

## U.S. Political Institutions and U.S.-Mexico Relations (USPI) 2025

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Now in its seventh year, the Summer Seminar on U.S. Political Institutions and U.S.-Mexico Relations (USPI), organized by the UC San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies with generous sponsorship from Cross Border Xpress, continues to serve as a transformative program that has evolved to meet the changing needs of the bilateral relationship.

The program seamlessly combines in-depth online sessions with a rigorous in-person experience, covering essential topics such as the structure and reach of U.S. political institutions, as well as grounding participants on critical issues of immigration, trade, security, and foreign policy.

#### Historical Context and Significance

Since its inception in 2019, the USPI Seminar has served **633 professionals**, representing diverse sectors across Mexico. The 2025 cohort joins this growing network of alumni who continue to influence bilateral cooperation at multiple levels of government, private sector, and civil society.

This program addresses the increasing need for professionals in diplomacy, law, academia, journalism, and related fields to gain a comprehensive understanding of U.S. political institutions, given the country's significant influence on global affairs and its particularly critical relationship with Mexico.

#### 2025 Strategic Context

The 2025 edition held special significance, as it convened participants from newly elected governments in both Mexico and the United States. Notably, Mexico was represented by officials from its first administration led by an elected female president, marking a historic moment in the nation's political landscape. This context provided a unique opportunity to explore the evolving dynamics between both nations in this transformative era of leadership.

Additionally, the seminar played a crucial role in fostering lasting connections among participants, which are essential for strengthening bilateral cooperation between Mexico and the United States. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the seminar, including participant profiles, detailed program content, faculty contributions, and outcomes from the

in-person activities. It also includes participant feedback, course evaluations, and a financial report.

## 2. PARTICIPANTS

### Historical Achievement (2019-2025)

Over seven years of the USPI Seminar, from 2019-2025, we have engaged a total of **633 professionals**. They have represented:

- **Local governments** from states such as Nayarit, Estado de México, Sonora, Quintana Roo, Jalisco, Yucatán, Campeche, Nuevo León, and Guanajuato
- **Federal institutions** including the Senate, Chamber of Deputies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), Ministry of Finance (SHCP), Supreme Court, PEMEX, National Electoral Institute (INE), Superior Auditing Office (ASF), Ministry of Governance (SEGOB), IMSS-Bienestar, and the National Anti-Corruption System
- **International organizations** such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Academic institutions** including Universidad Panamericana, Tec de Monterrey, Colegio de México, and UNAM
- **Private sector** companies and civil society organizations

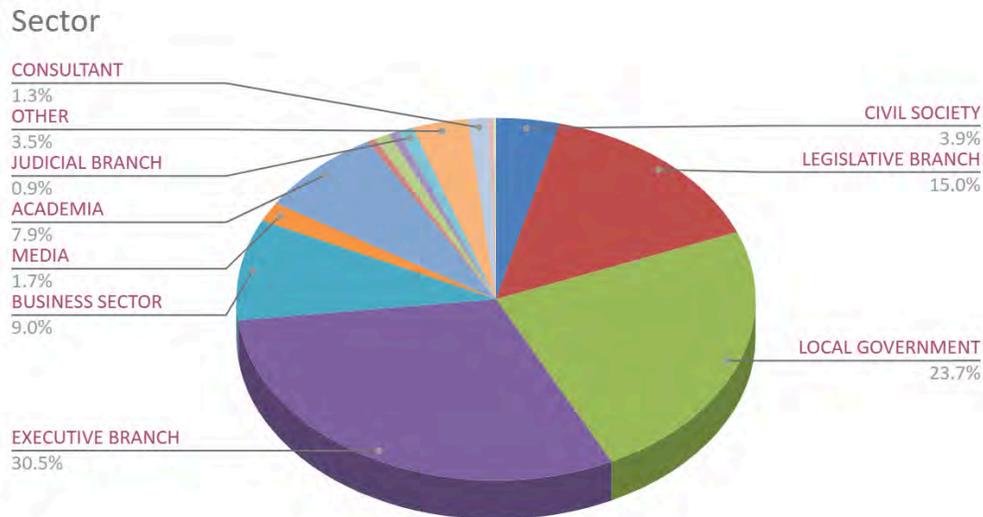
### 2025 Program Participation

For the seventh edition of the Summer Seminar on U.S. Political Institutions and U.S.-Mexico Relations (USPI), USMEX received 236 applications from professionals across various sectors.

