

**WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs**

A Program for the Western Hemisphere

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by World Learning.

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**Accompanied By:** Ms. Sylvia Coates,Ms. Nancy Hand, Ms. Inge Kirkland, and Mr. Tom West, Spanish Interpreters

**August 1 ‑ 19, 2016**

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PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

* Illustrate the essential role of non-governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting and empowering the development of women-owned businesses;
* Explore the role of women-owned businesses in driving economic development, democratization and stabilization around the world; and
* Highlight the social, economic and political factors that influence and encourage the development of private enterprise in the U.S.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Argentina Ms. Belen ALVAREZ TOLEDO**

Marketing Director, Endeavor Argentina

**Ms. Romina Laura GLERIA**

Secretary, Young Entrepreneurs Commission, CaCec-Foreign Trade Chamber of Cordoba

**Bolivia** **Ms. Shirley Monica CHUQUIMIA RIVEROS**

Coordinator, Program of Innovation and Competitive Development, Municipality of La Paz

**Ms. Nibeth MENA MAMANI**

Google Developers Group

**Chile**  **Ms. Maria Luisa IGAIMAN LADINO**

Coordinator, Nukeyen Mapuche

**Costa Rica** **Ms. Tracee AKENT MILLAR**

Director of Entrepreneurship, Association of Entrepreneurs and Professionals of African Descent

**Ms. Angie Priscilla HERNANDEZ RAMIREZ**

Communal Advisor, Municipality of San Jose

**Cuba Ms. Elizabeta CASTRO FERRERA**CEO, ELITEC IT Assistance

**Ms. Gretel DE LA ROSA SUAREZ**Founder, Tin Marin

**Ms. Laura GARCIA ERBITI**Owner, A4 Centro de Impresión

**Ecuador** **Ms. Mariana Cecilia GALARZA SANTILLAN**

CEO, Mega Aves Megaves Cia. Ltda.

**Ms. Ana Maria TORRES PLATA**

Owner and CEO, Anyart Glass

**Guatemala** **Ms. Karen GONZALEZ**

Manager of Donor Relations and Communications, Namaste

**Mexico** **Ms. Gina CAMPONI SOLORZANO**

Student

**Ms. Fatima Guadalupe ROCHA ARGUELLES**

General Director, Energy Depot

**Paraguay** **Ms. Rosa Isabel DUARTE FLORENTIN**

Technical Adviser, SENATUR

**Ms. Celina LEZCANO**

Director, Fidesa

**Peru** **Ms.** **Adriana VALCARCEL MANGA**

CEO, Cusco Mara

**Venezuela** **Ms. Karla Maryhermeliz HERNANDEZ PERAZA**

Founder and CEO, Civil Association Espabilate y Emprende

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**Argentina**

*Name:* **Ms. Belen ALVAREZ TOLEDO**

*Present Position:* Marketing Director, Endeavor Argentina

*Previous Positions:* Manager, UNMA Events, 2008-09

Coordinator, DS Sports, 2007-08

*Education/Training:* Bachelor’s Degree, Social Communication, University of the Federation of Saint Thomas Aquinas Groups, 2004

*Address:* Avenida Cordoba 3532, Apt 4

C.a.b.a.

Email: belen@endeavor.org.ar

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U.S. Travel:* California, New York

*Other Travel:* Brazil, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom

*Professional Background:* Ms. Belen Alvarez is the director of marketing, outreach, and partnerships development for Endeavor Argentina, a nonprofit small business accelerator. With Endeavor, she fosters the development of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Argentina by expanding its network of mentors, peers, and opportunities across the country. She has also spoken at various conferences with a special emphasis on opportunity development for women business leaders. Ms. Alvarez looks forward to developing linkages with U.S. counterparts and exploring best practices for fostering the advancement of women in business.

