

# Construyendo y Sustentando Relaciones de Investigación Sostenibles —Entre CUDI y UTPA?—

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# Build Pan American Research and Learning Relationships



President Blandina Cárdenas

## CUDI and UTPA: is there a future?

- Jesus Rios: CUDI Chiapas
- CUDI's progressive model
  - IT + Researchers
  - Collaborations between Mexican universities
  - Collaborations with LA + EU
- UTPA leadership understands that Mexico and U.S. futures are interdependent

## Building Collaborations: Some Facts

- Collaborations are difficult to build and harder to sustain
  - Easy to commit
  - Difficult to deliver
- Difficulty increases with the number of organizational boundaries
- Collaborations *are* the Future
- Money required: goodwill not enough

## CUDI: Some Observations

- CONACyT: unified infrastructure funding source reduces effects of:
  - boundary issues
  - mutual benefit issues
- Dedicated funding for research:
  - Mentioned by many coordinators
    - CONACyT
    - FONCICyT
- Future Orientation: LA + EU

## Opportunities

- “...el trabajo colegiado.”
  - Good
  - Important
  - Necessary
  - Is it sufficient?
    - Existentially—Yes!
- Weak history of mutually beneficial partnerships, i.e. true collaboration
- Proximate, regional globalization
  - *La Frontera Norte es Microcosmo*

## Risks

- Border political conditions *podrian* interfere
- Historical inequalities *podrian* prevail
- Would not be sustainable

# Challenges

- Different Priorities
  - Missions
  - Goals
- Different Practices
  - Accountability
  - Evaluation
  - Salary Criteria
    - **Publications**
    - Teaching
    - Outreach
- Funding All Partners
  - International complications

## Necessities

- Mexico and U.S. Interdependent
  - Economic
  - Ecological
  - Populations

## UTPA Disadvantages

- Research capacity
  - UTPA \$7 million last year
  - UT Austin and TAMU  $\pm$ \$500 million
- Historically teaching institution
  - Goal: Become Texas' best *learner-centered* research university
- Border position (HSI)
  - Native Spanish (bilingual English)
  - Poor, large population (hungry/ganas)
  - Mexican-American

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  - Mexican-American, i.e. GLOBAL

## Some UTPA Research Opportunities

- Education: Action Research
  - Bilingual learners
    - Jaime Curts: [jbcurts@utpa.edu](mailto:jbcurts@utpa.edu)
- Ecological impact of border wall
  - Vegetation
  - Insects
- High Performance Computing
  - Partner with TAAC: NSF TerraGrid
  - Tech Science—Human Science Translation

# Some UTPA Research Opportunities

- Digital Libraries
  - Farzaneh Razzaghi, Library Director:  
[farzaneh@utpa.edu](mailto:farzaneh@utpa.edu)
- Materials
  - 300 ton press
  - Bilingual Virtual Days

## Some Existing Collaborations

- Health
  - Psychology collaboration: UANL-UTPA-NIH
  - Bilingual medical terminology/communication
- Dispersed Research and Learning
  - Rapid Response Manufacturing:  
UDG-UTPA-U Shandong China-Corporations
    - Engineering with Anthropology (transcultural facilitators) students
    - Adds “Engineers PLUS” to high tech workforce

## Some Existing Collaborations

- Alternative (solar) Energy
  - Ciudad Valles (SLP)-UTPA-Mexican Consulate  
McAllen-U.S. Consulate Brownsville
  - Mechanical Engineers with Social Scientists

# The Old U.S. Research Paradigm

- Lone researcher asks for money to research his own good idea

## New Global Research Paradigm

- Researcher asks how her research can be useful to the research, learning, service, and competitive performance of others  
—*investigadores sin fronteras*—

## How Fund?

### Learn Together

- Align with National Funding Priorities
  - In U.S. (learn together)
    - Defense (GI Bill, National Defense Act of 1958)
      - » Area Studies, Languages, Diversity, Computing
    - New Emphases: Chinese, Arabic, Turkish, Tech.
    - Homeland Security (USAID alignments)
      - » Funding new generation of research centers
  - In Mexico (learn together)
    - CUDI
    - CLARA
    - EU
    - U.S. National Security

## Next Steps

- Small
- Manageable
- Fruitful
  - UANL-UTPA-NIH Psychology
    - Co-authored Publications
      - 2 each UANL and UTPA with NIH Center Researchers
- Map and Benchmark Outcomes
- Look for easy (*natural*) opportunities

# Thank You

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