Following a rigorous selection process:

- 137 candidates were chosen to participate in the online portion of the course
- 60 of these candidates were selected to attend the in-person activities held at UC San Diego from August 18-22, 2025

## 2025 Participant Distribution by Sector



This year's USPI Summer Seminar brought together participants from a diverse range of professional sectors. The largest representation came from the Executive Branch (30.5%), followed by Local Government (23.7%) and the Legislative Branch (15.0%). The Business Sector accounted for 9.0%, while Academia represented 7.9% of participants. Smaller but important shares included Civil Society (3.9%), Other (3.5%), Media (1.7%), and Consultants (1.3%).

This distribution highlights the program's continued strength in attracting public sector leaders, while also engaging professionals from academia, civil society, and the private sector to foster cross-sector dialogue on U.S. political institutions.

Federal government officials participating in the Summer Seminar this year represented a broad array of agencies, including:

- Mexican Senate and Chamber of Deputies
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores - SRE)
- Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP)
- Superior Auditing Office of the Federation (ASF)
- National Electoral Institute (INE)

- Supreme Court
- IMSS-Bienestar
- National Anti-Corruption System
- Ministry of Governance (SEGOB)
- Office of the President
- National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)
- National Energy Commission (CNE)
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry for Agrarian, Land and Urban Development (SEDATU)
- National Human Rights Commission (CNDH)

**State and Local Government Representation:** Participants represented the Mexican states of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Ciudad de Mexico, Estado de Mexico, Jalisco, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, Puebla, Sonora, Tabasco, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Yucatan, and Zacatecas.

**International Presence:** The program continued to include officials from:

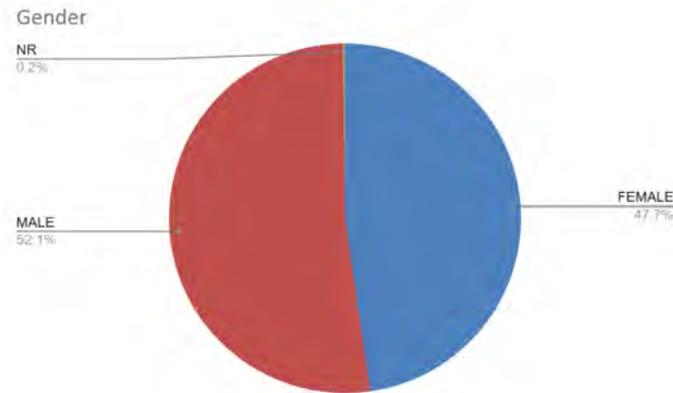
- Mexican Consulates in Los Angeles, California; Boston, Massachusetts; Atlanta, Georgia; and Yuma, Arizona, and a representative from the Indian Embassy in Mexico.
- International organizations including International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (Mexico), TOJIL, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Center's ongoing efforts to engage a diverse group of participants from various regions of Mexico and different government agencies, both at the federal and local levels, are clearly reflected in this growing diversity.

## Participant Gender Distribution

This year's selection process aimed to achieve a balanced gender distribution. Based on survey responses, the 2025 cohort comprised:

- **Women:** 66
- **Men:** 71



USMEX continues its commitment to gender-inclusive participant selection, recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives in strengthening bilateral relations.

### Participant Age Profile

We remain firmly convinced that engaging the next generation is crucial for harnessing the full potential of the bilateral relationship.

#### 2025 Age Distribution:

- **18–29 years:** 30.1%
- **30–39 years:** 44.4%
- **40–49 years:** 18.0%
- **50–59 years:** 6.0%
- **60+ years:** 1.5%

Our commitment to fostering education and interest among these young professionals goes beyond the duration of the program. We continue developing ongoing mentorship opportunities, creating platforms for continued dialogue, and establishing channels for these emerging leaders to contribute to policy discussions.

By investing in the education and networking opportunities for these young participants, we are not just preparing them for future professional success—we are laying the groundwork for a more collaborative, innovative, and resilient bilateral relationship between the United States and Mexico for generations to come.

## Participant Academic Profile and Impact

One of the key selection criteria for this program is the participants' English language proficiency. Our analysis reveals a strong correlation between language skills and academic achievement among our cohort.

### Educational Background:

- **Bachelor's degree holders (Licenciatura):** 52.48%
- **Postgraduate studies:** 46.53%
  - **Master's degree (Maestría):** 38.61%
  - **Doctoral degree (Doctorado):** 7.92%

This advanced educational profile has significantly enhanced the quality and depth of discussions throughout the seminar. The impact of this high-caliber participant pool is evident in several areas:

- **Elevated Discourse**
- **Global Context Awareness**
- **Critical Analysis**
- **Interdisciplinary Perspectives**
- **Substantive Engagement**
- **Bridge-Building Capacity**

By maintaining these high standards for participant selection, we ensure that the seminar continues to serve as a platform for high-level discourse and meaningful exchange, ultimately contributing to a more nuanced and productive bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States.

