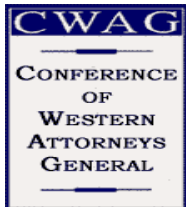


**U.S. – MEXICO STATE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP**



**Quarterly Report of Activities**

*January 1, 2011 – March 31, 2011  
2nd Quarter Report*

**U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership**

Quarterly Report

Second Quarter, January 1 – March 31, 2011

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## **ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP BACKGROUND**

On September 23, 2008, the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) entered into a three-year cooperative, jointly funded agreement to implement the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership. The cooperative agreement was subsequently modified to extend activities to five years, September 23, 2009 – September 30, 2013.

The U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a collaborative, multi-branch alliance comprising the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Council of State Governments (CSG) and its Western and Southern regional offices, Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), National Association of State Treasurers (NAST), National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA, the Paso del Norte Group (PDN) and other officials aimed at strengthening cooperation among state officials and institutions of the United States and Mexico. The Alliance Partnership promotes and convenes binational exchanges and workshops among border legislators, attorneys general, treasurers and local officials that enhance the role of state and local/regional officials in addressing shared public policy concerns that transcend international borders.

The Alliance Partnership promotes the integration of activities and outreach with other binational mechanisms, as well as policy institutes and research universities, so that concrete policy objectives and reforms can be achieved through a strategic, multi-branch and multi-jurisdictional approach. The Alliance partners, their respective members, networks and linkages comprise a broad and influential coalition that can affect change. The Alliance Partnership is an innovative mechanism of cooperation that enables dynamic synergies and cross-jurisdictional cooperation.

## **REPORT OVERVIEW**

This report highlights activities of the second quarter of FY 2010-11 by CSG and the Alliance partners to promote and implement binational state and local exchanges as defined by the objectives of the U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnerships. The activities were carried out with the support of the USAID/Mexico mission.

## **PROGRESS EVALUATION**

The activities highlighted in this report illustrate CSG and its partner's continued effort to make significant progress in achieving the program's objectives, which are the following:

- Contribute to the objectives of the Merida Initiative related to continuing police education insofar as USAID has determined that “police” shall include state justice personnel;
- Strengthen and further expand binational exchanges and activities among state attorneys general of Mexico and the United States through the alliances established by CWAG, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and Mexico’s National Conference of Attorneys General, particularly through investigative and prosecutorial capacity training seminars;
- Enhance the ability of U.S. and Mexico border state legislatures to identify and enact strategies aimed towards performing an expanded policy role in addressing common concerns along the 2,000 mile border region through the ongoing implementation of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC);
- Establish binational economic development forums among state executive branch officials, including Lt. Governors, Treasurers and others aimed at exchanging “best practices” and linkages in public finance strategies, infrastructure planning, access to capital and tourism, among others.
- Strengthen legislative research capabilities and state – federal relations of the program through strategic partnerships and linkages with academic institutions and policy think tanks, including the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and the North America Center for Transborder Studies at Arizona State University; and
- Support the U.S. and Mexico federal governments in the implementation of their joint strategy, as part of the next phase of the Merida Initiative, to strengthen and create resilient border communities by establishing partnerships with local border stakeholders and groups, such as The Paso del Norte Group. Such partnerships will assist in the convening of local and regional binational exchanges that integrate local/regional policy objectives with state and federal decision-makers.

## **BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

### **Site visit to Las Cruces, New Mexico**

On January 12-14, 2011, Border legislative Conference (BLC) staff conducted a site visit to Las Cruces, New Mexico. During the trip, staff met with Representative Andy Nunez, Vice Chair of the BLC, and also inspected multiple hotel properties, conference centers, restaurants and other places of interest to prepare for the 23<sup>rd</sup> BLC conference to be held in the same city April 14-16, 2011.

