

Protection through Integration:

The Mexican Government's Efforts to Aid Migrants in the United States

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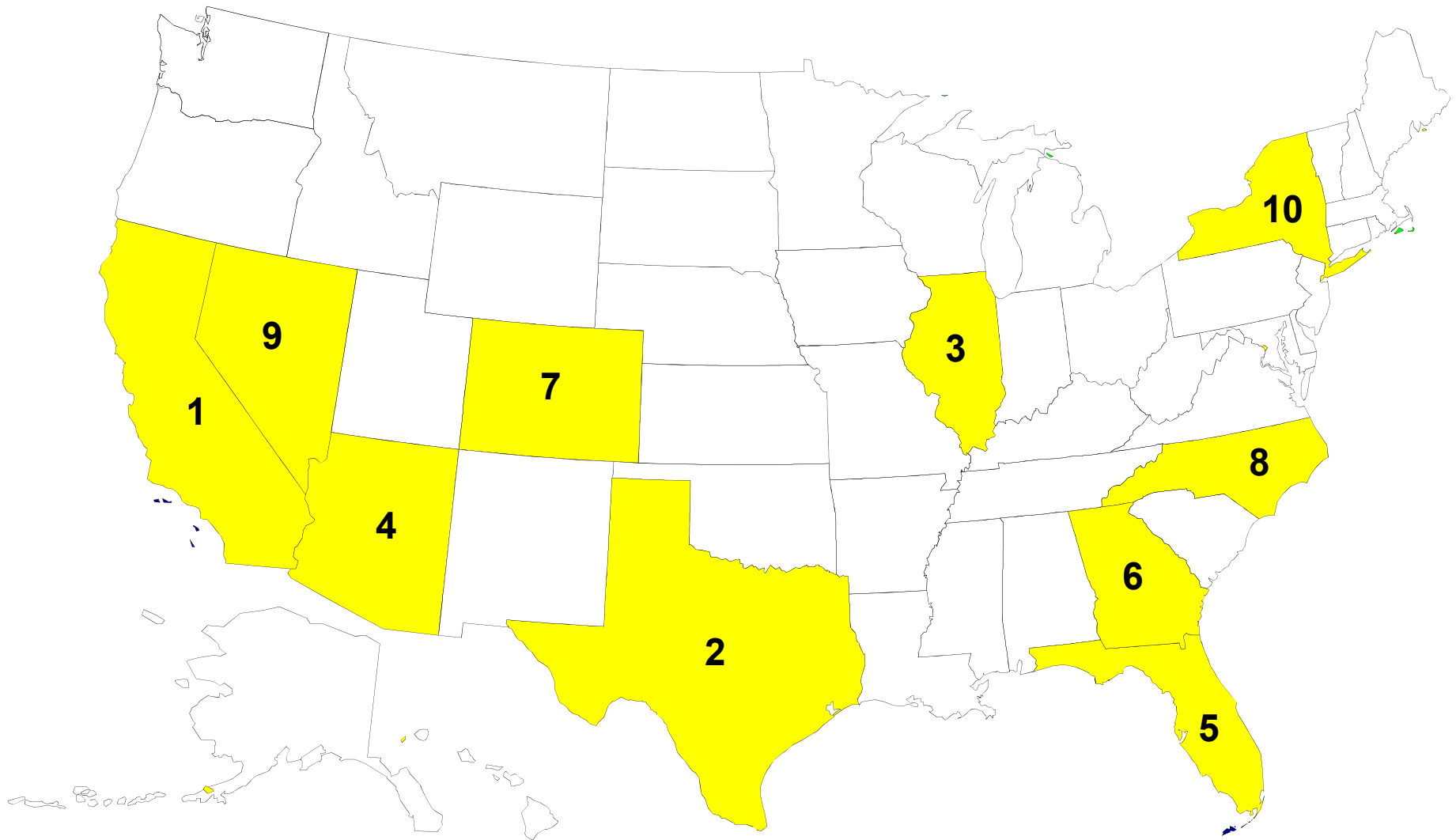
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Today's Presentation

- **Profile of Mexican immigrants**
- **Role and function of Mexican consular officials**
- **Structure of IME**
- **Overview of IME programs**
 - **Civic engagement**
 - **Health care**
 - **Financial literacy**
 - **Education**

Top 10 States of Residence for the Mexican-born

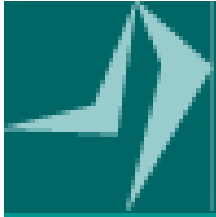


Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.