### 3. CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM

Throughout the three-week online program and five-day in-person visit to the border region, participants gained key insights into U.S.-Mexico relations, U.S. political processes, and the evolving bilateral landscape under new leadership in both countries.

#### Online Program (August 1-16, 2025)

The online segment featured enhanced interactive elements through the Slido app platform, which significantly improved participant engagement and facilitated real-time polling, Q&A sessions, and collaborative discussions.

#### Topics covered included:

- Overviews of principal U.S. political institutions
- The mechanics of U.S. policymaking
- The role of the Census in American democracy
- State and local politics in the U.S. federal system
- In-depth explorations of principal themes in U.S.-Mexico relations:
  - Immigration and migration flows
  - Trade and nearshoring opportunities
  - Security cooperation
  - Foreign policy dynamics
- The state of U.S.-Mexico relations under new administrations
- Comparative analysis of Mexican and U.S. governmental institutions

U.S. Political Institutions and the U.S.-Mexico Relations Summer Seminar 2025					
	Date	Start (CT)	End (CT)	Lecture	Instructor
I. Welcome and Introduction	Friday, August 1, 2025	5:00 PM	5:10 PM	Course Introduction and Inauguration	Rafael FdeC and Catheryn Camacho
	Friday, August 1, 2025	5:10 PM	5:30 PM	Conversation with U.S. Embassy in Mexico	Silvio Gonzalez
	Friday, August 1, 2025	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	The State of U.S.-Mexico Relations After Presidential Elections	Embajador Esteban Moctezuma y Rafael FdeC
	Friday, August 1, 2025	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	The U.S. in the Next Four Years	Thad Kousser

	Friday, August 1, 2025	7:30 PM	8:30 PM	Mexico Under Claudia Sheinbaum's Presidency	<b>Vidal Romero</b>
	Saturday, August 2, 2025	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Trump's America-First Policy in North American Relations	<b>Antonio Ortiz Mena</b>
	Saturday, August 2, 2025	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	<b>Break</b>	
	Saturday, August 2, 2025	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	The Impact of State and Local Politics on US.-MX Relations	<b>Amb. Carlos González Gutiérrez</b>
	Saturday, August 2, 2025	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Breakout Rooms for discussions	<b>Karla Tirado/Ramon Gonzalez + alumni</b>
	<b>Wednesday August 6, 2025</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Session and Evaluation</b>	<b>Allert Brown-Gort</b>
<b>II. U.S. Political Institutions</b>	Friday, August 8, 2025	5:00 PM	6:15 PM	Electoral College: Census, Redistricting, Local Elections	<b>Sergio I. Garcia-Rios</b>
	Friday, August 8, 2025	6:15 PM	6:30 PM	<b>Break</b>	
	Friday, August 8, 2025	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	From Democrats to Republicans: Who Gains and Who Loses When the White House Changes Hands	<b>Zoltan Hajnal</b>
	Friday, August 8, 2025	7:30 PM	8:30 PM	Mechanics of U.S. Policymaking and the U.S. Congress	<b>Jeff Weldon</b>
	Saturday, August 9, 2025	9:00 AM	9:45 AM	Similarities and Differences in the U.S. and Mexican Political Systems	<b>Jeff Weldon</b>
	Saturday, August 9, 2025	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	<b>Break</b>	
	Saturday, August 9, 2025	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	The U.S. Supreme Court	<b>Hazel Blackmore</b>
	Saturday, August 9, 2025	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Breakout Rooms for discussions	<b>Karla Tirado/Ramon Gonzalez + Alumni</b>
	<b>Wednesday August 13, 2025</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Session and Evaluation</b>	<b>Allert Brown-Gort</b>
<b>III. Bilateral issues</b>	Friday, August 15, 2025	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Change and Continuity in U.S. Immigration Policy	<b>Theresa Brown</b>
	Friday, August 15, 2025	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Mexico's Consular Diplomacy in the U.S.	<b>Amb. Reyna Torres</b>
	Friday, August 15, 2025	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	<b>Break</b>	
	Friday, August 15, 2025	7:15 PM	8:30 PM	Understanding America-First Trade Policy	<b>Juan Carlos Baker</b>

	Saturday, August 16, 2025	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Towards the 2026 Revision of USMCA	<b>Juan Carlos Baker</b>
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	<b>Break</b>	
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	Violence in Latin America and U.S. Foreign Policy	<b>Gema Santamaria</b>
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Fentanyl Crisis in the U.S.-Mexico Border	<b>Jaime Arredondo</b>
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	<b>Break</b>	
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	12:45 PM	1:30 PM	The Trump Administration's Energy Policies	<b>Nora Cabrera</b>
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	1:30 PM	2:15 PM	Creating a North America Identity: The Case of the 2026 World Cup	<b>Gabriela Cuevas</b>
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	2:15 PM	2:45 PM	U.S. Embassy Alumni	<b>Ibis Perez y Jessica Contreras</b>
	Saturday, August 16, 2025	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	Closing Remarks	<b>RFC, Catheryn Camacho and Allert Brown-Gort</b>

### **In-Person Program (August 18-22, 2025)**

The immersive five-day program at UC San Diego and the border region provided participants with firsthand experience of the themes explored during the online sessions.

