

**100,000 Strong in the Americas**

# **Transborder Incubator for Journalism**

**Arizona State University and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México  
Jan. - Aug. 2023**



**Who we are**

**The Transborder Incubator for Journalism is a project-based, cross-disciplinary, high-impact exchange that creates sustaining partnerships between journalism students while exposing them to experts, dynamics, and opportunities on both sides of the border.**

## How we did it

- 1. Biweekly, 90-minute sessions covering subject expertise (e.g. binational politics) and journalistic skills (e.g. reporting using government documents)**
- 2. An ambitious roster of guest speakers from both countries**
- 3. Team-based work, dividing students into working groups covering topics including: the environment, health, sports, culture and identity, and technology**
- 4. One week-long reporting trip to Arizona, including visits to the Arizona Republic, the International Boundary Water Commission, the City of Nogales, the Mexican Consulate in Phoenix, and with officials like the Mayor of Nogales, Congressman Greg Stanton, Consul Jorge Yescas, and Nikki Finnemann (strategic engagement coordinator for North America, U.S. Department of State).**
- 5. One week-long trip to Mexico City, including visits to the U.S. embassy, local newsrooms, the historic city center and an in-person public event**

# Lessons learned

## 1. Identifying the right partner:

- a. Find a partner that complements your strengths and has strong staff/institutional buy-in
- b. Build off existing relationships, find people with lots of energy!

## 2. Developing proposal:

- a. Spend lots of time on your monitoring and evaluation standards - are they measurable?
- b. Establish a well-defined plan of work, have larger brainstorming sessions; assign one person principally in charge of proposal development
- c. Think about your allies beyond your partner in both countries

## 3. What worked well

- a. Taking advantage of both schools' networks
- b. Working in small groups/teams
- c. Projects with community impact
- d. Communication with Partners of the Americas and State Department teams.

## 4. Lessons learned:

- a. Build up a large team of staff stakeholders
- b. Integrate normal class sessions with connected COIL sessions
- c. Approach supplemental funders early
- d. Clearly assign roles in all stages of project
- e. Tell your story!











# Thank you!

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**ITam**

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