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
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)).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host family stipend</td>
<td>$400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meal Plan</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>OSU IDs</td>
<td>$17</td>
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<td>Colvin Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom fees</td>
<td>$66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$154</td>
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<td>Cater meals (Welcome and Farewell Dinners)</td>
<td>$90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<td>Museum Fees</td>
<td>$36</td>
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<td>OSU Gift Sack</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub total</td>
<td>$1,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS&amp;O, Office &amp; Extension fees</td>
<td>$318</td>
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<tr>
<td>English course</td>
<td>$160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic seminars</td>
<td>$160</td>
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<td>Sub total</td>
<td>$700</td>
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**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.
Program Model

Week 1
Introduction & Intercultural Competence

Week 2 & 3
OCCE Experience

Week 4
Technology in Agriculture

Weekend Cultural Activities
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

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.
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 hometown
• 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**

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

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

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How do you rate the program’s time length?

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

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

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

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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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Jorge.Atiles@okstate.edu
Questions?
Preguntas
疑問
Interrogatoire
Befragung
استجواب
Interrogatório