

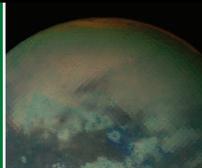
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LETTERS

edited by Jennifer Sills

Immigration Law Jeopardizes University Collaboration

RECENTLY, THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE PASSED AN AGGRESSIVE IMMIGRATION law requiring that local police ask individuals for proof of citizenship or immigration status if there is reasonable suspicion that they are in the United States illegally. We believe that this law increases the likelihood of race-based inquiry by police and the possibility that individuals will be treated differently solely because of their appearance. The consequences of this law can be profound.

The passage of the law has led to similar apprehension in Mexican institutions of higher learning. Many Mexican faculty and students have expressed serious concerns about traveling to Arizona to work on collaborative projects. Four Mexican universities so far have also canceled or placed on hold programs that required Mexican students to attend Arizona universities (1). Sadly, this means that innovative collaborative programs in fields such as medicine, toxicology, and biotechnology, as well as a binational economic development initiative (Advanced Technology Transfer Program) aimed at increasing the quality of life of citizens of Mexico and Arizona, are now in jeopardy.

The faculty and students that comprise an educational community, whether on a single university campus or across international borders, represent a social model built upon diversity of culture, ethnicity, and ideas. Indeed, institutions of higher learning exist to educate and enlighten our population precisely so that practices such as racial stereotyping are recognized as destructive forces that are contrary to basic principles of human dignity. As faculty and students of



Unintended consequences. Concerns about Arizona's new law have led Mexican universities to cancel collaborative programs.

Mexico and the universities of the state of Arizona, we must continue to work hard to celebrate the richness of the diversity of our border, work across fiscal and cultural boundaries, and strive to better our ways of life. We will continue to work in a collaborative spirit, which is the hallmark of all great societies.

JOSÉ ANTONIO DE LA PEÑA,¹ MEREDITH HAY,²
CARLOS ARÁMBURO DE LA HOZ,³ JOAQUIN RUIZ^{4*}

¹Deputy Director General for Science, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, México D.F., 03940, México. ²Executive Vice President/Provost, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA. ³Coordinator of Scientific Research, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Circuito de la Investigación Científica S/N, Ciudad Universitaria, México D.F., 04510, México. ⁴Executive Dean of the Colleges of Letters, Arts and Science, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA.

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: jruij@email.arizona.edu

Note

1. Canceled programs include a mobility program for bachelors of arts students at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, a Technology Transfer summer program at the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, all collaboration programs at the Universidad de Guanajuato (UG), and all collaboration Programs at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí.

Graduate Education: The Future Is Now

AS CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION on the Future of Graduate Education, we appreciated J. Mervis's detailed News of the Week story on the Commission's report, *The Path Forward: The Future of Graduate Education in the United States* ("Report seeks expansion in a time of belt-tightening," 7 May, p. 678). We would like to address the issue it raised about the timing of the report's recommendations.

It is clear that the United States faces serious fiscal challenges. The Obama Administration has begun to address reducing the federal deficit, which will help ensure our

long-term prosperity. Every effort must be made to spend public dollars wisely, focusing on those investments that will yield enhanced productivity in the future.

The Commission's recommendations are designed to be an integral part of a national innovation strategy to ensure that the United States will have the intellectual leadership, along with the innovative technology, necessary to be successful in the 21st century global economy. A central theme of the Commission's report is how graduate education plays an essential role in strengthening our national competitiveness and innovation capacity, especially given the projected 17 to 18% increases over the next decade in the number of jobs

requiring a doctoral or master's degree (1).

Our proposed investment of \$10 billion over the next 5 years for a graduate education training initiative will yield substantial benefits to our country in the future. We must be—and we are—ready with a plan that charts a path forward.

WILLIAM B. RUSSEL^{1*} AND SUZANNE ORTEGA²

¹Dean of the Graduate School, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA. ²Executive Vice President and Provost, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA.

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: wbrussel@princeton.edu

Reference

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment projections: 2008–2018 summary" (2009); www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm.

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