**Argentina**

*Name:* **Ms. Romina Laura GLERIA**

*Present Position:* Secretary, Young Entrepreneurs Commission, CaCec-Foreign Trade Chamber of Cordoba

*Concurrent Positions:* Founder and CEO, Boutique du Sens

Communications Coordinator, Delegation of Cordoba, Vital Voices Argentina

Mentor, Business Program, E+E Foundation

*Previous Position:* Marketing Manager, Jose Guma S.A, 2004-13

*Education/Training:* Master's Degree, Business, Austral University, Rosario, 2007

Bachelor’s Degree, Business Administration, Siglo 21 Business University, Cordoba, 2004

*Memberships:* Fundación Mediterránea (Mediterranean Foundation)

Vital Voices Argentina

*Address:* Balcarce 989

Jesus Maria, Cordoba 5220

Email: romina.gleria@gmail.com

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U.S. Travel:* Florida

*Other Travel:* Dominican Republic, Italy

*Professional Background:* Ms. Romina Gleria oversees all aspects of Boutique du Sens, a direct-sales company she founded in 2012. As CEO, her responsibilities include general management, finances, product development, marketing, and human resources. Boutique du Sens currently has over 1,000 saleswomen and 70 distributor teams across Argentina that Ms. Gleria meets with and supports through annual meetings and online communities. She also helps to develop future young business leaders in her community, encouraging young people to pursue entrepreneurship activities. She is eager to explore best practices in leadership and how U.S. companies incorporate social components in their work to give back to their communities.

**Bolivia**

*Name:* **Ms. Shirley Monica CHUQUIMIA RIVEROS**

*Present Position:* Coordinator, Program of Innovation and Competitive Development, Municipality of La Paz

*Previous Position:* Co-founder, Leannova Business Accelerator

*Education/Training:* Commercial Engineering, Universidad San Francisco de Asis La Paz, 2006

*Memberships:* Red Bolivia Emprendedora

Mujeres Empersarias de Bolivia

*Publications:* Innovacion para Micro y Pequenas Empresas en La Paz, 2014

*Address:* Potosi Street

Edificio Tobias Piso 4 Oficina 1

La Paz

Email: monica.chuquimia@gmail.com

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* Washington, DC

*Other Travel:* Colombia

*Professional Background:* Ms. Monica Chuquimia has been working for 10 years to encourage innovation through the development and growth of small and medium enterprises. She previously co-founded an incubator for local companies and her current role focuses on innovation and economic development. She manages a large budget for promoting entrepreneurship in La Paz. She has been a key member of business groups and has organized multiple events and seminars focused on entrepreneurism. While in the United States, she hopes to explore best practices for designing and implementing tech-focused events.

**Bolivia**

*Name:* **Ms. Nibeth MENA MAMANI**

*Present Position:* Google Developers Group

*Previous Position:* Network Configuration Mikrotik - Camaras De SIPE, SIPE-Cochbamba

*Education/Training:* Systems Engineer, San Simón Public University of Cochabamba, 2012

*Memberships:* Women in Drupal

GDG Women Cochabamba

*Address:* Av. Antezana 312

Esq. Ecuador

Cochabamba

Email: nibeth.mena@gmail.com

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Peru

*Professional Background:* Ms. Nibeth Mena is a leader of the Google Developers Group in Cochabamba. She provides an array of technical support in systems development, network and telecommunications equipment service, and server administration. In the future, Ms. Mena hopes to open an incubator and accelerator for women entrepreneurs in her community.

**Chile**

*Name:* **Ms. Maria Luisa IGAIMAN LADINO**

*Present Position:* Coordinator, Nukeyen Mapuche

*Concurrent Position:* Staff, Indigenous Territories Development Project, Institute for Agricultural Development (INDAP)

*Previous Position:* Supervisor, Yo Emprendo Semilla Project, Solidarity and Social Investment Fund (FOSIS), 2014

*Education/Training:* Degree, Agricultural Engineering, Universidad De La Frontera, Temuco, Chile, 2012

*Memberships:* Tromelafquen Mapuche Community

Nen Mapu Association

Pewenche Center for the Study of Mapuche History and Culture

*Address:* Comunidad Mapuche Tromelafquen

Kilometro 10, Camino a Melipeuco

Temuco, Araucania

Email: kintuyman@gmail.com

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), Mapudungun

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Argentina

*Professional Background:* Ms. Maria Luisa Igaiman is an agricultural engineer and the coordinator of Ñuqueyen Mapuche, a growing network of more than 60 indigenous women entrepreneurs who produce organic food products, wish a focus on farming, business training, gender empowerment activities, and the sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products. Ms. Igaiman oversees strict protocols for food safety, fair trade, quality, and economic and environmental sustainability. In addition, she is in charge of fundraising and marketing visibility for the initiative, conducts trainings, and is building a strategy to promote sustainable tourism of the region and Mapuche culture. Ms. Igaiman looks forward to examining how government, private sector, academia, and nonprofit organizations foster the advancement of women in business and promote access to capital, training, and business networks.

