Supporting Education and Youth Leadership on both sides of the US-Mexico border

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“Empowering Mexican Youth and Promoting Binational Collaboration”
Background
The U.S.-Mexico Foundation (USMF) is a 501(c)3 organization registered in the US, with operations in the US and in Mexico. The USMF started operations in 2009 and it has a unique Board of Directors formed by high profile executives from Mexico and the US.

Mission
The USMF is committed to empower and educate Mexican youth through binational educational programs focused on the areas of STEM, English Language Learning and Civic Engagement.

Operation
The USMF accomplishes its misión acting in the following 3 ways:

1. **Grant-giving** to local NGOs in Mexico
2. **Operating** social programs
3. **Advocacy.** Promoting constructive dialogue on topics of Binational Interest
Mission Starting 2019

Given the current state of the US-Mexico relationship, the USMF is in the process of redefining its strategic plan for the future.

1. The USMF will move to DC and will focus on advocacy efforts

2. Spin off a new organization (called U.S.-Mexico Leaders Network) to operate the programs that the USMF has successfully implemented and managed during the past 4 years.

U.S.-Mexico Leaders Network

The Mission of the new organization resulting from the spin-off will be:

- To promote leadership and professional development among Mexican youth and youth of Mexican origin.

- To operate unique binational educational programs while promoting understanding and collaborations between the US and Mexico.
Flag Ship Programs

- “Dreamers Without Borders”
  Truly unique educational program that looks to reconnect college students DACA Dreamers and first generation Mexican Americans with their country of origin.

- “Women in STEM, Future Leaders”
  The first and only STEM mentoring program for Mexican female students.

- “El Sueño Mexicano”
  A four-week internship or service learning program for Mexican American college students. Participants act as consultants advising micro business owners and entrepreneurs in Mexican indigenous communities.
Dreamers Without Borders Program

- Completed 5 delegations between 2015 and 2016, directly impacting 534 individuals.
- Inspired new public policy and a social movement focused on supporting Dreamers in the US and Dreamers returned to Mexico.
Dreamers Without Borders Program

The one-month long program has a truly unique agenda that includes a stay in Mexico City and the state of origin of the students. Participants meet with government officials, Mexican students, business executives and social leaders. They visit cultural and tourist sites, corporations and universities.
Dreamers Without Borders Program

- Video – Summer 2016 Delegation

And the warm welcome our Mexican brothers have given us.
Women in STEM, Future Leaders

The 1st and only binational STEM mentoring program for Mexican female students.

Goal: To empower and inspire young high school students from public schools in underserved communities to study a career in STEM

Program Elements

One-on-one Mentoring

Training Sessions

Field trips to universities and companies

Individual assignments

Summer camp in the US

Team Projects

Empowering women through STEM Education

Transforming lives

Women ready to join Work force
Women in STEM, Future Leaders

9-month old program, 50% participants live in rural areas in Mexico, unique network of mentors based worldwide, 3% attrition rate, 100% graduates attend 4 year college, 98% enroll in STEM related careers.

Profound transformation that impacts students and their communities
El Sueño Mexicano Program

The only program that provides Mexican American college students with the opportunity to participate in a service learning initiative, in the form of a structured summer internship, supporting the development of micro business owners and entrepreneurs in indigenous communities in Mexico.

The 4-week long program includes a 3 day stay in Mexico City where participants meet with government officials, business executives and social leaders. They also visit cultural sites and emblematic tourist attractions.

Participants are required to deliver a pre-set list of deliverables in accordance with a pre-determined timeline.
El Sueño Mexicano Program

States visited during the summer of 2018:

• Yucatán
• Quintana Roo
• Chiapas
• Puebla
• Oaxaca
• Campeche
El Sueño Mexicano Program

Video – 2018 Delegation
Binational Leaders Network

Network of young binational leaders formed with programs alumni
Launched in collaboration with the TEC in December of 2016, the network is expanding and provides the opportunity to develop a binational network of future leaders committed to promote a healthy and mutually beneficial binational relationship.
Conclusions

- Opportunity to empower college students by reconnecting them with their country of origin while giving them access to an influential network of contacts in business, government and civic society.

- Learning about your country of origin and embracing a profound pride in your cultural heritage contributes significantly to students’ professional development.

- Need to empower youth in underserved communities given high drop out rates and lack of role models.

- The U.S.-Mexico Leaders Network’s programs are truly unique and have proven to be very successful during the past 4 years.

- Looking forward to collaborating with other organizations and universities.
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Thank you!
I’m looking forward to collaborating with you