

PROFMEX Discusses Joining Forces with UC MEXUS

UC MEXUS NEWS, Number 3, Fall 1982

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Dramatic progress has been made over the past four months in the expansion of the Consortium of Research Programs for IVexico (PROFMEX), and in the development of linkages with UC fVEXUS. These developments grew out of a series of meetings culminating in one held in Tucson on August 27, 1982.

The first major steps were taken at a May 20-23 meeting of the PROFMEX Board of Directors at Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur, where several important decisions were made. First, the Board enlarged the research scope of PROFIT/EX from borderlands research to include all Mexico programs. Second, the Board of PROFIVEX began the expansion of its membership by adding **Clark W. Reynolds**, Coordinator of the Project on U.S.-Mexico Relations at Stanford University. Reynolds joins the following PROFMEX directors involved in planning research on Mexico: **Michael C. Meyer** (University of Arizona), **Stanley R. Ross** (University of Texas, Austin), **Albert E. Utton** (University of New Mexico), and **James W. Wilkie** (UCLA). **Clint E. Smith** of Stanford was named Coordinator of PROFMEX. PROFMEX coordinates its research activities in Mexico with ANUIES (Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Institutos de Enseñanza Superior).

PROFMEX representatives then met with directors of selected United States-Mexico research projects at Stanford, May 27-28, 1982. The invitees included **Wayne Cornelius** (UC San Diego), **Abraham Lowenthal** (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Smithsonian Institute), **Oscar J. Martínez** (University of Texas, El Paso), and **Cathryn Thorup** (Overseas Development Council). The meeting was funded by the Hewlett Foundation and hosted by PROFMEX's Clint E. Smith, Deputy Coordinator of the Project on U.S.-Mexico Relations at Stanford.

At the meeting the following decisions were made:

- 1) A first step toward improving communication and cooperation among the many and diverse projects and programs that are currently studying one or more aspects of Mexican studies, including relations between the United States and Mexico, is to expand PROFMEX as a permanent administrative mechanism that will provide and maintain regular liaison with Mexico project directors, Mexico study programs, and, as appropriate, individual scholars in this field
- 2) PROFMEX should hold national meetings not only to report on research projects, conference plans, etc., but also to analyze key substantive issues in Mexican studies, to identify opportunities for multi-Institutional cooperative projects, and, over time, to develop a policy-oriented United States-Mexico research agenda.
- 3) It was stressed that while such communication can lead fruitfully to cooperation and the avoidance of unnecessary duplication, there remains a primary obligation to

permit institutions and individual scholars to develop their research programs with complete freedom.

The August 27 PROFMEX meeting in Tucson was hosted by Michael C. Meyer of the University of Arizona and was attended by most of the participants at the [t/ay meeting. In Tucson, the PROFITEX di- rectors accorded to pursue discussions with regard to joining forces with UC TVEXUS in three main areas:

1) Expanding *UC MEXUS NEWS*. A need has been identified for the promulgation of information concerning United States- Mexico projects. It was decided unanimously that the most appropriate way to meet that need would be for such information on United States-Mexico programs to be included on a regular basis in an expanded version of the *UC MEXUS NEWS*.

2) *Journal of Mexican Studies*. A review of the current periodical literature revealed a relative paucity of articles on Mexican studies. It was decided unanimously and enthusiastically to support the creation of an *International Journal of Mexican Studies* by UC MEXUS.

3) *Research Inventory*. It was noted that UC IVEXUS publishes a twice-yearly, interdisciplinary inventory of Mexico-related research being conducted on the nine campuses of the UC system. It was agreed that it would be most useful to include research projects in this area being conducted at institutions outside the UC system and to publish an all-inclusive international inventory of current research on Mexico-related subjects. The UC MEXUS Executive Committee has approved the expansion.

Close cooperation between PROFMEX and UC MEXUS represents a significant achievement. Not only will communication with regard to Mexico-related research be measurably improved but, in the long run, a more effective use of research resources will result from the increased collaboration of U.S. and Mexican institutions and scholars.