**Costa Rica**

*Name:* **Ms. Tracee AKENT MILLAR**

*Present Position:* Director of Entrepreneurship, Association of Entrepreneurs and Professionals of African Descent

*Previous Positions:* Process Analyst, Planning General Manager, Housing Mortgage Bank, 2011-13

Process Analyst, Planning Center, National Distance University, 2009-11

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's Degree, Industrial Production Engineering, Costa Rican Institute of Technology, 2004

License, Industrial Production Engineering, Costa Rican Institute of Technology, 2008

*Address:* Email: takentm@gmail.com

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U.S. Travel:* Tourism and work

*Professional Background:* Ms. Tracee Akent is the Director of Entrepreneurship for the Association of Entrepreneurs and Professionals of African Descent. She works closely with entrepreneurs in the Limon region and the greater metropolitan area to promote entrepreneurial achievement and political participation among Afro-descended Costa Ricans. Ms. Akent looks forward exchanging best practices and ideas with her colleagues to further her goal of developing the potential of women entrepreneurs in Costa Rica.

**Costa Rica**

*Name:* **Ms. Angie Priscilla HERNANDEZ RAMIREZ**

*Present Position:* Communal Advisor, Municipality of San Jose

*Previous Positions:* Project Manager, Association for Leadership and Social Ascent, 2012-15

High School Teacher, Independent University of Costa Rica, 2012-13

Professor, Cantonal Women’s Agenda, 2012-13

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's Degree, Psychology, Independent University of Costa Rica, 2013

*Address:* 50 South, 200 West Clinica Mercedes Chacon

Barrio Corazon de Jesus

Aserri, San Jose, Costa Rica

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Ms. Angie Hernandez serves as the Communal Advisor for San Jose Municipality where she provides advice to the City Council on political, economic, and social issues. In this capacity, she has worked to identify areas in San Jose with rising poverty levels and to recommend social and economic programs to promote inclusive development. Ms. Hernandez is working with multiple initiatives that connect PANI (National Children Welfare Institute) and their programs with vulnerable areas of San Jose, such as a program that promotes the creation of parenting schools. In addition, she is promoting FAMA (Family in Action) to encourage positive parenting behaviors and reduce physical punishment towards children and is also becoming a Vital Voices-certified mentor for social entrepreneurship and empowering women leaders. Ms. Hernandez looks forward to expanding her knowledge of women’s business networks and mentorship programs. She also hopes to explore the role of the government in promoting women’s economic development in the United States.

**Cuba**

*Name:* **Ms. Elizabeta CASTRO FERRERA**

*Present Position:* CEO, ELITEC IT Assistance

*Previous Position:* Network Administrator, Local Government of Camaguey, 2005‑09

*Education/Training:* Technician, Informatics, Instituto Politécnico de Informática Bernabe Boza Sanchez, 2005

*Address:* Email: elizabeta.tecnologia@gmail.com

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Ecuador

*Professional Background:* Ms. Elizabeta Castro is an entrepreneur from Cuba's largest province, Camaguey. ELITEC, a technological assistance service, was created in 2013 and initially focused on the sale of electronics such as cellphones and computers. Ms. Castro later updated her business plan to focus on the sale of services, including the installation of apps and software, troubleshooting of computer problems, configuration of cellphones, and user assistance at public Wi-Fi hotspots in the city. In addition to private citizens, ELITEC also provides its services to government entities. Ms. Castro also has links with Cuba Emprende, a project that supports entrepreneurs in Cuba. She looks forward to networking with her colleagues and exploring business management concepts.