### **State Visit to Santa Fe, New Mexico**

On January 24-26, 2011, BLC staff conducted a state visit to Santa Fe, New Mexico. During this visit, staff met with Senate President Pro-Tempore, Tim Jennings; Speaker of the House, Ben Lujan; other legislative leaders; all of the BLC Members; and other legislators. Staff also met with the staff of New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez to discuss cooperative opportunities with the BGC and to invite the Governor to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> BLC meeting to be held April 14-16, 2011 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

### **Meeting with Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento**

On February 10, 2011, BLC staff met with the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento, Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, to discuss cooperative opportunities including the planning and execution of the California - Mexico Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, as well as a discussion on an effort to get California Mexico select committees established in the California Legislature.

### **California Legislative Meetings**

During the months of February and March, 2011, BLC staff conducted meetings with the leaders of the California Legislature in an effort to seek appointments to the BLC, as well as discuss legislative opportunities with border related issues such as human trafficking, scrap tires and renewable energy.

### **Border Issues Staff Training**

On February 21-23, 2011, BLC staff completed a border issues training trip to Tempe, Arizona. Arizona State University's North America Center of Transborder Studies, at the BLC's request, organized a three-day training program to provide BLC staff a comprehensive overview on current U.S.-Mexico border issues. This training included site visits to a maquiladora, an agricultural distribution center and a meeting with the Mayor of Nogales, Sonora.

### **BLC Delegation to Washington D.C.**

On March 1-2, 2011, a delegation of 15 members of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC), representing eight of the 10 U.S-Mexico border states traveled to Washington, D.C. to conduct meetings with U.S. and Mexico federal officials. The visit was part of the BLC's ongoing efforts to exchange information and strengthen state –federal collaboration on issues of mutual interest, such as border economic competitiveness, security and the environment, among others. The delegation was led by Diputado Ramiro Flores Morales of Coahuila, chair of the BLC.

Participating border legislators met with scholars from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Mexico Institute, Arizona State University's North American Center for Transborder Studies and the Colegio de la Frontera Norte that comprise the Border Research Partnership (BRP). This meeting provided an opportunity for border legislators to learn of the policy research being conducted by the BRP in the areas of waste tires, human trafficking and renewable energy that will serve as important tools for potential state legislative action in these areas.

During a lunch at the Woodrow Wilson Center, U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar of Laredo, Texas, provided thoughtful remarks on the importance of the U.S. – Mexico relationship and of the challenges and opportunities to enhance border security while simultaneously strengthening commerce. Congressman Cuellar's remarks were echoed by former Congresswoman and now President, CEO and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Jane Harman, and Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan who made substantive comments to the members of the BLC.

A public forum hosted by the Woodrow Wilson Center included a panel of distinguished officials, including Alan Bersin, Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency; Geronimo Gutierrez, Director General of the North American Developmental Bank, Stewart Tuttle, U.S. Mexico Border Affairs Coordinator for the U.S. Department of State; Enrique Escorza, Head of the Political and Border affairs Section of the Embassy of Mexico; Jackie Mitchell Edwards, CEO of The Paso del Norte Group; and Victor Mendez, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. The panelist provided an overview of the strategies their respective entities are instituting to enable the development of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century border region, including the ongoing development of border master plans for the 2,000-mile border region.

BLC delegates also met with members of the Congressional Border Caucus, including the Caucus' co-chair, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, as well as Congressman Quico Canseco and Congresswoman Susan Davis to exchange ideas of how to strengthen state – federal relations on border issues and identify strategies to enhance economic competitiveness. The BLC delegates finished their two-day visit to Washington, D.C. with a meeting with representatives of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The BLC legislative visit was substantive and participating legislators had an opportunity to discuss their ongoing legislative agenda and present recommendations on topics that require federal intervention. The Merida Initiative, the binational framework of security cooperation adopted by the federal governments of the U.S. and Mexico, was the issue of significant focus in most meetings, particularly the Initiative's pillar strategy on creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Border Vision and Strengthening Border Communities, as well as environmental impact on the border.