#### **Key objectives:**

- Provide participants with direct experience of cross-border dynamics
- Enable in-depth discussion groups on critical bilateral issues
- Expand knowledge of U.S.-Mexico relations and international relations more broadly
- Introduce participants to regional and cross-border themes
- Create bonding and networking opportunities among participants and faculty

## **4. IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES (August 18-22, 2025)**

### **Monday, August 18, 2025**

#### **Welcome and Orientation**

One of the main objectives of the program is to promote networking among participants, as this fosters ongoing communication between alumni and strengthens their connection with both the U.S. Embassy in Mexico and USMEX.

The first activity was a comprehensive tour of UC San Diego facilities, including the prestigious Stuart Collection, which culminated in a welcome cocktail at RidgeWalk Social. Participants formally introduced themselves, exchanged ideas and perspectives on the challenges of the relationship, and discussed the program's goals.

### **Distinguished Guests:**

- **Christopher Teal**, Consul General of the United States in Tijuana
- **Juan Carlos Rivas**, Director of Public Relations and External Affairs, Cross Border Xpress
- **Rafael Fernández de Castro**, Director, UC San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies
- **Catheryn Camacho**, Associate Director, UC San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies



## **Tuesday, August 19, 2025**

### **Sessions at UC San Diego**

In-person classes at UCSD were designed to provide participants with the opportunity to personally experience the nuances of the themes explored in previous weeks. Through discussion groups, participants explored in detail the issues most important to them—whether professionally or personally.

## Morning Sessions:

### Welcome Address

- **Catheryn Camacho**, Associate Director, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

### Mexico-U.S. Relations: Reflections on the Bilateral Relationship

- **Rafael Fernández de Castro**, Director, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies



This session provided strategic insights into the current state and future trajectory of bilateral relations, with particular attention to the new political context in both countries

### Contemporary Migration: Return Flows from the United States to Mexico "*Desafíos, Respuestas Políticas y la Búsqueda de un Retorno Digno*"

- **Guadalupe Chavez**, Fellow, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies
- This session examined the complex dynamics of return migration, policy responses, and the pursuit of dignified reintegration

## Afternoon Sessions:

### Working Groups

- **Guadalupe Chavez**, Fellow, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies
- Participants engaged in small-group discussions on key bilateral topics, developing collaborative recommendations

**Networking Opportunities** The afternoon included structured networking time at Dirty Birds on campus, allowing participants to build informal connections with peers and faculty.

## Wednesday, August 20, 2025

### San Diego Field Trip

This immersive field experience provided participants with direct exposure to cross-border infrastructure, humanitarian organizations, and binational philanthropy.

## Cross Border Xpress (CBX): A Model of Regional Integration

- **Jorge Goytortúa**, CEO, Cross Border Xpress



The visit to CBX provided invaluable insights into innovative cross-border infrastructure. Key takeaways included:

1. **Infrastructure Innovation:** CBX represents a groundbreaking approach to border infrastructure, demonstrating the potential for creative solutions in cross-border mobility.
2. **Economic Impact:** The project facilitates smoother travel between the two countries, boosting tourism and business interactions in the border region.
3. **Bilateral Collaboration:** CBX stands as a testament to the power of U.S.-Mexico cooperation, showcasing how private sector initiatives can complement governmental efforts in strengthening bilateral ties.
4. **Regional Development:** The success of CBX highlights the unique dynamics of the border region and its potential for innovative development projects.

### Meeting with Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Participants engaged directly with CBP officials to understand:

- Border security operations and protocols
- The balance between security and facilitation of legitimate travel
- Challenges and opportunities in binational cooperation
- The human dimension of border management

## Educational Value:

- **Real-world Application:** The CBX visit provided a tangible example of how bilateral cooperation manifests in practical, impactful projects
- **Role of the Private Sector:** Participants observed firsthand the crucial role that private enterprises play in shaping and enhancing U.S.-Mexico relations
- **Innovation in Practice:** The project demonstrated how innovative thinking can address complex cross-border challenges
- **Multifaceted Impact:** Participants analyzed how a single project can have wide-ranging effects on economics, diplomacy, and regional development



## Visit to Catholic Charities of San Diego and Imperial Counties

This visit provided profound insights into humanitarian work along the border. Catholic Charities offers critical support services to migrants and asylum seekers, including:

- Emergency shelter and basic necessities
- Legal orientation and assistance
- Family reunification support
- Case management and social services

Participants witnessed firsthand the compassionate response to migration challenges and the vital role of civil society organizations in addressing humanitarian needs.



