

CSG West Launches Inaugural Capacity Training for U.S.-Mexico Border Lawmakers



Top (L – R) Dip. Pedro Torres Estrada (CH); Sen. Richard Martinez (NM); Rep. Candie Sweetser (NM); Dip. Rosalva Llanes Rivera (NL); Dip. Oscar Alejandro Flores Escobar (NL); Dip. Víctor Manuel Moran Hernández (BC); Rep. Drew John (AZ)

Bottom (L – R) Dip. Alejandro Gloria González (CH); Dip. Carlos Manuel Fu Salcido (SON); Asm. Todd Gloria (CA); Dip. Rocío López Gorosave (BC); Rep. Becky Nutt (AZ); Sen. Sam Hunt (WA), Chair, CSG West

*By Edgar Ruiz, Executive Director
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On June 1-3, CSG West convened the inaugural Border Legislative Academy (BLA), the first of its kind professional development program for legislators of the U.S.-Mexico border region. The 2017 BLA class was comprised of twelve legislators representing the U.S. and Mexican border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon.

Hosted at the University of California San Diego's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX), the BLA provided a mix of professional development and informational sessions geared to afford practical skills and accelerate the knowledge of participating lawmakers about the U.S.-Mexico border region. Sessions addressed the current state of the U.S.-Mexico relationship, highlighted legislative institutions and available public policy resources, and provided an overview of key cross-border institutions and the complexities of governing along the border.



Participating lawmakers were also exposed to communication strategies and approaches to building a culture of excellence in legislative institutions, and learned of success stories from stakeholders in the frontlines of fostering greater binational cooperation. CSG West chair, Washington Senator Sam Hunt, presided over the program.

CSG West, along with USMEX, secured topnotch speakers to serve as BLA faculty. This included U.S. and Mexican officials in the areas of diplomacy, academia, think tanks, transportation, security, philanthropy and trade. Faculty partners included the University of California San Diego, the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana, the Mexican Consulate in San Diego, the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, the San Diego Association of Governments, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, the Conference of Western Attorneys General, the Wilson Center, the U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership, the Border Trade Alliance, Texas A&M International University, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Scott Peters, Bill Graham Communications and the Robert D. Billie Ray Center at Drake University.

The BLA is supported through a grant from CSG's 21st Century Foundation, which served as seed funding for the program. CSG West is grateful for the partnership with USMEX and the sponsorship support of the following San Diego-based entities: Sempra International, Cross Border Xpress, Qualcomm and the Otay Water District.

The second class of the BLA will convene in 2018. For more information about the BLA, please contact Martha Castañeda or Edgar Ruiz at (916) 553-4423.

Additional BLA Information:

[BLA Program Summary](#)

[BLA Program Overview](#)



A Special Thank You to the BLA 2017 Sponsors



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