*Mexico's Ambassador, Arturo Sarukhan (left) and BLC Chair, Diputado Ramiro Flores Morales.*



*BLC Group Picture with Mexico's Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars – Mexico Institute.*



*Kevin O'Reilly, Director of North American Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, briefs BLC delegates during their visit to the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.*



*Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Co-Chair of the Congressional Border Caucus, briefing BLC members.*



*Congressman Francisco "Quico" Canseco addressing BLC delegation.*



*CBP Commissioner Alan Bersin*



*Bordre Research Partnership Addressing BLC members*



*(left to right) Gerenimo Gutierrez, Managing Director of the North American Development Bank; Jane Harmon, Director/President/CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar; Arturo Sarukhan, Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S.; and Diputado Ramiro Flores Morales, BLC Chair.*

## **State Visit to Baja California**

On March 24-25, 2011, BLC staff conducted a state visit to Baja California. During this visit staff met with the Legislative leadership and the BLC Members to discuss progress and opportunities on human trafficking, renewable energy and scrap tires legislation. Additionally, staff also met with Executive staff and the Attorney General Rommel Moreno.



*BLC and ASU Staff (left to right: Jessica Moreno; Paul Somerhausen; Edgar Ruiz; and Erik Lee).*

## **North America Summit Planning Assistance**

During the month of March, BLC staff participated in the planning efforts of the upcoming North America Summit that will be held in Bellevue, Washington, October 20-23, 2011. This Summit is an effort led by the Council of State Governments to realize a substantive and comprehensive conference on issues affecting the North American Continent. This conference is modeled after the BLC's three past North America Summits that have been held during the CSG-WEST annual meetings.

## **Program Management**

BLC program staff has maintained ongoing communication with a wide range of individuals and cross border governmental and non-governmental organizations that focus on U.S.-Mexico relations in an effort to further promote cross-border collaboration. Currently, BLC staff is working on the planning of state visits to Texas, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas.

## CONFERENCE OF WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL (CWAG)

The CWAG Alliance Partnership ambitiously initiated its programming in 2011, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY '10-'11, while expanding outreach to other organizations and institutions as well as maintaining focus on improving methods for training programs and self-evaluation. Specific focus areas included recruiting new paid and volunteer staff for trainings; discussion of event participation with academic institutions regarding outreach and education on judicial reform; and visits of Western Attorneys General to State Department, Department of Justice, and Mexican Embassy to the United States in Washington, D.C. on Alliance Partnership programs. Finally, observers from Mexican universities and professional organizations were welcomed to attend CWAG trainings in Mexico City.

CWAG's Alliance Partnership carried out the following specific activities during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

### **Investigator Training - Phoenix, Arizona**

Thirty (30) investigators from the Attorney General Offices of the states of Baja California, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa participated in a training course in Phoenix, Arizona from January 24 through January 26. Training subjects included advance investigative techniques such as negotiating, building entry, down officer rescues, and high risk vehicle stops led by various detectives from the Phoenix Police Department.



*Investigators at Phoenix Training - January 24-26, 2011*

## **Prosecutor Training – Mexico City, Mexico**

The Alliance Partnership’s (AP) first in-country course of the year was held in Mexico City January 31 – February 4, 2011. With logistical support from Mexico’s Federal Attorney General’s Office (PGR) and Mexico City’s AGO (PGJE D.F.) for transportation, the oral trial training was presented to 42 prosecutors from five Mexican states. Additionally, USAID-Mexico local university partners were invited to attend as observers and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) was represented by four observers while Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) was represented by three observers.



*Prosecutors from AGOs in Distrito Federal, Hidalgo, Puebla, Tlaxcala, and Baja California in Mexico City– January 31-February 4*

## **Meeting with U.S. Officials in Mexico City**

On Thursday, February 3, a CWAG delegation held meetings with United States Officials from Department of Justice’s Narcotics Affairs Section, State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and USAID-Mexico. The CWAG delegation comprised of the following individuals:

- Gary King, New Mexico Attorney General and current CWAG Chair
- Rommel Moreno Manjarrez, Baja California Attorney General
- Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General
- Karen White, CWAG Executive Director
- Edgar Ruiz, CSG-WEST Deputy Director
- Tim Nelson, CWAG Prosecutor Program Director
- Martha Castañeda, CWAG Outreach Director
- Patrick Lynch, CWAG Alliance Partnership Advisory Board/former Rhode Island Attorney General and former host of Prosecutor Training Program in Rhode Island
- Fred Niehaus, CWAG Alliance Partnership Advisory Board

A smaller contingency of the same group later met with John D. Feeley, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, and Rafael Fernandez de Castro, Advisor to Mexico President Felipe Calderon. These meetings were successful in providing opportunities to discuss the work that CWAG Alliance Partnership has been carrying out, as well as providing direction for future work and identifying potential areas of collaboration.