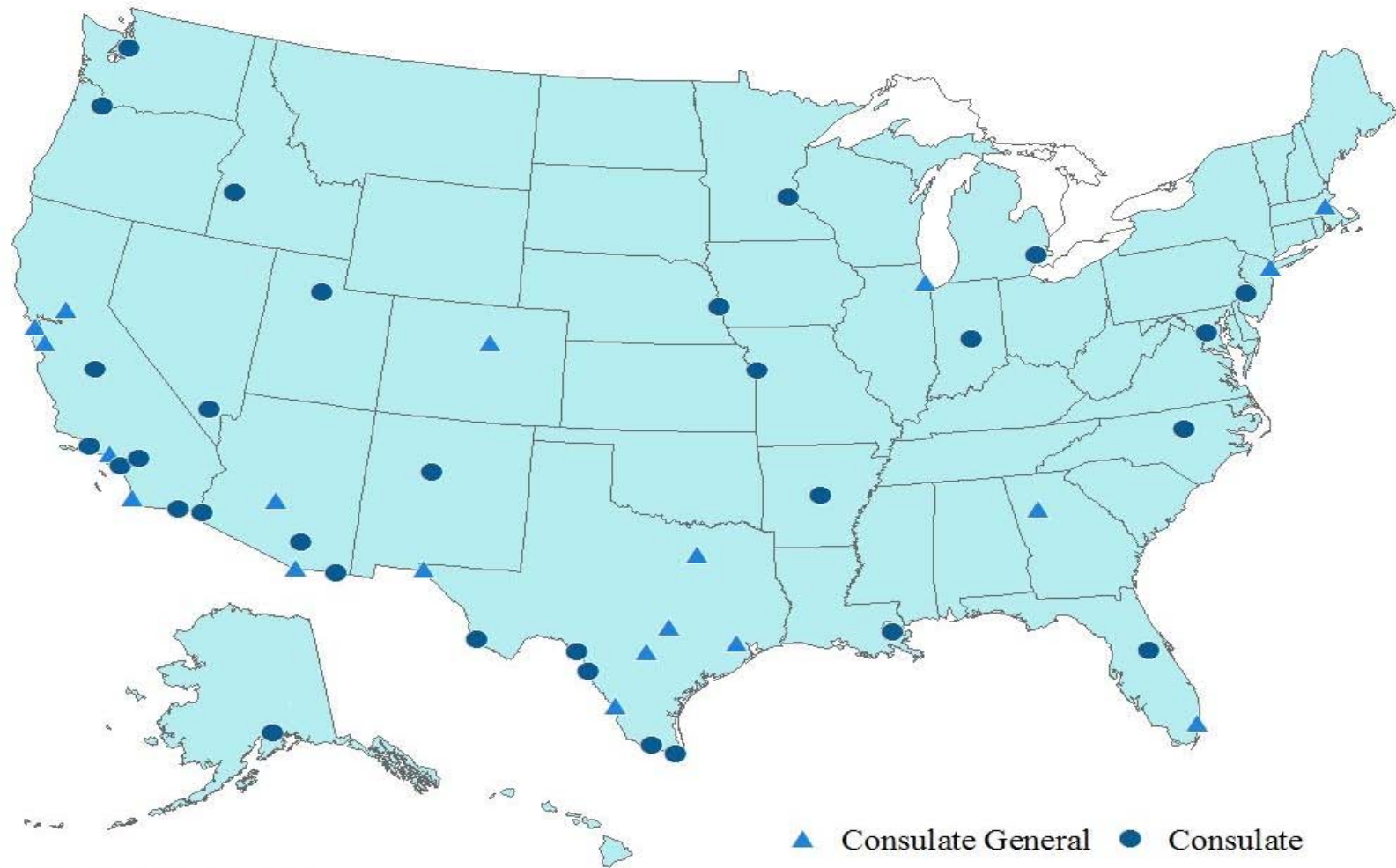


New Realities Drive Relationship

- **Legalization of 3 million unauthorized immigrants through IRCA**
- **Emigrant influence in Mexican politics**
- **The need to protect emigrants from anti-immigrant sentiment**
- **The need to maintain an economic connection**
- **Establishment of a structure that could benefit Mexican interests**

