

Annual NACTA Conference

Mexican Agriculture students learn about the United States Cooperative Extension Service Model



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Objectives of the Program



- Understand & value Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
- Improve their Intercultural Competence
- Analyze & discuss the importance of developing and use Technology in Agriculture



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Participants in the Program

- **Oklahoma State University** is a public, land grant university located in Stillwater, OK. At the national level, Cooperative Extension provides a direct link between research based information and the general public.
- **ITESM** is the largest private university in Mexico (31 campuses - only Agriculture College is situated in Queretaro (central part of Mexico)).



Budget



Participant's cost	
Concept	Cost
Housing	\$ 375
Host family stipend	\$ 400
Meal Plan	\$ 100
OSU IDs	\$ 17
Colvin Center	\$ 100
Classroom fees	\$ 66
Transportation	\$ 154
Cater meals (Welcome and Farewell Dinners)	\$ 90
Social Activities	\$ 40
Museum Fees	\$ 36
OSU Gift Sack	\$ 45
Sub total	\$ 1,424
IS&O, Office & Extension fees	\$ 318
English course	\$ 160
Academic seminars	\$ 160
Sub total	\$ 700
TOTAL \$ 2,125	



Host Families' Selection

- Associate Director of Oklahoma cooperative Extension Service sent a personalized letter to 164 Extension Educators, Specialist & Staff Members
- 16 (10%) responded to our request
- 10 of them filled the application
- 7 Hosted Mexican Students (4.2%)



Selecting the Students

- ITESM selected 10 students to participate in the program – The top ten juniors and seniors.
- 7 were able to get their visa to come to the United States (J Visa – Visitor Scholar)



Students' Enrollment



The selected students paid their own travel expenses and were enrolled at ITESM for academic credit hours.





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Program Model



**4 Weeks
Program**

**Weekend
Cultural
Activities**

**Week 1
Introduction &
Intercultural
Competence**

**Week 2 & 3
OCCE
Experience**

**Week 4
Technology in
Agriculture**



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Week 1

Introduction & Intercultural Competence

- All the students were evaluated using the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), they received a 16-hour intercultural competence training focused on American Culture.
- They also received 20 hours of conversational English, including site visits.



Week 2 & 3



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The students were hosted by Extension Personnel, they lived in their houses and shadowed their daily professional activities, becoming part of the county Extension office team.



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Students' Expectations

- An opportunity to shadow and learn from host extension educator/specialist
- An opportunity to aid host extension educator/specialist with all professional activities as he/she sees fit
- To learn what an extension educator/specialist does and how can that be applied in other places
- To gain insight of an extension educator/specialist's expertise
- To learn about Oklahoma's agricultural industry
- To exchange information and knowledge about agricultural customs in their home town
- An opportunity to share their own traditions and family values.
- To be an ambassador of ITESM



Host Extension Educator/ Specialists' Expectations



- To welcome a student into their homes for two weeks
- To allow the student to shadow him/her in daily professional activities and be part of the county office team
- To exchange experiences and knowledge
- To teach the student about Extension service in Oklahoma
- To learn about Mexican culture and family customs
- To learn relevant Spanish vocabulary and practices from hosted students
- To be an ambassador of Oklahoma State University and Cooperative Extension



Week 4

Agriculture Seminars

- The students attended 8 academic seminars with specialists in Biotechnology, Horticulture, wheat, Laser, Plant Nutrition, Animal Sciences, & Entrepreneurship



Cultural Activities

- Site visit in Oklahoma City and Tulsa during the weekends, including historical sites and museums.
- Shopping malls and outlets





Evaluation



- Students and host families were asked to complete two different program evaluations.
- The program evaluations included multiple choice and opened-ended questions.



Students' Evaluation

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Rating Scale: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Very Good, 3 = Average, 4 = Fair, 5 = Unsatisfactory

How do you rate the learning experience during this exchange program?

1 2 3 **4.6** 5

How do you rate the program's time length?

1 2 **3.2** 4 5

Do you think you benefited from the cultural and language exchange during the program?

1 2 3 **4.7** 5

How do you rate your improvement of intercultural competency after the program?

1 2 3 **4.6** 5

Overall, how would you rate the International Cooperative Extension Exchange Program?

1 2 3 **4.8** 5



Students' Evaluation



General Comments about the program

What characteristics did you like most about this program?

- Living with an American Family
- Learning about American culture & Cooperative Extension
- Learning about all what Extension includes, families, health, kids, agriculture & economic development.

What characteristics did you dislike most about this program?

- Two weeks were not enough

Suggestions to improve the Exchange Program:

- The program should be at least 8 weeks
- We would like to have more responsibilities and an specific plan to work in the extension offices (probably working with Latinos)
- I would like to know who will be assigning my grade

Would you participate in this type of program another time?

100% yes

no

Please explain why or why not:



Host Families' Evaluation

Please describe your experience participating in the ITESM summer program:

How can you describe your experience?

- I definitively would like to participate next year.
- My family and I loved to have the Mexican students in our home for 2 weeks.
- We learned a lot about Mexican culture, I changed my perception about that country.
- The students were very respectful and well educated.
- I wish I knew how extension works in Mexico



What changes in the program you propose?

- I need more information about my students before he/she arrived
- I need to plan better all the activities that they will be participating plan before they arrived.



Conclusions

- The program was a success and should be replicated in other states
- To get the most of the experiences
 - It will be beneficial if the host families receive a brief training before the students arrived
 - The students should be more prepared for the experience, developing a personal plan.
 - The extension offices should develop a “work plan” for the students
- The program should be longer



If you are considering replicate the program
please contact us

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Questions?
Preguntas
疑問
Interrogatoire
Befragung
استجواب
Interrogatório



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