#### **Defense Attorney Training Observation – Villahermosa, Tabasco**

CWAG Alliance Partnership was invited to observe the first oral advocacy skills training workshop for defense attorneys conducted by the Fundación para Capacitación en Juicios Orales, from February 28 to March 5, 2011. Nine U.S. litigators and one retired judge presented the training to 110 lawyers in Villahermosa, Tabasco. The participants included private trial attorneys, public defenders, and trial and appellate judges from Tabasco and other Mexican states who brought together with the institutional support of the Tabasco Judicial Branch. CWAG AP lent its support by sharing trial skills training materials and organizational know-how with event organizers. Additionally, distance learning capabilities were incorporated into the training allowing an attorney in Oregon to hold an interactive discussion with the participants in Mexico, as well as allowing the group to watch a pre-recorded lecture. The combination of lecture and practice was the first practical skills training opportunity for many of the attorneys in attendance, and was received enthusiastically.

#### **Prosecutor Training – Mexico City, Mexico**

Oral Advocacy Skills training was presented to 37 participants from prosecutors offices representing four states. The week of March 7-11 comprised of intensive oral advocacy training with lectures and practice of skills used in an oral trial, including opening Statements, direct examination, introduction of exhibits, cross-examination, rehabilitation and refreshing recollection, objections and closing statements.



*Prosecutors from AGOs in Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tabasco in Mexico City– March 14-18*

### **Meeting with Federal Officials – Washington, D.C.**

During the week of March 7, taking advantage of already being in Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Attorneys General' (NAAG) Spring Meeting, Executive Director Karen White scheduled meetings with federal officials to discuss the AP program. New Mexico Attorney General and current CWAG Chair, Gary King, and Idaho Attorney General, Lawrence Wasden, joined Ms. White in meeting with Attorney General of the United States, Eric H. Holder, Jr.; the Director of the Americas Program, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/LP) at U.S. Department of State, Joseph Manso; Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield – head of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL); and Mexican Ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukhan. Council of State Governments Washington Director & Deputy Executive Director, Chris Whatley, was instrumental in setting up the meeting with INL Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield and accompanied the delegation.

### **Skills Training for Members of the Judiciary – Mexico City, Mexico**

From March 14-18, 38 members of the judiciary from seven states gathered in Mexico City for a week-long skills-building workshop. Lectures and practical exercises were designed to build familiarity and confidence with oral trial skills (opening and closing statements, direct and cross examination, objections and exhibits), as well as judiciary-specific skills like ruling on objections and courtroom management. At the end of the week, participants were able to complete a mock trial from opening statements through verdict.

### **Seminar on the Prevention of Money Laundering in Gambling Sector – Buenos Aires, Argentina**

During the same dates as above, March 14-18, Catherine Cortez-Masto, the Attorney General of the State of Nevada, led a U.S. delegation to Argentina to take part in an Anti-Money Laundering seminar targeting the gaming sector. The delegation consisted of the Nevada AG and Karyn Kenny, International Attorney Advisor for the U.S. Department of Justice, Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section (IAA). The delegation traveled at the invitation of the Institute of Lotteries, Province of Buenos Aires, and both were featured speakers at the March 16-17, *Seminar for the Prevention of Money Laundering in Gaming and Casinos*. Additionally, the U.S. delegation met with Maria del Carmen Falbo, the Attorney General of the Supreme Court, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina and participated in a live video training conference regarding U.S. money laundry statutes which was attended by numerous state prosecutors from across Argentina. CWAG funds (non-grant) were used to cover travel costs for the U.S. delegation to Argentina.

