



## North American Educational Initiatives Foundation

**Round 1: As an indigenous student living in Mexico, what do nationalism, patriotism, and solidarity mean in your personal, community, and historical context?**



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North American Educational Initiatives Foundation, Inc.

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# About this server

I am Gladiola Villegas Gómez, PhD.  
Today I speak before you not only  
as a university student, but as an  
Indigenous Nahuatl woman, born in  
and a resident of the Huasteca  
region of Hidalgo,  
Mexico—carrying with me the  
glorious memory of my ancestors,  
the voice of my community, and the  
responsibility of my generation



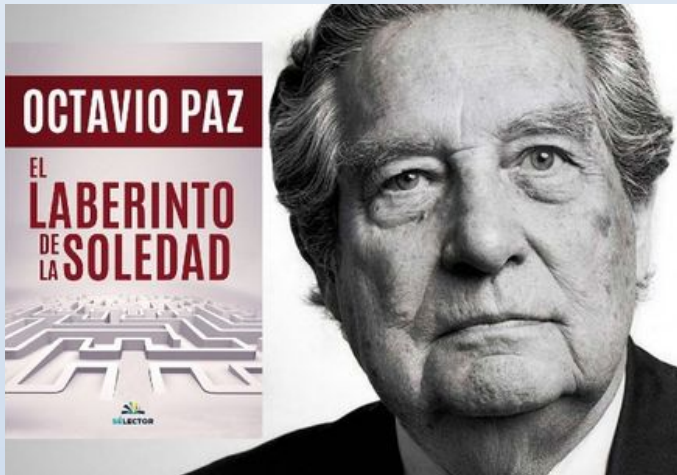
*Inspiring Education For All*

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# Rethinking Nationalism



- Mexican nationalism often centers on symbols.
- But who is included in the national narrative?



- Octavio Paz, 'The Labyrinth of Solitude':
- “The Mexican does not want to be either Indian or Spanish...”

- Nationalism must recognize

# Patriotism and Knowledge

**HAPPY MEXICAN**



*Independence Day!*

Patriotism is love for one's  
country.

But love requires:

