

NEO: A Legacy of Innovation for the Future

BIOGRAPHIES

Gladys Janeth Acasiete López

Graduate in Business Administration, Private Higher Education Technological Institute “Community Action”, Peru

Gladys Acasiete López is a graduate of the Pachacútec Foundation’s Private Higher Education Technological Institute “Community Action” (Instituto de Educación Superior Tecnológico Privado “Acción Comunitaria”, I.E.S.T.Pr. “Acción Comunitaria”). She has earned certificates for courses in fundamentals and general framework of public administration, government theory, management documents, and public policy. Gladys participated in CADE Universitario 2017, the largest and most diverse meeting of youth leaders in Peru. She also received life skills training in the International Youth Foundation’s *Passport to Success*® program through the NEO Peru initiative. She is a member of Danzantes Sin Fronteras (Dancers without Borders) squad, which encourages young people to express themselves through dance, helps them to develop general skills, and provides a space for personal enrichment. Currently, Gladys works as a Reporting Assistant at the Pachacútec Foundation’s Institute.

Claudia Morena Aguilar Hernández

Coordinator, NEO El Salvador, El Salvador

Claudia Aguilar has a bachelor’s degree in psychology, as well as expertise in financial administration, project management under the PMI methodology, monitoring and evaluation of social projects, and monitoring of professional training programs. She has worked on employability programs in El Salvador to strengthen public policies through the National Employment Opportunities Network, as well as having participated as an expert in employability and professional training for local development. Additionally, she has managed monitoring and evaluation projects developed by the NEO El Salvador executing agency, FEDISAL, for the Salvadoran Institute for Professional Training. As a job placement expert, she helped design and execute a training program to professionalize the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare’s management of employment. She has also managed employability programs for people with disabilities, for the Youth360 Internship Program and the Workforce Talent Leaders Association with USAID. She previously led the human resource department at FEDISAL and was selected to certify as a Master Trainer in Job Placement and Career Guidance.

Norma Añaños Castillo

Executive Director, Centro de Servicios para la Capacitación Laboral y el Desarrollo (CAPLAB), Peru

Norma Añaños is the Founder and Director of the Centro de Servicios para la Capacitación Laboral y el Desarrollo (Job Training and Development Services Center, CAPLAB), where she has developed innovative national projects and programs that: 1) align technical training with job market demands; 2) provide career guidance; 3) provide beneficiaries with access to an information and job placement system. Norma has a bachelor’s in education with a specialization in social sciences, as well as a master’s in social programs and project management from Cayetano Heredia University. She also has a specialization in teaching practices from the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras, as well as a



certification from the University of Piura's Senior Management Program. Norma has experience in senior management as Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations. Additionally, she has experience leading international consultancies on education and vocational training in Ecuador, Bolivia, Honduras, Colombia, and Nicaragua.

Irene Arias Hofman

CEO, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

Since January 2018, Irene Arias has been the CEO of the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), the Inter-American Development Bank Group's innovation lab. The MIF invests in early stage ventures, helps to develop innovation ecosystems and supports projects to test pioneering approaches that create economic opportunities for poor and vulnerable populations in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Previously, she worked at the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC), the largest international development institution focused on the private sector. At the IFC, Irene had global investment responsibilities and managed investment projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, ultimately managing a US\$16 billion portfolio, the largest at the IFC, as well as an investment program of over US\$6 billion per year with a strong focus on innovation, risk capital, and fintech. A Spanish national, Irene holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Carlos III University in Madrid, a Master of Arts in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University, and a Master of Arts in Advanced European Studies from the College of Europe.