### **Binational Philanthropy Session**

- **Leticia Martínez**, Vice President of Philanthropy, International Community Foundation

This session explored:

- The role of philanthropy in strengthening cross-border communities
- Innovative approaches to binational charitable giving
- How philanthropic initiatives complement governmental efforts
- Success stories of cross-border social impact projects

### **Thursday, August 21, 2025**

#### **Global Context Sessions**

##### **China and the Importance of Its Growing Economy**

- **Lei Guang**, So Family Executive Director of the 21st Century China Center, GPS UC San Diego

This session provided critical context on:

- China's economic rise and its implications for North America

- The U.S.-China relationship and its impact on U.S.-Mexico relations
- Opportunities and challenges for Mexico in the context of U.S.-China competition
- Nearshoring opportunities arising from supply chain restructuring

### India and North America

- **Achyuta Adhvaryu**, Director of the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy India Center

Participants explored:

- India's growing economic and geopolitical importance
- Emerging trilateral dynamics between India, the U.S., and Mexico
- Trade and investment opportunities
- India's role in the Indo-Pacific strategy and its relevance to the Western Hemisphere

### Feminization of Migration and Its Impact on Mexican Foreign Policy

- **Amb. Alicia Kerber**, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego



As part of our comprehensive program on U.S.-Mexico relations, participants had the privilege of engaging with Ambassador Alicia Kerber. These sessions provided valuable insights into consular diplomacy and critical contemporary issues.

### Topics addressed:

1. **Consular Diplomacy:** Amb. Kerber shared her expertise on the nuances and importance of consular work in international relations, providing participants with first-hand knowledge about the day-to-day operations of a consulate and the strategic importance of consular work in maintaining and strengthening bilateral relations.
2. **Feminization of Migration:** This critical session examined how migration patterns are increasingly characterized by women and children, the specific vulnerabilities and needs of female migrants, policy implications for both countries, and the consular response to evolving migration dynamics.
3. **Gender Equity in Diplomacy:** The session focused on the role and representation of women in diplomatic services, particularly within the context of U.S.-Mexico relations.

Amb. Kerber provided her perspective on the current state of gender representation in diplomatic circles and the importance of inclusive practices.

**Educational Value:**

1. **Real-World Diplomacy:** Participants gained insights into diplomatic practices from an experienced professional, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical application.
2. **Gender Awareness:** The session raised awareness about gender issues in international relations and migration, encouraging participants to consider these factors in their future careers.
3. **Critical Thinking:** Participants were challenged to reflect on the importance of inclusive practices in diplomacy and bilateral relations.
4. **Networking Opportunity:** Interaction with a high-ranking diplomat provided valuable connections and potential mentorship opportunities for participants interested in diplomatic careers.



**San Diego-Tijuana 2030 Outlook**

- **Christopher Teal**, Consul General of the United States in Tijuana

Consul General Teal provided a forward-looking perspective on:

- The future of the binational mega-region
- Economic integration and development opportunities
- Security cooperation challenges and initiatives
- The role of U.S. diplomatic presence in fostering regional prosperity

## Certificate Ceremony and Closing Reception

The program concluded with a formal certificate ceremony at the Malamud Room, featuring distinguished guests:

- **Rafael Fernández de Castro**, Director, UC San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies
- **Farid Hannan Goyri**, Director General de Asuntos Económicos, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
- **Christopher Teal**, Consul General of the United States in Tijuana
- **Jorge Goytortúa**, CEO, Cross Border Xpress

The ceremony was followed by a farewell cocktail at the Deutz Room, providing a final opportunity for networking and reflection on the week's experiences.



**Friday, August 22, 2025**

**Tijuana Field Visit**

This immersive experience allowed participants to develop a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics at play along the southern border, as well as the broader context of bilateral ties and domestic political factors shaping these issues.

### **Border Crossing Experience**

Participants experienced the border crossing process firsthand, gaining direct insight into the daily reality of cross-border movement and the administrative and security procedures involved.