**Cuba**

*Name:* **Ms. Gretel DE LA ROSA SUAREZ**

*Present Position:* Founder, Tin Marin

*Previous Positions:* Sales, MCV Commercial S.A. Mercedes Benz, 2006-14  
Specialist, Ministry of Light Industry, 2003‑06

*Education/Training:* Bachelor’s Degree, Economics, University of Havana, 2003

*Address:* Email: gretel.rosa@nauta.cu

*Language:* Spanish

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Mexico

*Professional Background:* Ms. Gretel de la Rosa Suarez is the founder of Tin Marin, a children’s toy store in Havana that produces completely handcrafted and custom-made toys. She founded her company in 2014 and currently has 3 full-time staff members. Through the creation of custom-made toys, she also generates employment opportunities for carpenters, painters, apparel designers, and artists. She looks forward to exploring concepts related to entrepreneurship, including market demand.

**Cuba**

*Name:* **Ms. Laura GARCIA ERBITI**

*Present Position:* Owner, A4, Centro de Impresión

*Concurrent Position:* Business Activities and Alumni Coordinator, Cuba Emprende

*Previous Positions:* Instructor, Cuba Emprende, 2014‑15  
Instructor, Instituto Superior Politecnico, 2009-14

*Education/Training:* Bachelor’s Degree, Industrial Engineer, Instituto Superior Politecnico Jose Antonio Echeverria, 2009

*Address:* Email: laura.garcia@ccpadrevarela.org

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Spain

*Professional Background:* Ms. Laura Garcia owns a small business selling stationery and printed material near Havana. For the last three years she has also worked with the CubaEmprende project, which offers training and advisory services to Cuban entrepreneurs who wish to start or improve a small business. In her role with CubaEmprende, she oversees networking, the organization of events such as the Entrepreneurs Fair, and advertisement of upcoming trainings. While in the United States, she looks forward to the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with colleagues.

**Ecuador**

*Name:* **Ms. Mariana Cecilia GALARZA SANTILLAN**

*Present Position:* CEO, Mega Aves Megaves Cia. Ltda.

*Previous Positions:* Administrative-Financial Manager, Mega Aves Megaves Cia. Ltda., 2002-11

Administrative Manager, AVIGALSA, 1994-2002

*Education/Training:* Certification Diploma, Management Skills, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, 2013

Certification Diploma, Business Management, Tecnologico de Monterrey -Quito, 2012

Degree, Civil Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador, 1994

*Address:* Calle Guayaquil No. 50 y Garcia Moreno

Ascazubi, Pichincha

Email: mgalarza@megaves.com

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* Florida, Georgia

*Other Travel:* Colombia, Panama, Peru

*Professional Background:* Ms. Mariana Cecilia Galarza is the CEO of the poultry production facility, Mega Aves Megaves Cía. Ltda. Megaves was founded in 1970 by Ms. Galarza's mother as a hen-growing business. In 2002, Megaves was incorporated and in 2010 Ms. Galarza became CEO. She looks forward to sharing best practices with her colleagues on social, political, gender, family, youth, and health related issues. In the future, Ms. Galarza hopes to create a nonprofit dedicated to providing food to local elderly and disabled individuals in need.

**Ecuador**

*Name:* **Ms. Ana Maria TORRES PLATA**

*Present Position:* Owner and CEO, Anyart Glass

*Previous Positions:* Owner, Manager, and Designer, Mythos, Jan 2005-10

Handicrafts Teacher, Ceramicarma, 1992-2005

*Education/Training:* Certified Ceramic Painter, International Program of Ambassadors - Duncan University, 2003

Graphic Designer, Escuela Metropolitana de Diseno, 1989

*Publication:* AnyInnova Project, Art in Glass, Manual, 2009

*Address:* LTS 53-271 y Avenida Las Palmas

Nayon

Quito, Pichincha

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*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* Florida

*Other Travel:* Argentina, Spain

*Professional Background:* Ms. Ana María Torres founded the handicraft business, Anyart Glass, in 2005 to manufacture glass handicrafts for museum and theme park gift shops, as well as export to the United States, France, and Germany. As the chief executive officer of Anyart Glass, she is responsible for the company's administration, staffing, communication, planning, training, and supervision; she also oversees product design and innovation. Ms. Torres has been recognized for her artistic and innovative talents in multiple competitions such as the Innova Ecuador innovation contest of 2010, a business e-marketing competition in 2014, and Quito Municipality’s mural contest in 2014 for a glass-based installation. The next project Ms. Torres seeks to undertake is to teach arts and crafts to the local community on the island of La Tolita in order to promote cultural preservation efforts. Her goal is to improve the lives of the people of the community by providing them new alternatives to support themselves.

