

PARTNERS FOR PROSPERITY

Business leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States will find much to interest them in a meeting to be held April 28 to 30, 1996 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The **Third General Meeting on Higher Education, Research and Training Collaboration in North America**, with *Partners for Prosperity* as its title, will draw business more closely into a process of consultation and joint planning with decision-makers from higher education, non-governmental organizations, foundations and governments in a process that will benefit all partners.

Business executives will describe their need for cutting-edge research and for employees with an international perspective to their counterparts from universities, colleges and governments in three countries. In return, they will be updated on fast-developing relations across higher education institutions in North America and on emerging best practices in education and training, research and community development. Most important, they will help advance an agenda which will benefit both the producers and the users of knowledge and knowledge-workers into the 21st century.

In a global economy where understanding the culture of trading partners, upgrading the workforce and incorporating new discoveries and technologies into corporate practice are essential for success, business and higher education are natural partners. The Minister of Foreign Affairs,

the Honourable André Ouellet, calls this a "privileged area of Canadian foreign policy" since it deals with the human dimension and implications of North American economic integration.

Conference Highlights

The interconnections between advanced education and training, research and its transfer to the economy, business success and community development will be featured at the conference.

The program will consider **policies** of governments, institutions and associations which support economic, social and cultural connections across North America, innovative **practices** which increase collaboration across sectors and countries, and **proposals** for further cooperative action.

The agenda will allow invited participants to hear outstanding experts from the three countries in plenary sessions, to engage in round table discussions, to learn from case studies and poster sessions, and to plan future international collaboration in workshops.

Topics include uses of new technologies in work and study, the role of research councils, professional certification and program accreditation across borders, the expansion of co-op programs and distance learning, and R&D in relation to the needs

of communities and small businesses.

Task Force Developments

The North American Task Force on Higher Education Collaboration, comprised of academic, business, foundation and government leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States was inaugurated at Wingspread, Wisconsin in September 1992 and organized a second conference in September 1993 at Vancouver where 300 participants identified priorities for strategic partnerships.

Subsequently, nine Working Groups have advanced trilateral collaboration in such areas as distance learning, student and faculty mobility, portability of credentials and business-higher education liaisons.

For example, a Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education, recently announced and supported by governments of the three countries, will involve more than 200 Canadian students and faculty in academic and work exchanges over three years.

Work is proceeding to create a business-higher education forum in Mexico which will be well positioned to collaborate with similar organizations in Canada and the United States on matters of

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Partners for Prosperity*



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