



Engaging North America

CII Summer Meeting, UT San Antonio
Tuesday, June 18



Presenters

- Taylor Eighmy, UTSA President & CII Chair
- Guillermo Hernandez, Mexican HEI expert
- Janaka Ruwanpura, University of Calgary



Advancing the North American Zone of Knowledge:

- Importance of North America as a region
 - \$30.7T economy
 - USMCA, to be revised in 2026
 - Wilson, Brookings, Atlantic Council advocacy
 - Great Power issues, global and regional competitiveness, nearshoring
- What the business community needs (e.g., curricula, degrees, certificates, competency, regional economic development)
 - Consejo Mexicano de Negocios
 - America Chamber of Commerce of Mexico
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - U.S. Council on Competitiveness
- How North American higher education can be more engaged with North American Businesses
 - Universities Canada
 - ANUIES
 - APLU
- CII Working Group
 - University of Calgary (Janaka Ruwanpura, Ed McCauley)
 - UNAM (Sergio Alcocer, William Lee)
 - UTSA (Lisa Montoya, Taylor Eighmy)
 - ANUIES (Guillermo Hernandez)
 - APLU (Bernie Burrola, Mark Becker)

Need

Aligning Higher Education to Business Needs Around Work Force Development, Economic Development, Innovation

Proposed Plan

- **Fall 2024 APLU Meeting:** CII Panel discussion with North American business representatives from Business Council of Canada; Consejo Mexicano de Negocios ; American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, U.S. Council on Competitiveness on business needs from higher education, report to be issued
- **Summer 2025 CII Meeting:** Workshop and panel involving Universities Canada, ANUIES and APLU to prepare a response to the report on next steps
- **Fall 2025 APLU Meeting:** CII presentation of the the plan



Context



- North America Region
- New Trade Agreement
- US – Mexico Border
- Regional Development
- North America Professional Work Force
- Mexican Talent in the US and Canada



Strategic Alliances

- APLU in Mexico
- Meetings With National Academic and Business Leaders
- CMN, CCE, COPARMEX, CEG,
- ENACTUS, KPMG, AMCHAM
- ANUIES, FIMPES
- NEXT STEPS



Strategic Alliances





Strategic Alliances





Strategic Alliances



Canada's Involvement: Key Players



- Universities Canada and member universities
- Business Council of Canada, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- Tri-Council Funding Agencies: NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR
- Global Affairs Canada
- MITACS
- Industry Partners

University of Calgary's Interests/ Suggestions – Short-Term



North American Energy Forum

Initiate an annual or biannual forum that brings together experts to discuss advancements, policy, and education in energy sectors, including renewable energy and sustainable practices.



Urbanization and Smart City Collaborative Lab

Establish a collaborative research lab or virtual institute that focuses on urban development, smart cities, and the integration of IT in managing urban infrastructure



IT Skills Boot Camps and Certificates

Develop intensive training programs that equip students with the latest IT skills, such as cybersecurity, data analytics, and AI, tailored to the immediate needs of the North American economy

Where Can Canada Contribute?



Collaborative Research and Development

Funding, Policy and Regulatory Support

Workforce Development

Economic Growth & Innovation