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Tuesday, April 29, 2008

UD Mercy law program will allow grads to practice in Mexico and U.S.

Kim Kozlowski / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- The University of Detroit Mercy Law School is creating a partnership today with a leading law school in Mexico to create the only known program that will offer students the education to practice law in the U.S. and Mexico and compete in a global economy.

The program launches in August with students studying at UDM for three years and an additional two years at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

"More clients are looking for investment opportunities in Latin America and in Mexico, and more and more clients from Latin America are looking for investment opportunities in the U.S.," said Mark Gordon, dean of the UDM law school. "In order to better serve those clients, firms want attorneys who have three things: people who are bilingual, bicultural and bilegal. And this is what will give them."

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Already the program is creating a buzz within prospective law school students across the country especially those in California and Texas, Gordon said.

It is also being hailed by law firms that are increasingly working with clients with business interests in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

"It establishes new precedence in this area," said Greg Marks, a partner with Greenberg Traurig, an international law firm in Miami, and UDM alum. "Now that the North American continent and (Mexico) are seamless in terms of trade and commerce, we need people who have these tool sets: People who can go from the U.S. into Mexico without missing a

heartbeat."

UDM already offers a program for students wanting education for the ability to practice in the U.S. and Canada. This program would also allow students to get the background to practice law in the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

"There is no place on the planet where you can get U.S., Canadian and Mexican law degrees," Gordon said. "Talk about hitting the NAFTA trifecta."

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