Educational equity

Linguistic justice

Integration of community  
knowledge

Respect for Indigenous

epistemologies



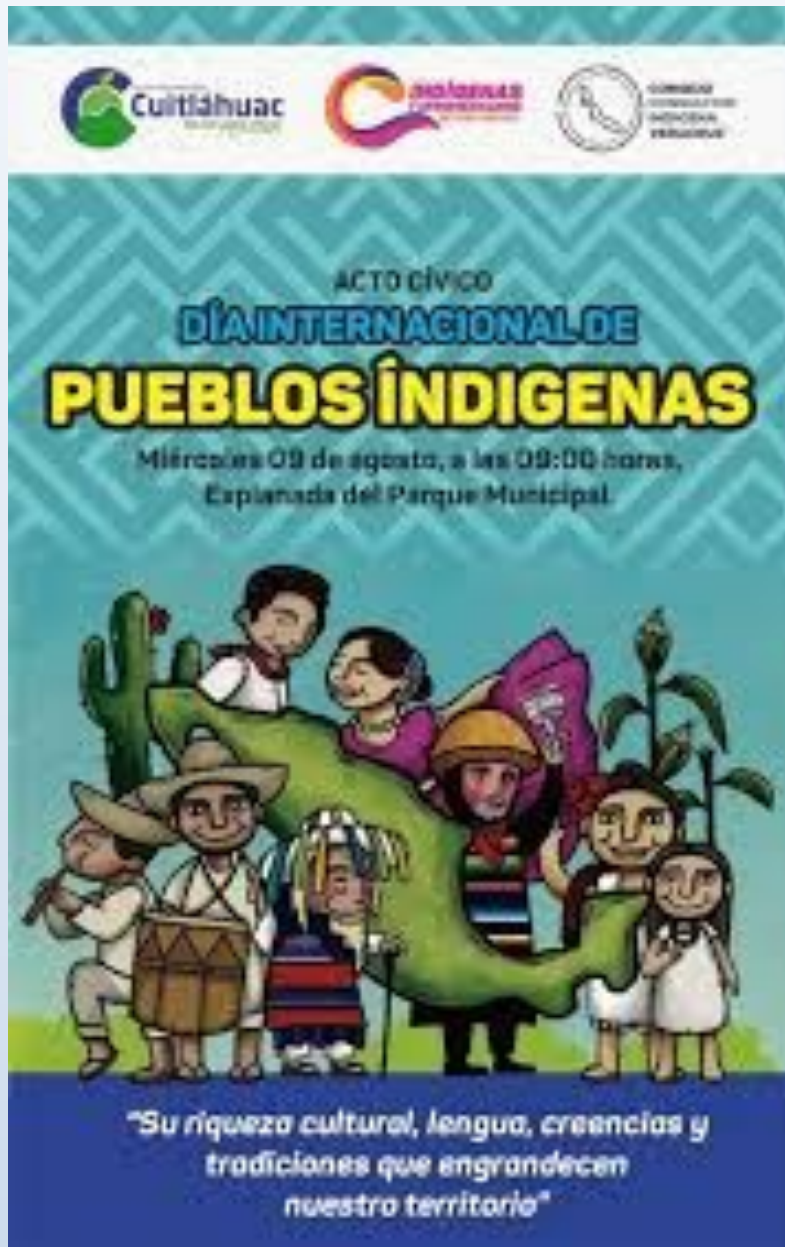
# Identity and Higher Education



- Indigenous students cross cultural borders.
- Identity is often socially policed.
- Racial ambiguity challenges rigid categories.
- Indigenous identity evolves — it does not disappear.

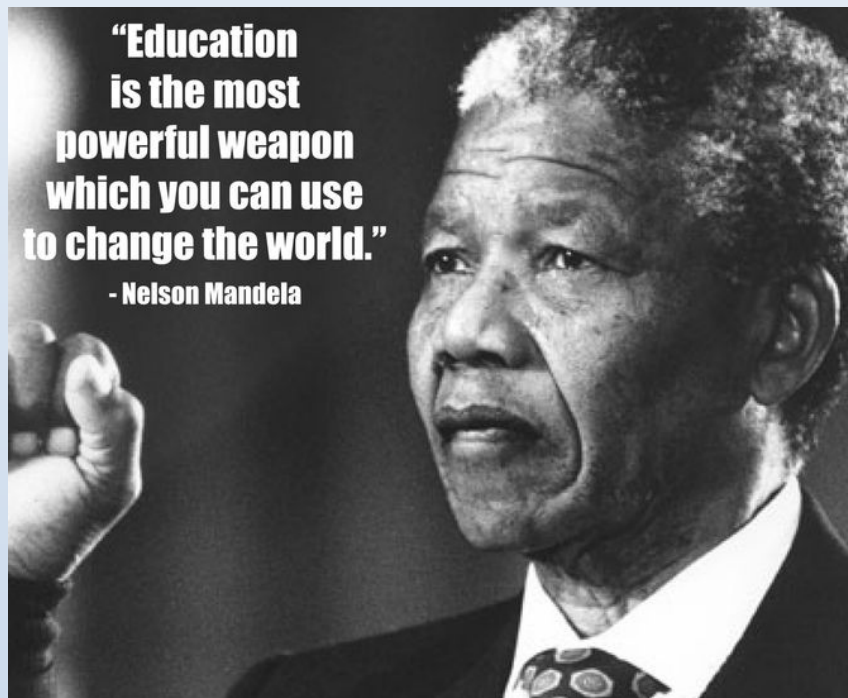


# We have advanced...!!!!



As Indigenous peoples,  
we have advanced, but  
we continue to fight so  
that our languages,  
cultures, and knowledge  
systems are not only  
accepted, but fully  
valued as essential parts  
of Mexico's past,

# The future of Mexico



The future of Mexico depends on transforming symbolic inclusion into structural equity through education—education that is firmly rooted in our communities, enriching our traditions while expanding our opportunities for development. As Nelson Mandela once said, education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change

# Indigenous Women in Mexico



I have always  
carried—and continue  
to carry—multiple  
responsibilities. I must  
succeed academically.



I must honor my  
origins. I must  
advocate for equity. I  
must build bridges  
between traditional

# Many thanks!

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