



North Carolina- Mexico School Partnerships

Goal: Ongoing, long-term relationships between NC and Mexican schools to help students build global competencies and become more

- Culturally aware
- Aware of world events and global dynamics
- Effective at communicating with people from other cultures
- Able to collaborate in multi-cultural teams

Activities: Determined jointly by partner schools. Schools initially select limited, achievable objectives which might include collaborative student projects and might ultimately lead to short-term exchanges of teachers and/or students. While some Mexican schools will wish to send student delegations for short-term visits to school partners, it is not required that NC schools send student delegations abroad.

How It Works: UNC's Center for International Understanding will select NC schools, and the Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) will find partner schools in Puebla, which is about 90 miles southeast of Mexico City. A successful partnership will depend on school principals establishing a relationship and working together to develop mutually beneficial partnership objectives. To lay the foundation for that relationship, the Center is offering a study program for representatives (principals and partnership coordinators) of partner schools to meet their counterparts and start planning. The study program includes an August 9-10, 2007 in-state orientation; an October 6-14, 2007 study visit to Mexico City and Puebla; and a November 10, 2007 in-state follow up workshop. Within the year Mexican principals will hopefully reciprocate to finalize plans. Attached is the tentative itinerary.

Funding: Participants or their schools will be responsible for approximately \$2750 of the study program fee for the nine-days. Other funding needs will vary by partnership, and many activities will require little or no funding. NC in the World will provide planning support and access to communications technologies. Schools will be responsible for other partnership expenses. For exchanges of teachers and students, the host school will generally provide homestays with teachers and students and meals during the visit to the school. Visiting participants will be responsible for their own international and in-country travel and costs outside the destination city.

Eligibility: NC high and middle schools may apply. Preference will be given to public high schools. School leaders must commit to communicating regularly with their counterparts, appointing a partnership coordinator, providing moral support and resources to the faculty carrying out partnership activities, establishing a partnership committee, and participating in a planning trip to visit their partner school.

Sponsor: The Center for International Understanding is sponsoring the program as part of North Carolina in the World, a statewide collaborative to strengthen student knowledge and skills about the world. One major strategy is to build partnerships between schools in NC and abroad. The Center's mission is learning from the world, serving North Carolina.

How to Apply: Applications and further details are available from Matt Friedrich, Project Manager, NC in the World, Center for International Understanding, 919-733-0601, mfriedrick@northcarolina.edu.

**Puebla / North Carolina Mexico School Partnership Program
October 2007 Study Program to Mexico
Tentative Itinerary**

Orientation to Partnerships Program – August 9-10, 2007 - Triangle region

- Saturday, Oct. 6 Depart North Carolina for Mexico City, Mexico
Check into hotel, orient selves to downtown Mexico City
- Sunday, Oct. 7 Introduction to Mexican cultures: Cultural Sites surrounding Mexico City
➤ **How will knowledge of Mexican culture and history influence our ability to work with people from Mexico?**
- Monday, Oct. 8 Introduction to Mexican Education and Workforce Preparation:
Universidad Iberoamericano, Mexican businesses with connections to the US
➤ **What types of skills will NC graduates need to effectively collaborate with Mexican workers?**
- Tuesday, Oct. 9 Introduction to Community Health and Government
➤ **What global challenges will NC graduates work on with their Mexican counterparts?**
- Wednesday, Oct. 10 Travel to Puebla, with possible side trip to Juan Diego Center
➤ **What “pushes and pulls” cause people to come to NC?**
Introduction to the UPAEP Unidades Básicas
Turibus ride through Puebla
Depart with homestay hosts
- Thursday, Oct. 11 School Visits: Teams of principals and partnership coordinators visit their own partner school to:
• Learn about the school and observe classes
• Hold round table with faculty about education systems and partnership goals
• Meet with counterparts to develop partnership plans
Remain with host families
- Friday, Oct. 12 School visits, continued
Reconvene at Camino Real Hotel in Puebla
Debriefing session
- Saturday, Oct. 13 Cultural Visits within Puebla
- Sunday, Oct. 14 Return to North Carolina

Follow-up to Partnerships Program – November 10, 2007 - Triangle region