



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2020

For inquiries, contact Ernesto Altamirano
Event and Fund Development Coordinator
(831) 915-6817 (Mobile)
ernesto@steinbeck.org

THE NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER SIGNS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN LOS CABOS, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

SALINAS, CA - On Monday, August 24th, National Steinbeck Center's Executive Director, Michele Speich, signed an **International Collaboration Agreement** with the General Director of the Technological Institute of Higher Education in Los Cabos, Adalberto Pérez Pérez, an educational institution that has been, since its foundation, an agent of change in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico.

This international partnership will introduce the new **Steinbeck Young Authors** curriculum from Steinbeck's *The Pearl* that is centered on community and culture. *"This new curriculum is a new approach that is based on a cultural wealth model and is designed to empower youth by focusing on their talents, strengths, and experiences. It presents a curriculum that incorporates the Arts, Social Studies, and Sciences. Testimonials from both teachers and students credit the enrichment experience provided by the program to the improvement in both literacy and confidence levels of students gained because of its educational curriculum"* said National Steinbeck Center's Executive Director, Michele Speich.

Adalberto Pérez Pérez, General Director of the Technological Institute of Higher Education in Los Cabos, mentioned that he is sure this International Collaboration Agreement will *"greatly benefit both institutions, our students and our teachers"*.

To date, the National Steinbeck Center's Award-winning **Steinbeck Young Authors Program (SYA)** has educated and inspired over 50,000 students (serving over 6,000 elementary, middle, and high school students annually). The SYA curriculum is aligned with Common Core State Standards: reading, responding and writing about complex texts, and honoring and publishing student work. Additionally, the NSC was the recipient of the 2019 Award of Merit from the California Association of Teachers of English for the SYA program, recognizing the outstanding dedication and extraordinary contributions toward the improvement of teaching English/Language Arts in California.

This international collaboration will include the following programs and activities, creating a partnership tailored to the needs of both cultural and educational institutions:

- The National Steinbeck Center's award-winning Steinbeck Young Authors Program will serve as the ideal teaching tool for ITES educators who will be able to activate their students'

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creativity through Steinbeck's works by incorporating NSC's curriculum guides throughout the school's educational programming.

- NSC will offer virtual talks by their Visiting Scholar, Dr. David Wrobel, and other NSC partners, that will open the eyes of ITES Los Cabos' students through global conversations on relevant topics, demonstrating the relevancy of Steinbeck's life and works in today's world.
- ITES students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual tours of the NSC's Museum and Archives, where they will learn about John Steinbeck's life through six themed galleries of artifacts, photos, movie clips, stage sets, and interactive exhibits.
- The NSC team will actively support the PALIAD Reading Program by being a part of the First International Reading Forum and future forums.
- Continued invitations to ITES Los Cabos educators to the Steinbeck Festival, as well as the National Steinbeck Center's special forums, with the purpose of sharing their teaching experiences of Steinbeck's works to a global audience.

This is only the beginning of the National Steinbeck Center's collaboration with ITES because, as John Steinbeck once said, "ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen."

To find out how you can also partner with the National Steinbeck Center's Educational Programs, please send us an email to: info@steinbeck.org.

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About the National Steinbeck Center: The National Steinbeck Center is a museum and 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in Salinas, CA that honors Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck. The National Steinbeck Center houses a variety of artifacts, first edition Steinbeck books, newspapers, and interviews pertaining to John Steinbeck in its archives. In addition, the National Steinbeck Center holds a variety of educational and public programs throughout the year, which aim to expand the public's knowledge about John Steinbeck and the themes he explored in his books.

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