



San Antonio Program Connects Mexican Nationals and Immigrants with Educational Opportunities

IDRA and the Mexican Consulate in San Antonio Begin New Partnership

San Antonio, July 2, 2019 — IDRA and the Consulate of Mexico in San Antonio announce a new partnership to help Mexican and Mexican American families navigate the U.S. education system and learn about important educational opportunities in both countries. The program, called the *Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa* (VOE) and created by the Institute of Mexicans Abroad of the Government of Mexico, provides information on the civil rights of immigrant and English learner students, local educational services, and resources on how to access and succeed in college. VOE also disseminates information on educational opportunities offered by the Mexican government for nationals abroad and develops various courses for immigrant parents.

“We are proud to work with such a proactive and community-oriented Mexican Consulate that understands that all students deserve equal educational opportunity,” said IDRA President & CEO Celina Moreno. “IDRA is committed to building family leadership in education, because we know that when families have the key information they need, they not only take steps for their own children, they support other families as well.”

Examples of services and information the VOE provide include:

- How to approach U.S. K-12 and higher educational institutions;
- How to apply for financial aid in the United States (including FAFSA and TAFSA);
- Information regarding resources for adult and community education in Spanish
- Opportunities to continue studying if you return to Mexico;
- The rights of immigrant students to attend public school;
- The rights of English learners to an equal educational opportunity; and
- Online educational opportunities in Mexico for students in the United States.

“We started the VOE program last year with great results and now we are truly thrilled for this partnership with IDRA that certainly will broaden access to education resources and opportunities in benefit to our community: youngsters and parents alike. The message is clear: if you want to continue your education, there are always options, you just need to have the right information at hand, and that is what we do at VOE,” said Lluvia Ponce, Consul for Community Affairs at the Consulate of Mexico in San Antonio. “We want to empower the Mexican and Mexican American community through education and in order to do so, we need to start by acknowledging the power of informed decision making in our future.”

The VOE offers services at no cost and welcomes walk-ins at the Consulate of Mexico in San Antonio (127 Navarro Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205). It operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For more on IDRA’s VOE program, contact Dr. Nilka Avilés at nilka.aviles@idra.org, or at the Consulate of Mexico contact Lluvia Ponce at lponce@sre.gob.mx.

Media contact: Christie Goodman, APR, IDRA Director of Communications, christie.goodman@idra.org, 210-444-1710

[Intercultural Development Research Association](#) is an independent, non-profit organization, led by Celina Moreno, J.D. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.



SRE
CONSULADO GENERAL
DE MÉXICO EN SAN ANTONIO

Children First
IDRA
Transforming Education



Programa en San Antonio Conecta a Mexicanos Nacionales e Inmigrantes a Oportunidades Educativas

IDRA y el Consulado Mexicano en San Antonio comienzan una nueva alianza

San Antonio, Julio 2, 2019 — IDRA y el Consulado General de México en San Antonio anuncian una nueva alianza para ayudar a las familias mexicanas y mexicoamericanas a navegar el sistema educativo de los Estados Unidos, e informarse sobre importantes oportunidades educativas en ambos países. El programa, denominado *Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa* (VOE) y creado por el Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior del Gobierno de México, proporciona información sobre los derechos civiles de los estudiantes inmigrantes y aquellos que están aprendiendo inglés, servicios educativos locales y recursos sobre cómo avanzar y tener éxito en la universidad. La VOE también difunde información sobre oportunidades educativas ofrecidas por el gobierno mexicano para nacionales en el extranjero y desarrolla varios cursos para padres inmigrantes.

“Estamos orgullosos de trabajar con un Consulado Mexicano proactivo y orientado a la comunidad que entiende que todos los estudiantes merecen la misma oportunidad educativa”, dijo la Presidenta y CEO de IDRA, Celina Moreno. “IDRA se compromete a contribuir al liderazgo familiar en la educación, porque sabemos que cuando las familias tienen la información necesaria, no solo toman medidas positivas para sus propios hijos, sino que también apoyan a otras familias”.

Ejemplos de servicios e información que VOE proporciona incluyen:

- Cómo abordar escuelas K-12 e instituciones de educación superior en los E.U.;
- Cómo solicitar ayuda financiera en los Estados Unidos (incluidas FAFSA y TAFSA);
- Información sobre recursos para adultos y educación comunitaria en español;
- Oportunidades para seguir estudiando si regresa a México;
- Derechos de estudiantes inmigrantes a asistir a las escuelas públicas;
- Derechos de estudiantes de inglés a una oportunidad educativa igualitaria; y
- Oportunidades educativas en línea en México para estudiantes en los Estados Unidos.

“Comenzamos el programa VOE el año pasado con excelentes resultados y ahora estamos realmente emocionados por esta alianza con IDRA que sin duda ampliará el acceso a los recursos educativos y las oportunidades en beneficio de nuestra comunidad: jóvenes y padres por igual. El mensaje es claro: si desea continuar su educación, siempre hay opciones, solo necesita tener la información correcta a la mano, y eso es lo que hacemos en VOE,” dijo Lluvia Ponce, Cónsul para Asuntos Comunitarios del Consulado de México en San Antonio. “Queremos empoderar a la comunidad mexicana y mexicoamericana a través de la educación y, para hacerlo, debemos comenzar por reconocer el poder de tomar decisiones informadas para nuestro futuro.”

La VOE ofrece servicios sin costo y les da la bienvenida a personas sin cita en el Consulado General de México en San Antonio (127 Navarro Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205). La VOE opera los martes y jueves de 9:00 a.m. a 11:30 a.m.

Para más información sobre el programa VOE de IDRA, comuníquese con Dr. Nilka Avilés at nilka.aviles@idra.org, o en el Consulado de México contacte a Lluvia Ponce al lponce@sre.gob.mx.

Media contact: Christie Goodman, APR, IDRA Director of Communications, christie.goodman@idra.org, 210-444-1710

[Intercultural Development Research Association](#) is an independent, non-profit organization, led by Celina Moreno, J.D. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.