### **International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and United States Department of Justice Meeting**

On March 15, AP Administrative Director Susan Lustig and Forensic Program Director Lance Gima were invited to attend a meeting with representatives of the United States Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and the Mexico Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR). Attendees included the PGR's Director of Forensic Laboratory Services, Miguel Oscar Aguilar Ruiz, various state and regional laboratory directors, and the Executive Director of Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General (CNPJ), Dr. Erika Santoyo.

The meeting laid out ICITAP's plans to implement an expanded presence and program in Mexico, and afforded CWAG AP the opportunity to coordinate its existing programming with ICITAP's upcoming plans.

## **Mexicali Case Management Conference**

On March 22-23, 31 members of the Baja California Attorney General's Office gathered to exchange ideas regarding the management of cases at various stages from investigation through trial preparation. Participants included 17 prosecutors, 7 investigators, and 7 forensic scientists who work cases in teams. Held in Mexicali, where the New Criminal Justice System has recently been implemented, this unique program focused on helping participants break from old molds of case investigation and incorporate creative problem-solving approaches to building a case. The instructor team, with backgrounds in prosecution, forensic sciences, and the FBI, helped participants think about moving away from reliance on confessions to a focus on solid investigative and forensic techniques for putting together a solid case.

## **Forensic Training: Blood Pattern Analysis**

From March 27 through April 1, 33 forensic scientists from nine Mexican states attended this training. The course covered topics such as terminology, scientific method application, characteristics of blood, conclusion limitations when dealing with blood pattern analysis and sequence analysis. The Secretariat of Public Security for the State of Nayarit graciously stepped in to assist to provide transportation support when a lack of Nayarit AGO vehicles in the area near the hotel impeded CWAG AP to rely on staff from the State Attorney General Office to transport individuals to the training. This transportation over several days translated into a savings of approximately \$1500.00 had a private company been hired due to the fact that the host hotel was located in what is considered a tourist area and prices are subsequently higher.

Two successes that should be noted as a result of this training include the creation of the first Mexican Association of Forensic Scientists having completed a course on Blood Pattern Analysis with the assistance of Forensic Program Director, Lance Gima, and Instructors Kenneth Jones and Cheryl Kenzler. Second, was the creation of a web site for the Mexican Association of Forensic Scientist as a result of an in-kind donation by one of the interpreters, Rodrigo Aguilera, who is a web-design contractor. The web site will allow for communication among members of the group and a place for information sharing for this newly formed association.



*BPA Instructor – Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit*



*Forensic Scientists in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit– March 27-April 1*

## **On-line Forensic Courses**

The CWAG website contains a Forensic Science Information Center where on-line training and tutorials can be accessed with a password. This password is provided to all participants who have been vetted and attended a previous training. There are two current tutorials on-line: Essential Aspects of Forensic DNA Testing and Fingerprint Analysis Basics. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 16 students enroll in the first tutorial and six were able to complete the tutorial. At the same time, 28 students enrolled in the second tutorial and 15 were able to complete it.

## **Future Plans**

A full schedule of training programs had been laid out for the remainder of the fiscal year, September 2011, which included 34 separate courses. Unfortunately, due to a delay in funding from all sources, only five of those originally planned courses are set to be carried out with current available funding. The remaining planned trainings have either been rescheduled pending funding or cancelled altogether.

## **Technology Update**

Engineering and development continued on the Distance Learning projects.

Live Streaming: In recent weeks testing of live stream video to an audience of several people in other states and in Mexico was carried out at a Prosecutor Training in Portland, Oregon. The first real-time, in-person prosecutor training and simultaneous distance learning to a test group of prosecutors in Baja California will be carried out soon.

## **NATIONAL LIUTENANT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION**

The National Lieutenant Governors Association has been contacted by AMSDE, the Mexico economic development group, regarding the possibility of broad parameter best practices exchange. NLGA is awaiting a formal letter of interest and will pursue opportunities.

