
April 22-27, 2019

The week of April 22-27, the U.S.-Mexico 360 program trip with **ACYPL** was held, with 15 decision-makers from Washington, D.C. We had the opportunity to talk and exchange ideas with personalities from the public and private sectors, as well as with Civil Organizations that are related to bilateral issues.

On Monday 22, we met with Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia, we had a brief talk about the trip, the expectations of the participants and topics of interest to them.

On this trip we had the opportunity to meet and talk with many women who are changing paradigms in Mexico, and who have been gradually opening the way so that in the not too distant future, the participation of women in all areas is comparable to that of men. Some of them are: Amy Glover (Speyside Mexico), Valeria Moy (Mexico, ¿como vamos?), Maria Ariza (BIVA) and Maribel Quiroga (Cerveceros de México).

Other important meetings were with the Ex-Secretary and Ex-Candidate for the Presidency, José Antonio Meade, the Ex-Ambassador of the USA in Mexico, Tony Garza, Carlos Salazar of the CCE; Mario Chacón and Julián Escutia (MoFA), Ken Smith (TMEC), Moisés Kalach (Kaltex Group) and Pablo González (Kimberly Clark México).

It has become a tradition to go with Yolcán to visit Xochimilco and its Chinampas, something that most of the participants had never experienced. We had a Tequila tasting (Volcan de mi Tierra) in Casa Volcán, a beer tasting in Fiebre de Malta and we visited the National Palace and Bellas Artes.

We met two successful cases of Americans in Mexico: the first is Dan DeFossey, his restaurant "El Pinche Gringo", has become an iconic place within Mexico City; in addition, he employs people who have been deported from E.U.A. On the other hand, we met Leni Álvarez, from Hola Code, a company dedicated to training deportees, returnees and migrants, in coding. After 5 months of intensive training, they help them find a job, which sometimes pays them up to 10x what they earned before.

An experience that we all enjoyed very much was going to Iztapalapa and meet Mario Najera, from Laboratorio Social (Colectivo Calavera). Seeing the work they do to help young people get out of vices and work to have a better future is inspiring.

To close the trip, the group visited the plant of Audi in the city of Puebla. They also had the opportunity to attend a soccer match between Club Puebla and the Tigres de Monterrey, we also had a talk with representatives of the government of Puebla and we learned a lot about the history of the state.