**Guatemala**

*Name:* **Ms. Karen GONZALEZ**

*Present Position:* Manager of Donor Relations and Communications, Namaste

*Previous Position:* Outreach and Communications Coordinator, Safe Passage

*Address:* Antigua

Guatemala

Email: karen@namaste-direct.org

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U.S. Travel:* Tourism

*Professional Background:* Ms. Karen Gonzalez is the Manager of Donor Relations and Communications for Namaste, an organization that provides microfinance programs to female entrepreneurs in Guatemala. Focusing on indigenous and rural populations, the organization offers small loans to women owners of very small businesses, then connects them to mentors and mandates business training and record-keeping. She has played a crucial role in the expansion of the organization, running the first publicity campaigns within the country of Guatemala and using her background in the nonprofit sector to connect with donors and other organizations. Ms. Gonzalez hopes to expand Namaste’s new programs to offer larger microloans for entrepreneurs with relatively more developed businesses.

**Mexico**

*Name:* **Ms. Gina CAMPONI SOLORZANO**

*Present Position:* Student

*Education:* Ph.D., Innovation and CSR, Universidad Anahuac, in progress

Master's Degree, CSR and Fund Raising, University of Bologna, 2005

Master's Degree, International Relations, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, 2004

Bachelor's Degree, International Relations, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, 2002

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Mexico City 01700

gcamponi@hotmail.com

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U.S. Travel:* California, Texas

*Other Travel:* Chile, Colombia, Panama

*Professional Background:* Ms. Gina Camponi is a Ph.D. student with a particular interest in corporate social responsibility. Previously, she worked with Cisco Systems with responsibilities around the company’s corporate social responsibility efforts. In this capacity, she promoted education, leadership, and increasing the technological capacity of NGOs in underserved communities. She also has worked with the “Jovenes en Accion” youth leadership program. Ms. Camponi looks forward to exploring social responsibility initiatives in the business community in the United States.

**Mexico**

*Name:* **Ms. Fatima Guadalupe ROCHA ARGUELLES**

*Present Position:* General Director, Energy Depot

*Previous Position:* Global Vice President, AIESEC International, Netherlands, 2010-11

*Education/Training:* Bachelor’s Degree, International Business, University of Guanajuato, 2008

*Address:* Calle 15 x 16 # 189A

Col. Garcia Gineres

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Email: fatima@energydepot.com.mx

*Languages:* Spanish (*primary*), English

*U.S. Travel:* Puerto Rico

*Other Travel:* Belgium, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Netherlands, India, Italy, Malaysia, Peru, Tunisia, Vietnam

*Professional Background:* Ms. Fatima Rocha serves as the General Director of Energy Depot, a business she co-founded in 2010. The company began by developing solar heating panels and has continued to develop smart materials that can be used in the renewable energy sector. Within its first two years, Energy Depot grew from 3 to 30 people and in 2013 the Inter-American Development Bank awarded the company fifth place in the category of Best Green Business. Ms. Rocha is responsible for capacity and financial growth, research and development, growth strategy, and commercialization in global markets. Ms. Rocha was the winner of the 2014 Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) Women's Entrepreneurs Pitching Competition and semifinalist for the 2014 GIST (Global Innovation though Science and Technology) Tech-I competition. She looks forward to learning about the U.S. entrepreneurial ecosystem and exploring approaches that might benefit Yucatan's nascent technology industry.