## **WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS**

### **Delegation Visit by Border Legislative Conference, March 1-3, 2011**

The Woodrow Wilson Center Mexico Institute coordinated with the Border Legislative Conference a delegation visit to Washington. As part of the delegation visit, WWICS organized a reception for the visiting legislators and staff, which included a formal reception with the participation of former Mexican Undersecretary for North American Affairs Gerónimo Gutiérrez. Also the WWICS helped to arrange meetings on Capitol Hill with key federal lawmakers, such as Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX). Additionally, as part of the delegation visit, WWICS organized the “Border Issues Forum: Pillar 3: Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Border” conference, which took place the week of the delegation visit, and which included the

participation as panelists of several legislators and BLC members, such as Rep. Russ Jones (R-AZ).

### **On-Going Engagement with Fellow Alliance Partnership Members**

During the reporting period, WWICS continued work with fellow Alliance Partnership member NACTS and El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, related to its Border Research Partnership, providing public policy analyses. This partnership represents a vehicle for advancement of many of the strategic goals of the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership. Current research and other activities include a human development index of the U.S.-Mexico border, an updating of the Border Governors Conference' *Strategic Guidelines* report, and development of an award to honor cross-border cooperation and innovation between Mexico and the United States.

### **Awards for U.S.-Mexico Cross-Border Cooperation and Innovation**

A major initiative undertaken within the framework of the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership is the Awards for U.S.-Mexico Cross-Border Cooperation and Innovation or, in Spanish, El Galardón para la Innovación y la Cooperación Transfronteriza México-Estados Unidos. This initiative involves the North American Center for Transborder Studies at Arizona State University, a fellow partners in the U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership, and El Colegio de la Frontera Norte. The initiative seeks to spotlight “success stories” of cross-border collaboration and innovation between the two countries, to help tell a “counter-narrative” to predominating media portrayals of violence and poverty. Over the reporting period, the Border Research Partnership under the guidance of WWICS issued a bilingual call for entries, built the Web infrastructure necessary to put on the awards, and assembled a blue-ribbon panel to judge entries.

### **Future Activities**

WWICS will be involved in various Alliance Partnership-related activities in third-quarter 2011 (April 1-June 30). These activities include:

- *Awards for U.S.-Mexico Cross-Border Cooperation and Innovation*
  1. *Closing application process, pre-screening entries, referring selections to jury.*
  2. *Tabulating jury rankings and administering awards process; scheduling awards ceremony in conjunction with the Border Governors Conference in Ensenada September 2011.*

### **Anticipated related expenditures in third-quarter 2011: US\$2,000.00**

Regular public forum series on border issues and delegation visits by Partnership members. The Wilson Center will host in the third quarter a conference on Pillar IV: Building Strong and Resilient Border Communities, a key component of the U.S.-Mexico security cooperation agenda, scheduled for April 27. This will involve the participation of past and current Border Legislative Conference staff and members, including former California state Sen. Denise Moreno Ducheny and Edgar Ruiz, deputy director, CSG-West.

### **Anticipated related expenditure in third-quarter 2011: US\$3,000.00**

Attendance at events in support of fellow U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership members. WWICS will support fellow Partnership members, through participation in conferences and meetings, such as the annual BLC meeting, scheduled for April 2011 in Las Cruces, N.M., as well as the different Border Governors Conference planning meetings, including the inaugural meeting at Rosarito, B.C., in April 2011.

WWICS anticipates spending more than US\$5,500 in Alliance Partnership funding in third-quarter 2011.

### **NORTHA AMERICAN CENTER FOR TRANSBORDER STUDIES, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

- Carried out and concluded basic research for human trafficking project with CSG-WEST. Draft report will be presented at the Border Legislative Conference meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico on April 15, 2011. Conducted original legislative research and analysis on human trafficking legislation in the CWAG member states and the six Mexican border states.
  0. Conducted interviews with a number of key stakeholders on human trafficking, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (offices in Arizona, Washington DC and Mexico City; Mexico's Attorney General's Office (PGR); state of Baja California; former federal deputies in Mexico, among others.
  1. Conducted outreach and research trip to Mexico City (February 14-16) to interview key stakeholders in human trafficking issue area, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the International Organization of Migration.
- Conducted legislative and state government outreach trip to Mexicali, Baja California (March 24-25) with Council of State Governments-WEST staff . Met with state legislators and state government officials on human trafficking and additional projects related to our work with CSG-WEST.

