

The Foreign Policy Association
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Mexican - U.S. Relations

**Scribed by Kylee Petritsch
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Alicia Kerber, who heads the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia, told the Foreign Policy Association on October 25 that Mexico has no intention of helping the United States build a wall along the border that separates the two countries.

It was the exact same message that FPA members received last May when they visited the Mexican Embassy in Washington, DC.

President Donald Trump promised in his 2016 campaign that the U.S. would build a wall to help stem the tide of illegal immigrants entering the country from Mexico and other Latin American countries. He also pledged to make Mexico pay for it.

Kerber said the wall is none of Mexico's business. She also took issue with Trump's claims that many of the illegals crossing the border were criminals.

"There's no evidence showing that immigrants are more or less likely than anybody else to commit a crime," she said.

She noted that between 1990 and 2014, when the number of undocumented immigrants tripled, violent crime in the U.S. fell by 48 percent.

Kerber also sought to debunk claims that immigrants from Mexico and elsewhere were stealing American jobs. She argued that 87 percent of the jobs lost between 2000 and 2010 was due to automation.

Kerber said Mexico was an important trading partner to the U.S., being the second largest market for U.S. exports.

Kerber said the recently renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was fair to all parties - the U.S. Mexico and Canada. The original agreement, signed in 1993, resulted in an increase in U.S. jobs linked to trade with Mexico from 700,000 to 4.9 million, she added.

Tourism is another important link between the two countries, Kerber said, noting that in 2016 alone, 19 million Mexicans visited the U.S.

"Mexico is a strong and valuable neighbor to the U.S., sharing the same values and working closely with the U.S. in promoting safety and security, Kerber said.

2018-2019 Program Topics / Schedule **All Events at the West Shore Country Club** **Except the International Fellows Reception**

- Nov. 28** Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and the West
4th Annual President's Speakers Series
Philip Mudd, former CIA and FBI official
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Dec. 13** International Fellows Reception
U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Jan. 24** Fight for Middle East Leadership:
Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey
- Feb. 27** Russia's War on Western Democracies
- March 28** Current State of Arms Control
- April 25** National Defense Strategy
- May 16** Japan and East Asia
- May ??** Embassy Trip, to be determined

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