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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



August Newsletter

It's been a busy summer at the Confluentcenter!

While campus has been quiet, we've been actively planning, creating, and laying the groundwork for an engaging year ahead.

Here is our summer recap!



Meet the Minds Shaping the Future of AI this Summer! 🧠 🌟

We're thrilled to introduce the inaugural recipients of the CCI Horizons – AI Summer Grant: nine

exceptional students whose innovative projects will explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence across disciplines.

This diverse cohort—made up of six graduate and three undergraduate students—represents a wide range of colleges and fields, including [Social & Behavioral Science](#), [Public Health](#), [Humanities](#), [Education](#), and [Management](#). 🎓

Their projects will unfold over the summer, examining AI’s evolving role in education, research, creative practice, and broader societal impact. The work will culminate in a public showcase during the upcoming academic year, so stay tuned for that announcement!

The CCI Horizons – AI Summer Grant reflects Confluentcenter’s commitment to bold, imaginative, and creative inquiry at the intersection of technology and the human experience. It supports students as they engage in intersectional thinking and pursue innovative, transdisciplinary exploration.

[Read more!](#)



Confluentcenter attends the 66th Arizona-Mexico Commission Summit

Held at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry and other UA colleagues joined binational leaders dedicated to advancing education, culture, and innovation across the Arizona-Sonora region.

[Dr. Javier Duran](#), Director of Confluentcenter, member of the [AMC Board of Directors](#), and Co-Chair of [AMC Education Committee](#), continued to help shape regional collaboration through creative inquiry and cross-border knowledge exchange. At the summit, he, along with binational committee members, explored the advances the commission has made and opened dialogue with attendees to continue the conversation on advancing binational education.

It was meaningful to connect with leaders from both Sonora, Mexico, and Arizona, strengthening the ties that fuel our shared commitment to education, innovation, and sustainable regional growth.



Episode 5: A Sociocultural & Forensic Anthropologist's Perspective

In this episode, we speak with sociocultural & forensic anthropologist, [Dr. Robin Reineke](#), about her binational research project, [Forensic Citizenship in the Borderlands](#) into the social and political responses to deaths and disappearances.

Tune in for an exploration through the lens of ethnographic research, as we unpack Dr. Reineke's powerful findings on death, disappearance, and social and political responses.

[The Voices of Fronteridades](#) podcast explores the intersection of borders and humanities. Through conversations with artists, scholars, activists, and community leaders, each episode uncovers how these individuals are reshaping our understanding of borders.

[Listen Here!](#)



Dismantling Borders Through Art, Advocacy, and Education

What happens when students cross classroom walls and step into communities shaped by migration, resilience, and creativity?

Through the Confluencer [Undergraduate Internship Program](#), UArizona students partnered with borderlands organizations to explore life at the U.S.-Mexico border—not through lectures, but lived experiences.

From creating a powerful mural in South Tucson to connecting with migrants in Nogales, our interns turned reflection into action and art into advocacy. Through hands-on internships, photovoice projects, and transformative collaborations, these students aren't just imagining a borderless world—they're helping build one.

👥 Want to see how they derrumban fronteras (break down borders)?

[Watch Video Here!](#)



Conflucnter Fellow and Staff Appreciation

We took a few moments this summer to appreciate our staff! We sent off our post doctoral fellow, Elizabeth Gaxiola (bottom left), as she completed her fellowship with us. She successfully co-led our Undergraduate Internship Program where she facilitated the *Derrumbando Fronteras* experiential learning activity. We truly appreciate the work she did during her time with us and look forward to what she does next.

We also awarded our Administrative Associate, Yazmin Vasquez (bottom right), for Dedication and Impact, honoring her unwavering commitment and for always going above and beyond in service to our mission. Since joining the Conflucnter in 2018, she's been the heart of our operations, bridging campus and community every step of the way.



Now that you are all caught up, make sure you stay up to date with us by following us on [social media](#), checking out our [Linktree](#), or visiting our [website](#)!

We are so thrilled to jump into the academic year as we prepare events, projects, and opportunities that will keep you engaged and connected throughout the semester!



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[Land Acknowledgment](#)

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.