**Össur Manufacturing Facility Tour** *Location: Blvd. Licenciado Héctor Terán Terán, Residencial, Cañón del Padre, Tijuana*

The visit to Össur, a global leader in prosthetics and orthotics manufacturing, provided exceptional insights into:

- **Nearshoring in Practice:** Participants observed firsthand how global companies are leveraging Mexico's manufacturing capabilities and proximity to U.S. markets
- **Advanced Manufacturing:** The facility showcases cutting-edge medical device manufacturing, demonstrating Mexico's capacity for high-value production
- **Cross-Border Supply Chains:** Understanding how materials, components, and finished products flow across the border
- **Quality and Innovation:** Witnessing world-class manufacturing standards and continuous innovation in Tijuana

### **Educational Value:**

- Real-world example of successful nearshoring
- Understanding of Mexico's competitive advantages in manufacturing
- Insights into the employment and skill development opportunities created by foreign investment
- Tangible demonstration of economic integration benefits



**Visit to IOM Shelter: Comunidad AVES Initiative** (*Acompañamiento, Valores, Educación y Salud - Accompaniment, Values, Education, and Health*) *Location: Pichilingue 5894, Herrera, Tijuana*

Participants visited the International Organization for Migration (IOM) shelter, which provides comprehensive support to migrants. This visit was particularly impactful on a personal level, offering participants a human perspective on migration issues.

## Services Observed:

- Emergency shelter and accommodation
- Medical and psychological support
- Educational programs and skill development
- Legal orientation and assistance
- Family support services
- Reintegration preparation



## Key Insights:

Participants witnessed first-hand:

- The harsh realities faced by migrants in transit
- The tireless work performed by international organizations and NGOs along the border
- The complexity of migration flows and diverse migrant profiles
- The critical role of humanitarian assistance in protecting vulnerable populations
- Opportunities for more effective binational cooperation on migration management

## Impact on Participants:

These experiences were particularly impactful, providing:

- **Comprehensive Understanding:** A multi-faceted view of migration issues, combining policy, enforcement, and humanitarian aspects
- **Empathy Development:** Direct interaction with migrants and shelter workers fostered a sense of empathy and personal connection to the issues studied
- **Critical Thinking:** Participants were challenged to reconcile theoretical knowledge with real-world situations, enhancing their critical thinking skills
- **Networking:** Interactions with IOM officials and shelter workers provided valuable connections in the field of migration and humanitarian assistance
- **Inspiration for Future Work:** Many participants reported feeling inspired to pursue careers or further studies related to migration and bilateral relations

**Tijuana Innovadora Conference** *Location: Paseo de los Héroes 10093, Zona Urbana Rio Tijuana, Tijuana*

- **José Galicot**, Founder, Tijuana Innovadora



The final session explored:

- Tijuana's transformation into an innovation hub
- Entrepreneurship and startup ecosystems in the border region
- The role of innovation in regional economic development
- Opportunities for binational collaboration in technology and innovation
- Success stories of companies and entrepreneurs driving change in Tijuana

**Educational Value:**

1. **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:** Understanding how innovation and entrepreneurship are flourishing in the border region
2. **Regional Economic Development:** Insights into how innovation contributes to economic growth and job creation
3. **Cross-Border Collaboration:** Examples of successful binational partnerships in technology and innovation
4. **Future Opportunities:** Identification of sectors and initiatives with high potential for growth

The immersive field experience in Tijuana stands as a cornerstone of our summer seminar program. By providing direct exposure to the realities of border dynamics, migration processes, humanitarian efforts, manufacturing excellence, and innovation ecosystems, we offer our participants an unparalleled opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S.-Mexico relations.

This hands-on experience complements the academic components of the program, ensuring that participants gain not just theoretical knowledge, but also practical insights and personal connections to the issues at hand. Such immersive learning experiences are crucial in developing the next generation of informed and empathetic leaders in U.S.-Mexico relations.

## 5. FEEDBACK AND RESULTS

### Analysis of Expected Outcomes

Based on participant evaluations collected at the conclusion of the 2025 program, we present the following analysis of key outcomes:

#### 1. Enhanced Understanding: 100% Agreement

The seminar successfully allowed participants to develop a comprehensive understanding of the functioning and dynamics of U.S. political institutions, including the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the role of different branches of government.

##### Survey Results:

- Participants who agreed that "the seminar objectives were fully met": 70.6% (Completely agree)
- Additional agreement: 29.4% (Combined agree/partially agree)
- **Total positive response: 100%**

The enhanced use of interactive technology and real-time discussions contributed significantly to this outcome, with participants reporting deeper engagement with complex institutional topics.

