University of the Americas Puebla, and the **operating committee** of the Puentes Consortium, who indicated that they will continue their efforts.

*“You’ve made a **great effort** and I want to congratulate you for what you’ve done and for continuing to **work** through the **pandemic**,”* Leebron said.

*“I’m **grateful** that the **programs work**, although there’s still **a lot of work** to be done to spread the word about the consortium,”* added Cecilia Anaya.

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