

Mexico Interest Group Meeting
27 March 2009

Apologies: Nan Bohan, Dave Ford, Maryvonne Kerzabi, Diane Lorant, and James Murren

Agenda Items

1. March Visit to Calnali-Susan Sutton and Sarah Stelzner

The visit included a town meeting with local politicians and community members who indicated an interest in sustained, coordinated collaboration between our cities. There was a strong interest in marketing and exporting Calnali coffee to the US and efforts to assist them with the “organic certification” process.

Potential Project Topics for IUPUI with the community in Calnali

-Investigate organic certification process

-Sustainability projects in forestry, fishing, and coffee growing

*Please contact Sarah, Dawn, or Susan if you are interested in developing a project or have students who may be interested in developing a project.

2. Microfinance Project in Calnali-Sarah Stelzner and Mayuri Jindal

The primary purpose of the visit was to further investigate the microfinance project for a small group of women in the town of Calnali. They have been working with the Rotary Club, and Sara Anne Hook has been the main contact. They met with the organization Promujer which is involved in microfinancing in many parts of Latin America, and there may be further collaboration with Promujer with this project. They do not have any projects in Calnali currently.

Action Items:

There is a need for more technical expertise in the area of microfinance. If you or anyone in your school or department

3. USAID Proposal Request

Sarah, Mayuri, and Dawn had a conference call with USAID Mexico, and they requested that IUPUI submit three proposal ideas for work in the State of Hidalgo. BiCCHec will submit one proposal, the microfinance project is another idea building on data collected from the ABCD survey, and a third multidisciplinary proposal should be submitted.

Please contact Sarah Stelzner sstelzne@iupui.edu if you have ideas for these proposals.

4. March Visit to UAEH-Ivette Barbosa, Ian McIntosh and Pat Rogan (Susan Sutton will report)

Ivette Barbosa visited with the Social Work faculty and the Hidalgo Nuestra Casa (social service organization at UAEH) to discuss areas for collaboration between IUPUI students and UAEH students. Exchange programs and seminars were also discussed.

Social Science: There is an interest in a 6-8 week program for faculty and students from UAEH to come to IUPUI to discuss immigration research to examine the impact on those in Mexico and the US

5. March Visit to Cuernavaca-Michelle Verduzco and Mary Beth Riner

The first alternative spring break grip was a success with nine students, and there was a request for a shorter (one week) program for the summer as well. They met with Tec Monterrey to finalize plans for the summer projects where students will build houses and engage in other service work.

6. Latino Youth at Promise: The Power of Parents in Education-Dawn Michele Whitehead, Michelle Verduzco, and Susan Sutton

A committee is organizing this event to provide Latino parents with additional resources to support student success. The next meeting is Friday, April 3rd at 3:00 pm in the Office of International Affairs. The event will be held on Saturday, March 16th on the IUPUI campus. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, contact Dawn at dmwhiteh@iupui.edu

7. Fall Visit by Hilda Hidalgo of UAEH-English Department-Marta Anton

Hilda Hidalgo will visit IUPUI in the Fall semester to discuss further collaboration. They are also in the process of arranging an exchange program for UAEH students to come to Indianapolis and for MAT students and ENG MA students to spend a semester in Pachuca. Marta and others are investigating teaching opportunities for the UAEH students here in Indianapolis.

8. Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Dinner-Michelle Verduzco

Upcoming Events

March 30th-April 17th Dream Echoes Art Show

Dream Echoes, an art show featuring San Diego artist, Jorge Macfarland will be in the Cultural Arts Gallery in the Campus Center, room 240. The opening reception with the artist is Monday, March 30th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. The show will run from Monday, March 30, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until Friday, April 17th, 2009 12:00 p.m. Cultural Arts Gallery hours are 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. This show is sponsored by Amigos En Servicio with Student Activity Fees.

April 3 Cesar Chavez Day of Service

April 14th at 12 noon Immigration Lecture Series with UAEH featuring the work of our own Robert Aponte in ES 2132

May 16th Latino Youth at Promise: The Power of Parents in Education