



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

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### **NLGA ENTERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO STATE OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION**

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) entered an agreement of economic development cooperation with officials from Mexico, the third largest trading partner of the United States. Four lieutenant governors and three Mexico state economic development secretaries participated in the inaugural Economic Forum of the NLGA and the Association of Mexican State Economic Development Directors (AMSDE) February 8 – 10, 2013.

Under the cooperative agreement, the groups will work on issues and policy aimed to elevate the economic prosperity and opportunity of the states in both nations. “With the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the two associations will begin a program to promote best practices and to develop and increase state-to-state trade and economic development,” said NLGA Director Julia Hurst.

Hosted by New Mexico Lt. Governor John Sanchez, NLGA Chair Massachusetts Lt. Governor Tim Murray led the meeting with AMSDE Chair Colima Economic Development Secretary Juan Gutierrez. Other forum participants included the Minnesota lieutenant governor, the Arizona Secretary of State, and the Economic Development Secretaries of Hidalgo and Coahuila of Mexico.

At the Forum, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez detailed to the group specific efforts her state will engage in to grow trade with Mexico, while Mexico Consul Mauricio Ibarra pledged his support to grow the efforts.

“Mexico is a significant economic driver in the states and is positioned to grow,” said NLGA Director Julia Hurst. “HSBC forecasts Mexico will become the world's eighth largest economy by 2050 and several other forecasts indicate “nearshoring,” the trend of business to locate various economic processes in Mexico rather than Asia, will be a ‘game changer’ in the U.S. starting in 2013.”

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