#### 2. Strengthened Bilateral Relations: 88% Agreement

The program continues to foster stronger diplomatic ties between Mexico and the U.S. This year marked important progress in several areas:

##### Key Achievements:

- Participation from newly elected governments in both countries
- Enhanced representation from Mexico's historic administration
- Continued engagement with U.S. Consul General and diplomatic officials
- Integration of perspectives from international organizations

##### Survey Results:

- Participants reporting expanded professional networks (Mexico and U.S.): **88.2%**

**Ongoing Challenges:** Despite significant progress, we continue working to increase the number of U.S. government officials participating in the program. This year's strategic initiatives included:

- First-time formal attendance of U.S. congressional staff in online sessions
- Enhanced coordination with U.S. Embassy for participant recruitment
- Expanded engagement with U.S. diplomatic presence in the border region

**Looking Ahead:** We are developing targeted outreach programs to attract more U.S. government officials from various agencies, implementing new strategies to facilitate more meaningful interactions between U.S. and Mexican participants, including:

- Structured networking events
- Collaborative projects
- Follow-up programs to maintain connections after the seminar concludes

### **3. Improved Policy Formulation: 88% Agreement**

The seminar achieved a strong agreement rate on improved policy-making capabilities.

#### **Survey Results:**

- Participants reporting increased productivity in their work: **88.2%**

This high score reflects the program's ability to provide Mexican officials with a comprehensive understanding of U.S. political institutions. Participants gained valuable insights into:

- Policy development processes
- Legislative procedures
- Effective governance strategies
- Comparative policy analysis between both countries

This knowledge is crucial for making informed decisions in policy formulation, particularly in areas that intersect with U.S.-Mexico relations.

### **4. Cross-Cultural Exchange: 82% Agreement**

The seminar scored an impressive agreement rate in fostering cross-cultural understanding.

#### **Survey Results:**

- Participants reporting improved opinion of the U.S. government: **82.4%**

- Increase in familiarity with U.S. culture: **+0.70 points** (from 3.59 to 4.29 on a 5-point scale)

This demonstrates the seminar's success in creating a platform for meaningful interaction between Mexican officials and their U.S. counterparts, including government officials, academics, and experts. The high score suggests that participants effectively engaged in sharing experiences and understanding different perspectives, fostering mutual respect and cultural appreciation.

This aspect of the program is vital for building long-term collaborative relationships that extend beyond the seminar itself.

### **5. Networking Opportunities: 88% Agreement**

This remains one of the most outstanding achievements of the seminar.

#### **Survey Results:**

- Participants reporting expanded professional networks: **88.2%**

This exceptional result highlights the program's excellence in facilitating valuable connections between Mexican government officials and U.S. government officials, academics, and experts. These networking opportunities are likely to lead to:

- Future collaborations
- Knowledge sharing
- Exchange programs
- Long-term professional relationships

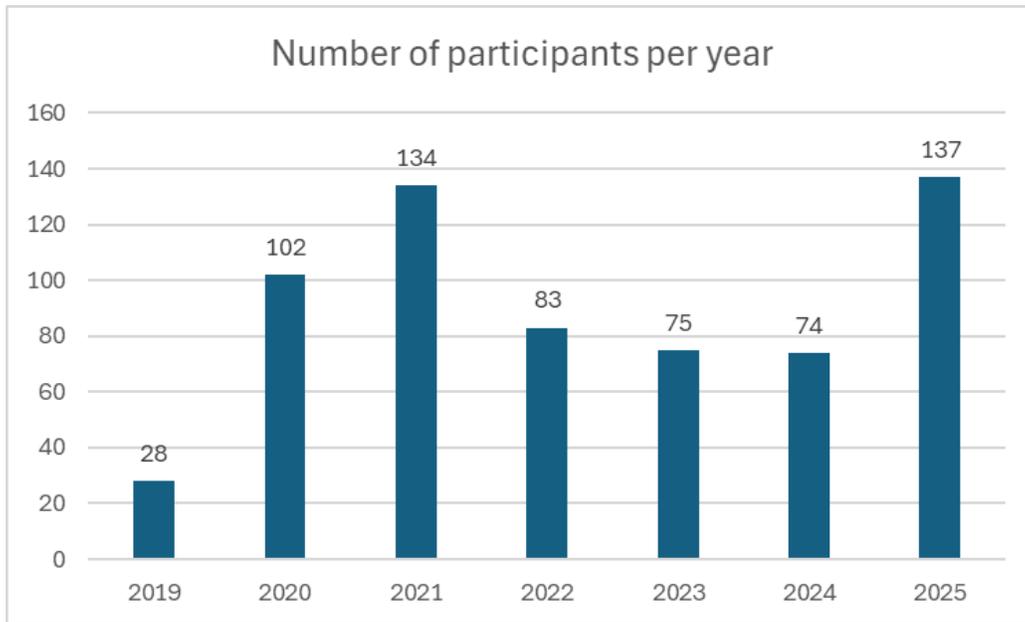
The structured networking activities throughout the week—from the welcome cocktail to working groups to the farewell reception—provided multiple touchpoints for building meaningful connections.

