
Message from the President



September 11, 2006

To the OSU Campus,

I believe the historic opening of Oklahoma State University liaison offices in Puebla, Mexico, last week will lead to life-changing opportunities for students and economic benefits for both our countries. I am confident that we have the partners and the commitment to succeed.

OSU, which has students on campus from nearly 120 countries, has a long and rich international legacy, including connections with Mexico. Those ties will only get stronger with the opening of offices on the campuses of two outstanding Mexico universities -- the Universidad de las Americas (UDLA), a private university in a beautiful setting that in many ways reminds me of our campus, and the Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP), an influential urban public college.

We are delighted that one of our own, Jose Sagarnaga, a native of Mexico who earned a master's of science degree in international studies at OSU, will be running our liaison offices. He has hit the ground running and is quickly building strong relationships in Puebla.

OSU already has student presence in Puebla, which should begin to grow. For students from all three schools, this exciting partnership will expand their learning experience and career opportunities. Beyond the obvious benefits for those in international studies, this partnership will open doors for students in business, engineering, architecture, hotel and restaurant management, and many other disciplines.

The other benefit of this union is the opportunity for business exchanges as the Hispanic population grows in our country and our state, and the economy becomes even more global. In addition, we have the opportunity to improve technology transfer, which generates jobs and produces economic development. The potential extends across the OSU System. Our technical training in the auto industry at OSU-Okmulgee and our technical Spanish translation and interpretation program at OSU-Oklahoma City are just two examples.

America has a special relationship with Mexico that will only grow in significance in the years ahead. This forward-looking partnership with two outstanding Mexico universities will serve our school and Oklahoma well...

I want to send special congratulations to Donna Branson, who has won a prestigious national Homeland Security Award for the body armor she and her team developed. Donna is a shining example of the vast research and teaching talent we have at OSU...

OSU employees should have received information this morning regarding changes and increases the state is making in health care coverage for 2007. You will be receiving more details soon and I encourage every employee to review this information thoroughly so you can make the best health care decisions for you and your family...

Our Cowboy football team is off to a 2-0 start and I hope you will consider attending this Saturday's game at Boone Pickens Stadium. There are exciting new game-day activities for the whole family, and for students, don't forget it is Dad's Day...

In closing, as we observe the five-year anniversary of 9/11 today, we should all take a moment to honor those who perished at the hands of terrorists and reflect on the freedoms we enjoy in our great nation...

David Schmidly