- Presented on ongoing research projects to the Border Legislative Conference delegation to Washington, DC on March 1. This event was coordinated with the Border Research Partnership (NACTS, COLEF and Mexico Institute/Wilson Center) and the Border Legislative Conference/CSG-WEST on implementation phase for *Strategic Guidelines for the Competitive and Sustainable Development of the U.S.-Mexico Transborder Region* for the Border Governors Conference.

***Additional NACTS activities related to U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership areas of interest:***

- Presented Puentes Consortium paper entitled “Seeking Sustainable Economic Development and Security in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region: *From NAFTA to 9/11 to the Emergence of Key Subnational Actors*” in March 2011 at a conference given by the Baker Institute at Rice University.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TREASURERS**

The National Association of State Treasurers had no activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY11.

NAST sent a delegation to Mexico from April 6 – 10. The delegation consisted of the chair of the NAST Foundation – Treasurer Richard Ellis (UT) – and the executive director. The expenses for Treasurer Ellis has not arrived yet but are estimated at \$1,000. The executive director’s expenses were \$1,450 for a total of \$2,450.

May 1 – 4 is the Treasury Management Training Symposium. This is the largest meeting NAST holds and Mexican Treasurers and staff will be invited to attend. For this meeting, NAST will provide translation services. These services will cost between \$15,000 and \$18,000. In addition, NAST will cover registration travel expenses for four or five Mexican treasurers at approximately \$1,500 each for a total of \$6,000.

**THE PASO DEL NORTE GROUP**

**Ongoing activities January - March**

- Ongoing efforts to implement recommendations for 21st Century Border Crossings which provide for efficiency at the Southern ports of entry without jeopardizing the safety and security of our two countries.
- Pursue education and workforce development strategies that focus on 21st century skills and yield employment opportunities that rely on innovation and entrepreneurial talent.
- Further plans for the creation and attraction of jobs that focus on life sciences and renewable energy capitalizing on the inherent assets of the region’s population, skills and climate.

- Provide resources for ongoing collaboration between Ciudad Juarez, El Paso and Las Cruces New Mexico which invest in our social, economic and cultural ties in order to strengthen the competitive advantage of this region.

### **January 2011**

- PDN staff Felipe Galan and Jorge Ramos, and the PDN Comite por Juarez initiated work with the City of Juarez and with a number of NGO's to develop a Pilot program for a focused social intervention in 11 colonias in Cd. Juarez.
- PDN staff has continued to be active in the area of renewable energy initiatives for the region. Staff members are active participants in the Juarez Renewable Energy Network which COLEF facilitates. PDN's participation in the network provides additional linkages to regional partners as well as information and resource sharing. Additionally PDN staff members participated in regional stakeholders meeting to develop renewable energy cluster around identified assets including Ft. Bliss, White Sands, the research institutions and manufacturing capabilities.
- Members of the Model Ports Committee continue to work closely with Customs and Border Patrol and Mexican Aduanas to follow up on a series of recommendations to improve efficiency at the International Ports of Entry. The committee met with Commissioner Alan Bersin to review the list of priorities set by U.S. and Mexican governments regarding 21st Century Ports of Entry. The meeting included a status report on the progress made on implementing a pilot project to use technology to track cargo from point of origin in Mexico to point of delivery in the U.S. The project is expected to begin in late Spring 2011 with 250 trucks.
- PDN staff participated in a planning committee for Juarez Competitiva, an 15 day event scheduled for October which will showcase the capabilities of the Juarez workforce and businesses to compete globally. The event, modeled after a similar initiative in Tijuana, will work to reenergize and re-build pride in the community. A series of lectures, cultural and sporting events are being planned regionally to support the effort.

