

UC San Diego

UC San Diego News Center

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‘Recapturing the Mexico Moment’

UC San Diego’s Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies to host diverse lineup for Mexico Moving Forward symposium



The March 2014 Mexico Moving Forward event featured (l to r) Janet Napolitano, University of California president; Pradeep K. Khosla, UC San Diego chancellor; Peter Cowhey, Global Policy and Strategy dean; and Antonio Ortiz-Mena, head of the Office of Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico. Photos courtesy of the School of Global Policy and Strategy

The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego presents a diverse lineup of policy, scholars and community leaders for its annual symposium, Mexico Moving Forward. Called “Recapturing the Mexico Moment,” this year’s all-day event will be held Friday, Oct. 30, culminating in a Dia de los Muertos celebration with decorated altars and a live mariachi band.

Numerous high-level speakers will be attending this year's event, including Mexico's new minister of tourism, Enrique de la Madrid. Well-known TV and radio personality Leonardo Curzio will help set the tone of the symposium by providing insight on the political landscape. Claudio X. Gonzalez, president of the Mexicanos Primero nonprofit, will focus on the country's education reforms, and professor and social-media presence Jose "Pepe" Merino will discuss changes in civil society. De la Madrid is the keynote speaker for the gala dinner, held the evening prior at the new Cross-Border Xpress terminal linking San Diego and the Tijuana International Airport.



Dia de los Muertos celebration altar

"We look forward to welcoming all those interested in Mexico and the dynamic relationship between our two countries," said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. "UC San Diego is an integral part of the border region, and our Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies is leading the way in comprehensive, critical thinking on this important relationship. This year's Mexico Moving Forward will continue that tradition."

Additionally, a panel of industry leaders in journalism and media will meet to discuss the current climate of reporting on and in Mexico. Featured speakers include Alfredo Corchado of Dallas Morning News and author of "Midnight in Mexico," Dudley Althaus of The Wall Street Journal's Mexico City bureau, Nacha Cattan of Bloomberg, Carrie Kahn of National Public Radio, and Angela Kocherga of Cronkite News, Arizona PBS. The breakfast panel, which is open to media, will be moderated by Everard Meade, a former USMEX visiting fellow and current director of University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

USMEX is a research institute based at UC San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy. Since 1979, it has been the go-to source for extensive academic research on Mexico and United States-Mexico relations, informing the creation, implementation and evaluation of public policy. The center draws on its extensive and dynamic network to support a wide range of research and activities, showcased by Mexico Moving Forward.

"The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies has organized its keystone symposium on timely and relevant discussion about Mexico since 2011 in order to shape the dialogue between our two nations," said School of Global Policy and Strategy Dean Peter Cowhey. "This year, we chose to

update the analysis and understanding of the country's structural reforms as well as assess the continual transformation of its civil society.”

While the 2014 symposium addressed the anniversary of the North America Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, this year's symposium takes a constructive look at the previous three years in Mexico, coinciding with the first half of President Enrique Peña Nieto's presidency. Touted as a leader of the “Mexico Moment,” Peña Nieto has instead seen major challenges since taking office. With three years of his term remaining and a new set of congressional leaders taking office, USMEX and its collection of top thought leaders aim to highlight positive developments and opportunities for reclaiming the national moment, important for our binational relationship.



Live mariachi music will close this year's Mexico Moving Forward.

“Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico relationship is especially important to the UC San Diego community because of our border,” said Melissa Floca, USMEX interim director. “We create the agenda each year for this event with the aim of curating conversations that synthesize a wide variety of themes into constructive and approachable discussions for students, faculty and the wider cross-border community.”

The Friday, Oct. 30 lineup consists of three panel discussions, open to the public: “Recapturing the Mexico Moment” will address political, social and economic challenges and opportunities, “The Progress and Pitfalls of Structural Reforms” will give a unique rundown on what has – and hasn't – worked regarding the country's groundbreaking reforms, and lastly, “Transforming Mexico” will bring key, innovative social leaders together in one room to focus on what is possible for the future. Welcome remarks from Dean Cowhey will take place at 10 a.m. and the event closes at 5 p.m.

Sponsors for this year's symposium include Sempra Energy, SIMNSA Health Plan, the Smart Border Coalition, Duty Free Americas (UETA), the Mexican Consulate of San Diego and Grupo Loponti.

View the complete list of [invited speakers](#) and [register](#) to attend the Oct. 30 event. Alternately, each session will be live streaming on the [Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies](#) and [School of Global Policy and Strategy](#) websites. Follow and participate on Twitter with [#MexicoMovingForward](#) and [#RecapturingTheMexicoMoment](#).

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