Jorge Barragán

Country Director, International Youth Foundation, Mexico

Jorge Barragán has more than 15 years of experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of labor market solutions in Mexico and Latin America. He currently serves as the International Youth Foundation's Country Director in Mexico. Previously, he served as the Director of the National Public Employment Service where he led the creation of the Mexican Labor Observatory as well as the most recent iterations of the online employment portal. Jorge currently serves as Vice President for Education at the American Chamber and is a member of the Advisory Group to the Business Coordinating Council's Education Commission. In addition, he has taught at both the Iberoamerican University—where he graduated with a degree in political science and public administration—and the National Public Administration Institute's postgraduate program in public agency administration. Jorge has published numerous studies on youth employment, skills gaps in strategic sectors, and employment policies as a violence prevention strategy.

Elba Viviana Caro Hinojosa

Representative, Inter-American Development Bank, Peru

A native of Bolivia, Viviana Caro Hinojosa graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and earned a master's in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Viviana was a researcher with the Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (Analysis Group for Development, GRADE) in Lima, Peru. She began her career in the public sector in Bolivia when she joined a research group at the Unidad de Análisis de Política Económica (Economic Policy Analysis Unit, UDAPE), an agency she ended up managing in 2007. Later, she served as Minister of Development Planning of Bolivia from 2010 to 2015. In June 2015, she became the representative of the IDB in Peru. Viviana was also a visiting professor for the graduate program in



Agricultural Economics at the Bolivian Catholic University, and is also a member of the Master's Thesis Committee at CIDES-UMSA in La Paz, Bolivia. She has published several works on trade, the agricultural industry, the environment and natural resources, and microenterprises.

Fabio Carranza Esquivel

Managing Partner, Education & Technology, Panama

Fabio Carranza Esquivel is a Managing Partner at Education & Technology and specializes in the use of technology in education and training. Previously, he served as the Project Director at the Consejo del Sector Privado para la Asistencia Educativa (Private Sector Board for Educational Assistance, CoSPA), a non-profit entrepreneurial organization in Panama where he developed various capacity strengthening activities for young people in the areas of social and career guidance, job training, and entrepreneurship training. Fabio studied computer systems and business management, as well as project design and evaluation at the Technological University of Panama and Santa María la Antigua University. He also holds a certificate in development aid project management from the Organization of Ibero-American States.

Sérgio Cavalcante

CEO, CESAR, Brazil

Since 2005, Sérgio Cavalcante has been the CEO of CESAR, an innovation institute founded in 1996 that creates products, services, and businesses involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Since its founding, CESAR has created more than 40 companies and currently has about 550 employees, with offices in Recife, Curitiba, Manaus, Sorocaba, and Sao Paulo. Sérgio is the chairman of AmCham Recife, Recife Agency for Innovation and Strategy (ARIES), Pitang and Joy Street. He also participates as a board member of Porto Digital, AmCham Brazil, Recife 500 Anos and Softex-Recife. Previously, Sérgio was the Director of Business Relationships at the Brazilian Computer Society and Head of the Department of Computer Science at the Federal University of Pernambuco's Center for Informatics, where he has been a lecturer since 1989. He has a Ph.D. in Electronics from Newcastle University in the United Kingdom.

Mariana Costa

Co-founder & CEO, Laboratoria, Peru

Mariana is the Co-founder and CEO of Laboratoria, a social enterprise transforming Latin America's tech sector by giving thousands of women the tools they need to launch a career in the sector. With training centers in Peru, Chile, Mexico, and Brazil, Laboratoria is redefining how to prepare underserved youth for the jobs of the future. Mariana has received multiple recognitions for her work as a social entrepreneur, including being named one of Peru's leading innovators under 35 by MIT, one of the world's most influential women by the BBC, and sharing a panel with President Obama and Mark Zuckerberg at the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit. Before becoming a social entrepreneur, Mariana worked at the Organization of American States in international development programs throughout Latin America, helping expand access to civil registration services in Central America and the Caribbean. She holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics and a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University in New York.

