ANNEX VII TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EDUCATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Activities for 2002-2004

The Secretariat of Public Education of the United Mexican States (SEP) and the United States Department of Education (ED) express their wish to deepen and strengthen the working relationship established through the Memorandum of Understanding on Education of August 8 and 17, 1990, between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America. Pursuant to Articles 1 (B) and IV (B) of the cited Memorandum, both entities plan to undertake joint endeavors in the field of education during the period of 2002 through 2004 as described in this seventh Annex.

To strengthen joint activities that aim to improve primary, secondary, and postsecondary education in both countries, the two entities plan to continue to place emphasis on cooperation at the federal level and encourage joint activities at the state, local and institutional levels. While cooperation continues to be carried out according to the general principles laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding, the two entities intend to concentrate their cooperative work in the following areas of mutual interest.

The two entities intend to:

1. **General** – Cooperate in the improvement of schooling, particularly by sharing information on the development of effective or promising education programs that can serve as a foundation for a better educated population.

2. **Border Area** – Encourage educational projects developed along the border region in order to strengthen educational cooperation, with the goal of attaining a better understanding and coherent vision of the different aspects of the border zone.

3. **Special Education** – Continue to work on cooperation in the education of persons with disabilities at the federal, as well as state and local level. The theme of educational integration, or inclusion, has been a priority for both countries.

4. **Migrant Education** – Reinforce progress with regard to the transfer of elementary and secondary school transcript information by promoting the use of the U.S. – Mexico Binational Migrant Student Transfer Document as a technical pedagogical instrument that would facilitate the immediate school enrollment of migrant children; nevertheless, it would not be a requirement, as is the case with health, using the National Vaccination Card. In particular, encourage communication between state authorities in both countries, as well as promote access to basic education services for children and youth from both nations.

5. **Educational Technology** – Continue to support the exchange of experiences and materials regarding the application of technology in areas such as basic education, bilingual education, migrant education and professional development of teachers: give special attention to cooperation in distance learning; and continue to expand communication between schools in both countries through the use of electronic networks and on-line resources. In addition, promote the development of new educational technologies, the exchanges of experts in production and training with regard to educational television, and the exchange of information on distance education and educational television.

6. **Teacher Exchange and Development** – Explore innovative ways to enrich the professional development of teachers, including teacher exchanges, particularly in the areas of basic education, bilingual education, adult basic education an literacy, migrant education, special education and vocational-technical education. In addition, continue promoting the exchange of language teachers that takes place through the Mexico-U.S. Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange, expanding opportunities to strengthen the teaching of English as a second language in Mexico.

7. **Technical-Vocational Education** – Continue cooperation in the area of school to-work transition, examining the integration of academic standards and vocational-technical education and exchanging information on standards and procedures.

8. **Adult Education** – Continue and enhance existing cooperation in adult education and literacy, including recognizing the importance of workplace and family literacy, particularly in the border states.

9. **Postsecondary Technical Education** – Promote and strengthen cooperation between community colleges in the United States of America and Technological Universities in Mexico, for instruction at Level 5B of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), drawing on experiences and existing linkages with business and industry with regard to the exchange of teachers and students, business internships, and the development of learning materials.

10. **Language Acquisition** – Strengthen and deepen the work both countries have carried out in the areas of bilingual education and foreign language teaching (the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language in the United States and of English as a foreign language in Mexico), keeping in mind the importance of expanding mutual understanding of the two cultures.

11. **Higher Education** – Continue cooperation in higher education, particularly in the areas of academic mobility of professors and students and with respect to certification of academic programs, recognition of credits and information exchanges via telecommunications.

12. **Statistics and Indicators** – Cooperate in the development of educational statistics and indicators.

Both entities may determine to carry out other activities during the period of this Annex VII, consistent with Memorandum of Understanding on Education, such determinations to be made through an exchange of letters between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America.

Signed in Mexico City, on the twenty-fifth day of November in the year two thousand and two, in duplicate in the Spanish and English languages.

FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

Reyes Tamez Guerra
Secretary

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE GOVERNEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rod Paige
Secretary