### **6. Alumni Network: Continued Growth and Engagement**

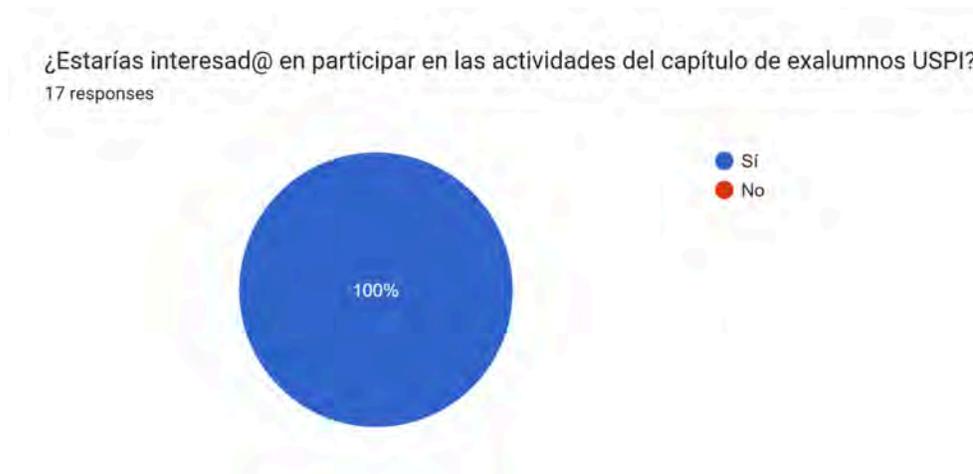
The alumni network continues to show strong results with sustained participation and engagement.

#### **Network Growth:**

- Total alumni 2019-2024: 496 professionals
- 2025 cohort: 137 new members
- **Total alumni network: 633 professionals**



**Geographic Distribution:** Alumni chapters have been established in diverse states and regions, facilitating ongoing collaboration and support. Survey results indicate strong interest in continued participation:



**Ongoing Initiatives:**

- Annual meetings, both virtual and in-person
- Distinguished alumni serving as panelists and mentors in future seminars
- Regional chapter activities and networking events
- Online collaboration platforms for continuous engagement

The initiative to involve distinguished alumni as panelists and mentors in future seminars is particularly noteworthy, as it enhances the program's depth and relevance while providing valuable mentorship opportunities for new participants.

## Overall Program Satisfaction

The 2025 Summer Seminar achieved outstanding results across all evaluation metrics:

### 1. Overall Program Satisfaction: 100% Excellent

An outstanding **100%** of participants rated the program as excellent, demonstrating the high level of quality and relevance that the seminar provided. This represents a continued standard of excellence from the previous year.



### 2. Expectation Fulfillment: 100%

A remarkable **100%** of participants reported that the seminar met or exceeded their expectations, up from 95.7% in 2024. This significant improvement reflects USMEX's commitment to listening to feedback and making meaningful changes to enhance the program's impact.

### 3. Achievement of Program Objectives: 100%

A combined **100%** of participants felt that the seminar met its objectives:

- **70.6%** completely agreed that objectives were fully achieved

- **29.4%** agreed or partially agreed that the program successfully met its goals

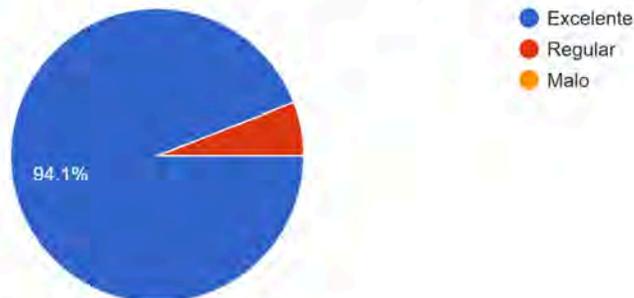
#### 4. Faculty Evaluation: 94% Excellent

The faculty received near-unanimous praise:

- **94.1%** of participants gave an excellent evaluation
- **5.9%** gave a regular

¿Cuál es la evaluación que otorgarías a la facultad de profesores que participó en el Seminario?

17 responses



The 2025 USPI Summer Seminar successfully advanced cross-border understanding of U.S. political institutions, engaging a diverse cohort of public officials, academics, and professionals. The program strengthened institutional ties, fostered policy dialogue, and reinforced USMEX's role in promoting informed, evidence-based collaboration between Mexico and the United States.