



ASU North American Center
for Transborder Studies
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



ASU North American Center
for Transborder Studies
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The NACTS Challenge:
From Thinking About Borders to
Responding to the Multi-
Bordered Realities of North
America

April 2007



The Complex & Extraordinary Dynamics of Our Border Regions

- Our borders present a unique set of challenges & opportunities. They are increasingly interactive & interdependent environments. They are the context for economic expansion but also the breeding ground for dispute and conflicts. That is why it is so relevant to take a proactive stance in terms of their development.
- A tri-national, holistic perspective is missing: an interdisciplinary research alliance for policy-oriented border studies, anchored in our communities.
- NACTS and our partner institutions can and should fill the void in research.



The Creation of NACTS: Not an isolated event

- NACTS fits into ASU's expanding engagement in international affairs.
- It is representative of ASU's and President Michael Crow's conviction that one must think regionally in order to compete globally; that our future is inextricably linked to the collective fate of our region. It embodies a global vision with a regional approach.
- It also reflects ASU's commitment to the relationship between the U.S., Mexico and Canada. It is in our best interest that research be shared with policy makers affecting the safety and prosperity of our transnational society.



ASU's Commitments

- Excellence
- Inclusiveness
- Interdisciplinary approaches
- Innovation in the learning process
- Engagement with community
 - Global vision
- Building bridges & links
- Thinking regionally to compete globally



In Arizona, the relevance of *Thinking Regionally is Obvious.*

- Mexico & Canada purchased 33% of Arizona's exports in 2003; by 2005, it reached 43%
- Mexico in particular represents by far the largest export market for Arizona:
 - 1/3 of its total exports in 2005; almost 50% high-tech goods (primarily electronics)
 - 17th exporter state in the U.S., but 3rd to Mexico



NACTS Emphasizes:

- The need to better understand the forces that are shaping the future of the United States, Canada, and Mexico
- The need to help configure non-partisan policy options to deal with those forces and challenges, in a way that best serves us all.
- The recognition that an inter- and trans-disciplinary approach to research and representation of findings is more apt to speak to a broad audience in our constituencies.



NACTS

NACTS brings together multi-disciplinary research faculty and sponsored project teams from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to collaborate with local communities and the public and private sectors to:

- provide quantitative and qualitative data, research analyses and multiple perspectives for greater understanding of border issues in North America & the unique challenges associated with border regions;
- develop innovative theory, public policy, and practices related to border issues;
- contribute a global perspective of border regions and issues to the larger discourse on border & transborder interests.



KEY Roles for NACTS

Bottom line: How to contribute to improve competitiveness and quality of life for the North American region.

1. **Build & strengthen links**
2. **Create consciousness on shared interests.**
3. **Face the growing gaps that affect us all, across issues.**
4. **Find win-win opportunities and common ground for joint gains.**
5. **Deal with tradeoffs: security and human rights vs. economic efficiency**
6. **Take advantage of best practices from other border regions globally**
7. **Re-think “sovereignty” & “border”; for example, regarding the environment and transportation issues.**



NACTS Advisory Board Members

- The NACTS Advisory Board is a gateway to key constituencies:
 - Academic
 - Corporate
 - Philanthropic
- The NACTS Advisory Board represents accordingly, its key geographic constituencies:
 - Phoenix & and the Greater Arizona Area
 - Canada, the U.S. & Mexico
 - Faculty researcher representation from CA, U.S., and Mex.
 - Senatorial Partners



The NACTS Advisory Board

- **Phoenix/Arizona:** Amb. Hattie Babbitt, Raul Yzaguirre, Glenn Williamson, Raul “Rudy” Bustamante, Bonsal Glascock
- **Canada, US, & Mexico:** Alfonso Aguilar (Chief, US Citiz. & Immigr. Services Office of Citizenship), Rafael Fernández de Castro (Editor Foreign Affairs & Founder & Head of Intl. Studies Dept. at ITAM), Robert Pastor (VP Intl. Affairs & Dir. Center N.A. Studies, American Univ.), Amb. Andrés Rozental (Founding Pres., COMEXI), Christine Frechette (Pres., N. Amer. Forum), Carlos Cruz (Pres., Innov. & Inst. Dev. ITESM), Javier Treviño (VP of Cemex), Aaron Shtabsky (Shtabsky & Tussman), Thomas Skancke (CEO Innovative Communication Groups)
- **Faculty Researchers:** Carlos Vélez-Ibáñez (ASU), Rodolfo Cruz (Colef/Tijuana), Daniel Drache (York U/Toronto)
- **Senatorial Partners** from U.S., Canadian and Mexican Senates



Initial Partner Institutions

- El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Colef)
- Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)
- Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)
- Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM)
- University of Alberta, Edmonton
- York University, Toronto



NACTS: Sample Policy Areas

- **Immigration & Migrant Experience**
 - **Transportation & Logistics**
- **Environment, Climate & Sustainability**
 - **Health & Quality of Life**
- **Social & Cultural Issues of Border Regions**



NACTS First Research Initiatives

1. **Transportation Initiative**
2. **Border Health Interstate Collaboration**
3. **North American Research Fund Initiative**
4. **Building North America University Curriculum Infusion Project**
5. **Migration Narratives Research & Publications Cluster**
6. **Research Affiliate Seed Grants**



Educational Initiatives and Partnerships

- NACTS Canada Fulbright Scholar at ASU
- NACTS Fellows—opportunities for visiting scholarships and sabbaticals at our center
- Student exchange programs to be developed
- Building North America curriculum infusion



NACTS Website & Quarterly Report

<http://asu.edu/nacts>

NACTS Quarterly Report

- Yearly four-issue volumes with thematic emphases
- Brief essays by Canadian, Mexican & U.S. scholars & business leaders on themes of relevance to selected border issue
- Summaries of research and business perspectives for use by decision & policy makers
- Original source materials for more detailed information. Links to web sources and documents of relevant & recent interest.



North American Center for Transborder Studies

Slides Prepared by:

Raul Rodríguez Barocio: rdzr@asu.edu, Amira de la Garza:
delagarza@asu.edu, Stephen Blank: stebblank@gmail.com

April 2007