
March 25-30, 2019

The trip to Mexico City of the first U.S.-Mexico 360 delegation with **Meridian International Center**, was held from March 25th to March 30th. 15 participants from different organizations in Washington, D.C. had the opportunity to dialogue and exchange ideas with people from public and private sector and civil organizations of Mexico.

The trip kicked off with a meeting with Ambassador, Martha Bárcena at the Mexican Embassy in D.C. She wished us luck and congratulated on the new program. Some highlight meetings during our stay in Mexico City were with Carlos Heredia (CIDE), Emilio Cadena (Prodensa and Member of the Board USMF), Marcelo Ebrard (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ifigenia Martínez (Senator), Antonio del Valle (CMN) and Felipe Fuentes Barrera (Chair President TEPJF).

In addition to these important meetings, we took several cultural tours in order to see another side of Mexico. Yolcán took us on a boat ride in Xochimilco and their Chinampas, this was a new experience to most of the participants; as well, we visited Casa Volcán for Tequila Tasting (Volcán de mi Tierra), and we had the chance to take a tour around Palacio Nacional and the Senate building. While in the Senate, we witnessed the ratification of the consuls proposed for various offices in the U.S.A. and we had a pleasant conversation with Senator Ifigenia Martínez, to whom we thank the invitation.

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 and in addition he employs people who have been deported from the US. 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.

In order to have a different perspective on the Mexico-U.S. relation, we talked with Javier Risco, journalist and Co-host of the program "Así las Cosas" by WRadio. It was very pleasant to share ideas with him, and to understand the way of seeing things in the bilateral relationship from the journalism point of view, since most of the time we focus on commercial and security perspectives. To end our trip, we visited Rassini's Plant in Puebla, a town 2 hours away from Mexico City. Rassini is one of the most important companies in autopart production in Mexico and the US.