



PROVOST INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

NAME/TITLE OF PROJECT:

Borderlands Education Center Development Project

DEPARTMENT: Deans Office and Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies

COLLEGE: College of Education

TEAM LEADER/PI NAME: Dr. Iliana Reyes

TEAM MEMBERS/COLLABORATORS: Drs. Nadia Alvarez and Etta Kralovec

EMAIL: ireyes@email.arizona.edu

Summary

This project addresses UA Strategic Plan Pillar 3: “Make the UA the leader in the field of border studies by creating new knowledge and transnational collaborations and thus position the University as a top destination for students and faculty pursuing border related scholarship in global, binational and regional contexts.” The Borderlands Education Center (BEC) in the College of Education (COE) can provide the infrastructure needed for this initiative in Southeastern Arizona. The project is closely aligned with 3.3.c1, Cross-border Collaborations and Partnerships, as well as 3.3.c2, The Border Lab initiative.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- One of our main partners, CRESO (Regional Center of Teaching and Teacher Education) in Sonora-Mexico, visited the UA campus with BEC from March 28-29, 2023. During this first official visit, the CRESO President and other academic authorities met with COE faculty and staff to discuss potential collaborations. BEC organized the agenda and coordinated collaborative discussions bringing an inclusive platform for local and international partners.
- The Teacher Identities Institute, Second Edition was organized from April 28th to 30th, 2023. A total of sixteen (16) students and two (2) faculty members CRESO participated in this second edition. From the UArizona College of Education, six (6) students participated and seven (6) faculty and Dean Robert Berry participated through the three days of events and academic panel presentations with students.
 - CRESO is situated in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. This center co-coordinated with the BEC a recruitment call. Participants in this second edition of the BEC Teacher Identities Institute represent a total of sixteen (16) Teacher Training “*Escuelas Normales*” Schools and Pedagogical Universities in the Mexican State of Sonora -our border neighbor.



PROVOST INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

- During this second edition, the following academic activities were offered: two educational tours, two panel sessions, one Keynote Speaker lecture, one workshop and two lectures.
- The institute also offered a welcoming and closing event where Deans, students, faculty, and staff from the College of Education participated in discussions about transborder research projects, academic offer on campus, potential collaborations opportunities and other relevant topics related to education.
- A survey was conducted where the total number of participants responded with the highest satisfaction about the institute, its activities, and quality of its schedule and academic offerings.
- During the Y2022-23 academic year, we launched the BEC Speaker Series for knowledge dissemination on educational and pedagogical topics in relation to themes impacting the borderlands. The objective of this academic presentations is the knowledge exchange and the opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to network with peers and top scholars in their fields. Among the Scholars invited to present and share on their expertise: Dr. Leah Durán, Dr. Nolvía Cortez, and Dr. Cindy Trejo.

Strategic Impacts and how they were measured:

- The transborder partnership with CRESO assisted BEC to organize a border visit to Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.
- The organization of the agenda was designed according to conversations, planning meetings and other details with the Secretary of Education and Culture (SEC) team in Sonora.
- As a result of this visit, Former Provost Liesl Folks, Deans Robert Q Berry III and Iliana Reyes, AVP Justin Dutram, Directors Nina Bates and Nadia Alvarez Mexia participated in an executive meeting in Nogales, Sonora with the Secretary of Education from the State of Sonora, Dr. Aaron Grageda. Additionally, other SEC team members and representatives of different higher education institutions in the border of Mexico and the U.S. participated in this historical event as it was the first of its kind organized by the UA College of Education and
- During this executive session, six binational initiatives and projects were identified to continue an institutional collaboration lead by SEC-Sonora and BEC in COE. These presentations assisted to visualize the following steps: organize the third edition of the institute and participate in the International Conference “Transformative Education.”
- BEC participated in the International Conference with the panel “Education and Immigrant Students.” Associate Dean Iliana Reyes (panelist), BEC-Fellow and Professor Nolvía Gonzalez (panelist), and Director Nadia Alvarez Mexia (moderator) along with Subsecretary of K-8 Education, Ricardo Aragon and Director, Elsa Sanchez conducted a discussion about transborder and regional initiatives to serve immigrant population in AZ-Sonora schools. This panel



PROVOST INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

session registered the higher attendance during this conference. In addition, BEC Co-Directors, Iliana Reyes and Nadia Alvarez Mexia, participated in interviews organized by local media.

Funding used:

- Teacher Identities Institute, Second Edition. For this edition, the PIF funds covered the following expenses: lodging for eight (8) CRESO students, sub comp for faculty that participated as a lecturer, materials and other items related to this institute.
- PIF funds covered travel expenses for the BEC team members to participate in the International Conference and related activities including meetings.
- PIF funds also supported the participation of Dr. Jenny Lee who was the Keynote Speaker during the International Forum & Expo 2023 hosted by the University of Guanajuato (UGuanajuato), Mexico.

PLAN

- Organize meetings and activities with the following transborder and international partners:
 - **CRESO:** discuss potential participation in the Teacher Identities Institute, Third Edition. In addition, BEC is coordinating a meeting with the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies (DPS) and CRESO to explore a potential project about inclusion and equality in education.
 - **SEC-Sonora:** discuss the organization of a forum where former participants of the two institute cohorts give their testimonios about this educational and transborder experience.
 - **UGuanajuato:** coordinate an institutional visit to this university to sign a MOU and discuss potential collaborations with the College of Education in this Mexican university. COE-Deans will participate during this visit.
 - **Title V Grant:** BEC team was able to participate in the Title V grant proposal "ADELANTE." The PIF grant supported different planning activities to visualize this participation and its contributions. In the following months, BEC will participate in planning meetings and activities to co-coordinate this grant and proposal. The main contribution of BEC to ADELANTE is a Faculty Fellowship component. More information [here](#)



PROVOST INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

JUSTIFICATION

Completed only if requesting a project extension or carry forward fund balance.

- Include a justification and a plan of fund usage if requesting a project extension or carrying forward fund balance.