

Focus on International Education: Drawing top STEM students from Mexico

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SUNY Broome has increased its international scope with a variety of new programs that draw students from abroad. This is the second in a weekly series of articles on the new programs. [For the first installment, on the CBYX Program, click here.](#) For the second installment, on the partnership with [La Fundación Universitaria Tecnológico Comfenalco, click here.](#)

Careers in STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – have a global appeal in an increasingly technological world. For one group of STEM students, prospects of working in a high-tech field have led them across international boundaries – and to the SUNY Broome campus.

The SEP – Becalos – Santander Universidades Program has drawn 10 students from five different technical universities in Mexico: Universidad Tecnológica de Saltillo, Universidad Tecnológica de Chihuahua, Universidad Tecnológica El Retoño, Universidad Politécnica de Cuautitlán Izcalli, and Universidad Politécnica de Santa Rosa Jáuregui

Applicants are among the best 300 students in Mexican technological and polytechnic universities. They spend one semester abroad, immersing themselves culturally and academically at an American college. In their home countries, the students are majoring in fields that include energy, metrology, industrial engineering, the industrial process, mechatronics and solar energy.

This is the program's first year at SUNY Broome, and plans are under way to expand it in the future. Dr. Alberto Miller, director of SUNY Broome's Department of International Education and Study Abroad programs, plans to visit each of the universities in Mexico to further develop ties.

The students – seven male and three female – are living in local apartments, said SUNY Broome's International Coordinator Claudia Beebe.

"This is the first time they have left home, and they're learning how to live," she explained.

It's an experience shared by many college students, regardless of nationality: fending for yourself, making your own food and doing your own laundry, as well as balancing studies with social interaction.

The students have already joined the International Student Organization and Lingonet, and also volunteer.

“They love to dance,” Beebe said. “They have a great time together.”



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