



Four New TIES University Partnerships Selected

Higher Education Institutions continue to be critical partners in addressing development issues in Mexico. USAID and its implementing partner, Higher Education for Development, launched a 2008 Request for Applications to award additional U.S.-Mexico University Partnerships in key areas. After a competitive selection process, the following four partnerships have been selected for 3-year awards. These new partnerships will bring the total to 64.

 <p>University of Texas at Austin & Universidad Veracruzana Strengthen Information and Communication Technology for Rural Development</p>	 <p>Florida International University & Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral Regional (IPN) Biodiversity in the Context of Community Protected Areas and Coffee Farms in Oaxaca and Chiapas</p>
 <p>Michigan Technological University, Instituto Tecnológico del Valle de Oaxaca & Colegio de la Frontera Sur Enhance the Capacity for Sustainable Forest Management and Ecosystem service provisioning in Oaxaca and Chiapas</p>	 <p>Georgia State University & Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Strengthen English Language Education in Mexico</p>

USAID Facilitates University Network for Microfinance



Eight of Mexico's leading public and private universities have formed a consortium, called the Red de Universidades en Microfinanzas, which is dedicated to improving research and coursework in the area of rural and micro finance.

The initiative started with USAID support to the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN) on integrating microfinance into its curriculum. The program then expanded to seven other universities, and is now self-sustaining. The goal is for academia to contribute to the important goal of expanding access to quality financial services for Mexico's marginalized populations.

TIES Partnership on Small Business Development Highlighted during the 2008 Americas Competitiveness Forum



Rosario Valencia Castillo, Director General of the Mexican Association of Small Business Development Centers and head of one of the most successful TIES University Partnerships participated in the 2008 Americas Competitiveness Forum to talk about a joint initiative undertaken by Mexico and the United States during the past decade that resulted in the creation of the Small Business Development Center network in Mexico.

There are currently 45 Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) in the Mexican Association, providing financial, technical, and government contracting assistance to its small and medium enterprise community. The Mexican Association of SBDCs is working with counterparts in the U.S. SBDC network to facilitate market opportunities between their respective clients. They have created EnlaceSBDC, a web-based trade platform that will facilitate two-way trade among the 750,000 plus small business clients of the U.S. and Mexican SBDC networks by providing pre-qualified trade leads, import/export education content and international market research.