Fostering International Leadership in Mexico through 4-H Youth Developmental Programs

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Expected Outcomes

During our presentation you will learn how UC ANR academics build upon existing Initiatives to design and implement international extension programming
UC President Janet Napolitano launched the UC-Mexico initiative in 2014 in recognition of the fact that many of the issues facing California also face Mexico, a neighbor with whom the state shares a rich history.
UC Mexico Initiative Goal

Sustain, strategic and equal partnership between the UC and the institutions in Mexico to address common issue and educate our next generation of leaders
UC Mexico Initiative

Topics of Interest

Arts and Cultures

Education

Energy

Environment

Health
UC Mexico

Guiding Principles

This Initiative is not a typical call to identify a set of academic activities. Instead, the goal is to **develop the best long-term strategy** for ensuring a robust and **continuing academic relationship**; one that is defining for both California and Mexico, and is held as a model for other such collaborations.
Our team Philosophy

For Mexican and American students to succeed in life having better opportunities.
They MOST SUCCEED in K-12 first!
California, USA and Baja California, México share 156 miles long border. This brings opportunities for:

- Businesses (trade)
- Education
  - Bilingual
  - Bicultural
- Tourism
## Disparities across the Border

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>37,253,956</td>
<td>3,315,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>“technology &amp; agriculture”</td>
<td>“maquiladoras”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Gross Income</td>
<td>$ 64,000</td>
<td>$ 11,000</td>
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California’s Future

The California economy will need talented people with very best training in environmental, natural resources, agricultural, and nutrition…

New partnerships must reinforce skill sets that prepare youth for higher education, future career opportunities and informed participation in civic affairs and public policy.

2025 UC ANR Strategic Vision
Example of UC ANR
Long Term Investment

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

University of California Cooperative Extension
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension Advisor
Youth, Families and Communities Development
Serving Imperial County/DREC & US - Mexico border
AP #15-08

Location Headquarters: Imperial County, Holtville, California
Engage Stakeholders from the very Beginning

- Representative from Mexican Partners
- UC ANR 4-H Assistant Director for Diversity and Expansion
- UC ANR Extension Specialist
- UC ANR Staff and Academics
Build Trust and Common Understanding of the Local Issues

• Look for common language/ terms
• Find examples that are relevant from the audience

– 4-H Video at World Ag Expo titled Agriculture: Feeding Tomorrow's World

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PL5SuAnqwoU
Education in Mexico

La educación en México

Estudiantes que empiezan la Primaria/ Students that start Elementary school
100

Estudiantes que terminan la preparatoria
10

1
Mexico Trends
Estadísticas en México

1 of every 3 children is overweight
1 de cada 3 de niños mexicanos tienen problemas de obesidad

Only 34% of the high school age youth exercises regularly
Solo el 34% de los jóvenes en preparatoria hacen ejercicio
Addressing Common Issues

**4-H HEALTHY LIVING**

**The PROBLEM:**
18% of children ages 6-17 are obese.
Only 15% of high school students get the recommended daily physical activity.

**The 4-H SOLUTION:**
A holistic approach to improve young people’s physical fitness, nutrition habits, and socio-emotional health.
4-H members are 2.8x as likely to report healthy habits and are 2.3x as likely to exercise.

**4-H**

**Una vida sana con 4-H**

**El Problema:**
18% de los niños y jóvenes entre 6-17 años tienen problemas de obesidad.
Solo el 15% de los estudiantes de preparatoria hacen diariamente el ejercicio que es recomendado para su edad.

**La solución que propone 4-H:**
Un enfoque integral para mejorar el desarrollo físico, los hábitos alimenticios y la salud socio-emocional.
Miembros de 4-H tienen 2.8 veces más probabilidades de desarrollar hábitos de vida sanos. 2.3 veces más probabilidades para hacer ejercicio.
4-H Outcomes

- 4-H youth are 1.9 times more likely to get better grades in school.

- and 2.1 times more likely to report high school engagement.

- 4-H’ers are 2X more likely to report healthier living.

- 4-H participants are 2X more likely to have higher civic identity and engagement.

- 4-H participants are 1.9 times more likely to have higher levels of positive youth development.
The Science behind 4-H

La ciencia detrás de 4-H

• Los asesores 4-H constantemente hacen estudios, evaluaciones e investigación en el desarrollo de la juventud, la educación u otros campos correspondientes que les permite describir el impacto positivo del programa en la juventud

• 4-H advisors constantly made studies, evaluations or research on youth development and/or education that allow them to describe the impact of the program in the youth participating on it
Putting the pieces together

Areas in mind

• Sustainability
• Quality
• Roles and responsibilities
• Culture

Limitations

• Physical Borders
• FTE Allocation(s)
  • Time
  • Funding
Cooperative Extension Model in the US
4-H International

4-H Around the World
The 4-H idea has spread around the world to the point where programs similar to 4-H now exist in more than 80 countries.