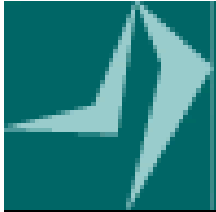


Mexican Consular Offices in the United States



Map created by N. Prchal Svajlenka

Source: Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2009.



IME Integration Programs

Focus	Program
Civic Engagement	Mexican Migrant Advisory Council
	Migrant-Focused Conferences
Education	Binational Teacher Exchanges
	Textbook Distribution for Migrant Children
	On-site Continuing Adult Education: <i>Plazas Comunitarias</i>
	Continuing Adult Education: Distance Learning
	Grants: <i>IME Becas</i>
Health Care	Binational Health Week
	On-site consular health stations: <i>Ventanillas de Salud</i>
Financial	Formal Banking
	Entrepreneurial Talent Network



Mexican Migrant Advisory Council

- **Migrant-led, elected advisory board**
- **Issues migrant-focused recommendations to the Mexican government**
- **Subject areas: health, political issues, legal matters, education, media, business, the economy, and border affairs**
- **Seeks to build leadership within the diaspora**



Consular Health Stations

Offices or kiosks within consulates that serve as a gateway to local health care services. Services include:

- **Providing local health care referrals**
- **Enrolling eligible adults and children in public health programs**
- **Distributing relevant health information**



Formal Banking & Financial Literacy

- **Promote banking and access to financial services**
- **Disseminate information about low-cost remittance alternatives**
- **Support programs that give remittances additional value**
- **Organize programs that leverage the knowledge and experience of entrepreneurial migrants**



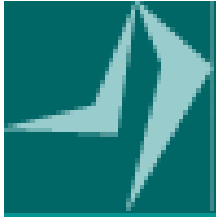
Why focus on education?

- ***Socio-economic mobility:*** There is a strong relationship between the educational and labor market outcomes of parents and children.
- ***Changing US labor demand:*** Half of all new jobs over 2008-18 will require a post-secondary credential.
- ***New communities:*** Dispersion of Mexicans throughout the United States.



Education Challenges

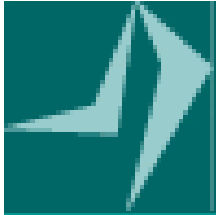
- ***Low English proficiency:*** 43% of children and 77% of Mexican-born adults are LEP.
- ***Low educational attainment:*** 62% of Mexican born (age 25+) lack a high school diploma or GED.
- ***High residential mobility:*** About 1.6 million Mexican elementary and secondary students have studied in the US (about 9% of all students).



US and Mexico education systems

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13+
US	Elementary School					Middle School			High School				Post-secondary
	Primaria					Secundaria			Media superior: Profesional técnico (vocational track)		Educación superior		
Mexico	Primaria					Secundaria			Media superior: Bachillerato (academic track)		Educación superior		

Note: Red box indicates that schooling is obligatory.



IME's Education Work

- *Helping mobile students succeed in school.*
- *Building capacity in new communities.*
- *Promoting post-secondary and adult education.*



Helping mobile students succeed in school

- **Binational Migrant Education Program**
- **Binational Student Transfer Document**
- **Short-term teacher exchanges**



Building K-12 capacity in new communities

- **Long-term teacher exchanges**
- **Spanish language textbook distribution**



Promoting post-secondary and adult education

- **Satellite campuses of Mexican universities**
- **Credential translation and alignment**
- **Community learning centers (Plazas comunitarias)**
- **Distance upper-secondary education (bachillerato a distancia)**
- **Vocational training and career ladders**



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