

Dr. Roger Norton, new Executive Director of the Office for Latin American Programs



Dr. Roger Norton is appointed as Executive Director of the Office for Latin American Programs at Texas A&M University, according to Dr. Emily Y. Ashworth, Executive Associate Vice President for International Programs. Dr. Norton is a senior economist, policy advisor and project team leader with experience in 46 countries. Specifically, Ashworth pointed out that he has worked in 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and has lived in Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama. He is fluent in Spanish and can also read Portuguese. Norton will begin his duties on June 8, 2009.

"We are pleased to have someone of Dr. Norton's expertise and experience in the Latin American region to join the International Programs," stated Ambassador Eric M. Bost (Ret.), Vice President for Global Initiatives at Texas A&M. "His international reputation, his knowledge of the educational, scientific, and development issues in the region, and his ability to work with governments, institutions and agencies will help to strengthen Texas A&M's ability to be the premier North American institution in engagement with Latin America."

Dr. Norton earned his bachelor's degree from Reed College in mathematics and economics and he holds a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University in economics. He has served as chief of party on multi-faceted USAID (United States Agency for International Development) policy reform projects in Honduras and El Salvador and has managed projects for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Dr. Norton has worked extensively in projects designed to enhance competitiveness and trade capacity and to increase productivity on small farms and reduce rural poverty, working with both public and private sectors. Norton also has extensive academic experience, having served as Professor of Economics at the University of New Mexico, Visiting Adjunct Professor of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University, and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Rome and Naples.

The Office of Latin American Programs serves to develop and strengthen Texas A&M's presence in the region to support academic units, faculty, and students in their interactions with Latin America, and to serve as a catalyst in developing strategic research, educational, and service programs with institutions in Latin America. In addition, the office coordinates the operations and activities of two centers in the region, the Texas A&M Mexico Center and the Soltis Center for Research and Education, a new facility located in the Monte Verde region of Costa Rica.