From the National 4-H Council 2009
4-H “Core” Elements

UCCE (State 4-H Office)

4-H County Program

Clubs

Projects

Youth

Hands-on

Project based

Caring adults

Year Round
Initial advice from:

Dr. Kirk A. Astroth
Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist
The University of Arizona

Dr. Mike Proctor
Vice President for Global Initiatives at the University of Arizona.
Previous 4-H work in Mexico

• Delivered at schools through trained volunteers in Central Mexico
• Government funded through the Secretary of Agriculture (Federal Level)
• Technical Assistance and in-person training from Cooperative Extension staff and academics in the US
Creating a model that **Works for Mexico at the State Level**

- Secretary of Agriculture
- SEFOA
- UABC
- Ejido Sinaloa

UC ANR Cross County/Border Advisor

Place based programming link with school
UC ANR / SEFOA Joint Strategy

• Jointly worked on the program purpose, activities and outcomes.
• Defined a timeline for program implementation
• Agreed on preferred methods of communication
# Roles and Responsibilities

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tr>
<td>UC ANR – 4-H Youth Development Program</td>
<td>• Provide expertise and technical assistance on positive youth development practices relevant to the 4-H program.</td>
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</table>
| SEFOA                                            | • Seed funding  
• Staff with linkages to the Community  
• Committed .25 FTE to support the launch of the project |
| Universidad Autónoma de Baja California          | • Link to local expertise (human capital)  
• Access to students who are required to serve in their communities for up to 400 hours during their college career.  
• Awareness of local needs and resources |
Sharing the Message with UC ANR Leadership, Mexican Government and Local Community

- Concrete proposal including clear goals
- Face to face meetings when possible
- Bilingual presentations
- Professionalism at all times!
Why is this important?

Pero por que esto es importante para nosotros?

Because we have the possibility to work together to jointly offer more opportunities for your youth

Porque tenemos la posibilidad de trabajar juntos para ofrecerles mas oportunidades a nuestros niños y jóvenes
• We need to develop leaders that help better our communities

Porque necesitamos formar verdaderos líderes que ayuden a nuestras comunidades a vivir mejor.

• We all want to see a “different” Mexico

Porque todos queremos ver a un México diferente.
Breaking paradigms!

• Because schools can’t offer what 4-H does!
  Porque las escuelas no pueden ofrecer lo que 4-H ofrece
Making it Official

“To offer 4-H expertise to children south of the border, Vice President Glenda Humiston traveled to Mexicali to sign a memorandum of understanding with Baja California Secretary of Agriculture Manuel Valladolid Seamanduras on Jan. 20.”

UC ANR News
Monday, January 23, 2017
Author: Jeannette E. Warnert
Memorandum of Understanding

Signature

ACUERDO DE COLABORACIÓN
ENTRE
LA SECRETARÍA DE FOMENTO AGROPECUARIO, DEL ESTADO DE BAJA CALIFORNIA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
Y

*Considers the possibility to adjunt further work agreements
First Project

• After conducting a needs assessment
• Lead by local volunteers
• Held at SEFOA Facilities
• Curriculum:

Where the food come from?

Developed by SEFOA staff
4-H bringing
Opportunities & Hope
2015
Authorities for SEFOA & CA 4-H Advisors met in Calexico

2016
CA 4-H Advisors travel to Mexico to introduce 4-H and recruit 4-H Members and Volunteers

2017
UC ANR and SEFOA signed a MoU and start the first 4-H Club in Mexico
Other it Considerations

• Expect language barriers and plan to overcome them
• Plan for delays on the legal translation of your agreement!
Behind the Scenes

*What we think make us succeed?*

1. Fearless leaders who started with the goal on mind
2. Keeping the energy of the project being positive at all times and calls!
3. Weekly online work for planning the program.
4. Team was members from UC ANR, SEFOA and UABC since the start!
1. Dr. Fabregas and myself personally present in person the 4-H proposal to Mexican government officials.

2. Dr. Fabregas held a conference to recruit the first cohort of student volunteers.

3. UC ANR leadership involvement since the idea was conceived until the MOU signature.
Lessons Learned

• 4-H is a Youth Development Program that can be replicated in Mexico
• There is a strong need of afterschool programs in Baja California
• The commitment of the “State” government proved to be a way to approach the communities
Thank you!
¡Gracias!