**Paraguay**

*Name:* **Ms.** **Rosa Isabel DUARTE FLORENTIN**

*Present Position:* Technical Adviser, SENATUR

*Previous Position:* Technical Adviser, Hotel Casa del Monte, 2007-08

*Education/Training:* Bachelor’s Degree, Universidad Columbia del Paraguay, in progress

*Address:* Rodriquez de Francia 2028

Asuncion, Capital

Paraguay

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Ms. Rosa Duarte serves as the Ministry of Tourism’s chief staff member for coordinating outreach and tourism network development among small businesses in Paraguay. Through her work, she helps create new business opportunities and efficiencies for small businesses, especially women-owned hotels, hostels, cafes, and other tourism-oriented startups. Ms. Duarte is interested to discuss strategies for developing sustainable service networks, ways incorporate women-owned businesses into the tourism industry, and the inclusion of indigenous culture in tourism promotion.

**Paraguay**

*Name:* **Ms. Celina LEZCANO**

*Present Position:* Director, Fidesa

*Concurrent Position:* Member of the Board, Paraguayan Association of Businesswomen, Executives, and Professionals (APEP)

*Memberships:* UIP, FEPRINCO, AMIPYMES

*Address:* Nuestra Senora Del Carmen 1215

Asuncion, Capital

Paraguay

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* Florida, New York, Washington DC

*Other Travel:* Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Italy, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela

*Professional Background:* Ms. Celina Lezcano is an active member of the Board of Directors of APEP, an organization working to advance the development, growth, and professionalization of women entrepreneurs in Paraguay by promoting business opportunities, providing access to information and financing, and strengthening managerial capacities and skills. She has consistently worked to improve the environment for small businesses and was instrumental in lobbying for a recent law that increases access to credit for micro- and small enterprises. In addition to her role on APEP’s Board, Ms. Lezcano is also the head of Fidesa, a large Paraguayan food manufacturer. Ms. Lezcano looks forward to exchanging best practices for effective association programming and advocacy for legislation and policies that promote women in business.

**Peru**

*Name:* **Ms**. **Adriana VALCARCEL MANGA**

*Present Position:* CEO, Cusco Mara

*Previous Positions:* CEO, Tinti SAC, 2001-16

CEO, Mara SAC, 2000-04

CEO, Aroma Industrias Alimentarias SRL, 1987-99

*Education/Training:* Bachelor’s Degree, Chemical Engineering, San Antonio Abad del Cusco University, 1985

Diploma, Exports, Japan Study Program, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), 2000

*Address:* Urb. Cerverceros 12

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Cusco, Cusco

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*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* New York, Texas

*Other Travel:* Argentina, Belgium Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay

*Professional Background:* Ms. Adriana Valcarcel is the CEO of Cusco Mara, a company that produces and exports organic food products made of Andean grains like quinoa, maca, and kaniwa. Currently, Cusco Mara exports to Costa Rica and Ms. Valcarcel hopes to expand into other international markets, such as the United States. In addition to her work with Cusco Mara, Ms. Valcarcel administers a program that teaches Cusqueño youth advanced techniques for producing quinoa and other grains. A 2015 awardee of the Beset Woman Entrepreneur award from the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture, Ms. Valcarcel strongly believes in the need to create opportunities and spaces for women to develop their businesses to improve their lives, their families, and their communities.

**Venezuela**

*Name:* **Ms. Karla Maryhermeliz HERNANDEZ PERAZA**

*Present Position:* Founder and CEO, Civil Association Espabilate y Emprende

*Previous Positions:* Franchise Manager, Grupo Plenitud, 2014

Billing and Collection Coordinator, Plenifarma, 2012-13

*Education/Training:* Degree, Public Accounting, Universidad de Oriente, 2015

International Coaching Certification, 2015

Internal Auditor ISO 9000, 2014

Diploma, Management Franchise

*Address:* Av. Libertador, Edificio Canaima, Apto. 5B

Maturin, Monagas

Email: espabilarte@gmail.com

*Language:* Spanish

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama

*Professional Background:* Ms. Karla Hernandez founded and directs Espabilate y Emprende, translated as “wake-up and undertake,” a capacity-building training program that develops entrepreneurs’ skills and talents. Originally from Maturin, a center of oil industry, she promotes entrepreneurship in order to broaden the range of the region’s economic sectors and to rebuild local economies. She has thus far trained over 300 entrepreneurs across Venezuela, with funding for Espabilate y Emprende coming solely from individual donations and volunteer hours. Ms. Hernandez is looking forward to examining the ways in which the United States fosters the advancement of women in business.