### **February 2011**

- PDN Staff briefed newly elected Texas State Senator Rodriguez on the bi-national initiatives PDN is currently working on.
- PDN Staff and the Comite por Juarez continued working with the City of Juarez and with the Mexican Federal Government on a comprehensive Pilot program for a targeted social intervention in 11 colonias in Cd. Juarez. Staff member Jorge Ramos and PDN Comite por

Juarez introduced the concept of the comprehensive Pilot program to the Governor of Chihuahua.

- Several meetings with PDN staff, regional economic development and workforce officials were held to consolidate regional efforts / goals into one strategic plan that could be presented at the Global Competitiveness Symposium planned for May 2011.
- PDN staff participated in the OECD Higher Education in Cities and Regions; For Stronger, Cleaner and Fairer Regions in Seville, Spain. PDN was invited to share information on the organization's role in facilitating collaboration and engaging regional partners in undertaking economic development initiatives.
- PDN Staff worked with the Bi-National Health Task Force in exploring the creation of a joint purchasing group of medical institutions in Juarez. Retained a consultant to explore need and explore possibilities.
- The Alternative Energy Committee continued to work on planning efforts for the Paso del Norte Renewable Energy Symposium and Border Energy Forum which will be held in El Paso in October 2011. PDN is working with the Texas General Land Office and regional stakeholders to schedule speakers, tours and highlight opportunities for renewables in the area.

### **March 2011**

- PDN staff coordinated meetings with various community leaders and organizations in the region in conjunction with a visit from staff from the James Baker Institute. The Baker Institute was in the Paso del Norte region to learn about the Bi-National initiatives PDN has been working on as part of the grant from USAID/CSG.
- Vanda Felbab a scholar with the Brookings Institute scheduled a meeting with PDN staff for an overview of the situation in Juarez and the work being done by governmental agencies and NGOs.
- PDN Staff and PDN Comite por Juarez presented the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the comprehensive Pilot program for targeted social intervention in 11 colonias in Cd. Juarez to US Ambassador to Mexico, Carlos Pascual.
- Jackie Mitchell Edwards provided a report regarding the region's strategic vision for Model Border Ports at the Border Legislators Conference hosted by the Woodrow Wilson Mexico Institute and participated in a panel on the topic.
- PDN hosted a regional meeting with OECD review stakeholders to define the agenda and expected outcomes for the May 26th symposium.

- PDN and ABT are finalizing plans to develop a Small Business Center to support SMEs in Ciudad Juarez access information, technical and financial expertise to aid in job creation and expansion.
- Staff coordinated efforts with Manpower Group and numerous regional partners to finalize the survey and identify the lists of business, educational and workforce training entities to participate in the labor market survey to begin in April 2011.
- The Model Ports Committee met with Cambridge Systematics on numerous occasions to provide input for the development of the Port of Entry study. Once concluded the POE study will serve as the framework for the regional master plan.
- PDN staff worked with CSG to plan for the BLC Conference to be held in Las Cruces, NM on April 14-16. PDN will host a meeting of the region's elected leaders to discuss efforts in the area of renewable energy and 21st Century Border Crossings.

Founded in 2004 by key community leaders from the region, the Paso del Norte Group has worked to identify and implement opportunities for economic and social development in the area. Since May of 2010 funding from the CSG sub-award has served as a catalyst for ongoing efforts to address regional strategies to promote innovation, entrepreneurship social and cultural development in the region. The funds have provided seed money to facilitate collaboration among the region's stakeholder in the areas of education, health, international ports as well as research and development in STEM focus areas.

The Foro de Construccion Comunitaria in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and the Border Security Conference held in El Paso in August, 2010 provided an opportunity for the region to highlight ongoing and planned initiatives intended to strengthen the competitiveness of this unique area. Unfortunately, the issues affecting the safety and well being of the region provide a serious threat to the stability along the border. Swift, cohesive action to address these threats along the U.S./Mexico border is fundamental and collaboration among the Paso del Norte Region and the Alliance Partners provides an important venue for these important discussions and implementation plans.