Juan Carlos Croston

Vice President, Marketing & Corporate Affairs, Manzanillo International Terminal, Panamá

Juan Carlos Croston is the Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Affairs at Manzanillo International Terminal – Panama (MIT-Panama). In this role, Juan Carlos is responsible for commercial and business development strategy and the company's social responsibility and sustainability initiatives. He joined MIT-Panama as a Terminal Planner in 2004 and was promoted to the position of Customer Service Manager in 2005. Juan Carlos was named Vice President of Marketing in January 2008 and has served as Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Affairs since January 2016. He is an active member of the Maritime Chamber of Panama (Board member 2011-2015 and Board President of the board 2014-2015), the Caribbean Shipping Association (General Council member since 2012 and current Vice President 2016-2017), and other local and international organizations. In July 2014, he was granted the Distinguished Alumni Award by the International Maritime University of Panama and in May 2015, was named by Lloyd's List in their "Next Generation 2015" list of worldwide maritime leaders, the only one from Latin America. Juan Carlos holds a Bachelor of Science in Nautical Engineering from the former Nautical School of Panama and a Master of Science in Maritime Affairs from the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden.

Zuleika de Plazaola

Coordinator, NEO Panama, Panama

Since 1997, Zuleika de Plazaola has served as Executive Director of Consejo del Sector Privado para la Asistencia Educacional (Private Sector Board for Educational Assistance, CoSPA), a non-profit entrepreneurial organization in Panama. Currently, Zuleika is the Coordinator for her country's NEO alliance. She has extensive experience managing youth employability projects focused on job placement and coordination with the private sector. An engineer by profession, Zuleika received her master's in engineering from the University of Delaware. She also completed graduate studies in non-profit management at the University of Louisville, in promotion of dual vocational training with the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), and in cooperative development project management with the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI).

Gladys Farje Echeverría

Coordinator, NEO Peru, Peru

Gladys has a degree in economics, a specialization in development management and a master's in corporate social responsibility. She has coordinated projects focusing on skills development, microenterprises, and job training and placement in Peru and other countries in the region. She has pursued specialization studies in Japan, Israel, and Spain. Gladys is an international consultant on technical training, employment, and the standardization of job skills. She is also a certified evaluator of quality systems in professional training and the creation of instruments to assess job skills. Currently, Gladys is the Coordinator of NEO Peru.

Héctor Figari Costa

Director of Corporate, External, and Legal Affairs for South America, Microsoft, Peru

Héctor Figari Costa is a lawyer with a Master of Laws from Northwestern University School of Law. He has ample experience in commercial law, corporate law, contractual law, e-commerce, privacy law,



antitrust law, regulation of markets, intellectual property, unfair competition, publicity law, and consumer protection law. Héctor began his private practice stint at the corporate law firm Muñiz, Ramírez, Pérez-Taiman & Luna-Victoria in the areas of antitrust, unfair competition, intellectual property, telecoms and e-commerce, among others, working his way up to become a partner. After being at this law firm for 15 years, Héctor joined Microsoft in 2013 as the Legal and Corporate Affairs lead for Peru, and in July 2017 he was promoted to his current position, where he also covers Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Over the course of his career, Héctor has been involved in negotiating contracts with critical clients in both the commercial and public sectors, as well as the promotion of positive policies for technological innovation.

Rebecca Finlason-Harper

Fundraising and Communications Specialist, NEO Jamaica, Jamaica

Rebecca Finlason-Harper's experience in communications and fundraising spans over twenty years. Her passion for community development, education and nation building has led her to advocate for children's rights, rehabilitation of youth and community development. As a media practitioner, she produces, writes and hosts the number one parenting show in Jamaica, *Parent to Parent*. She is also the writer and producer of the RG Kids and Starapple Kids children's shows. Rebecca has managed several charities including at the National Zoo, where she developed a boys' program that rehabilitated young men ages eight to sixteen using interaction with animals and other exercises to teach the five pillars of personality: self-discipline, self-respect, teamwork, confidence, and communication. Her "ZooCycle" program is the most successful recycling program for plastic bottles in Jamaica, having collected 500,000 bottles in three months. Rebecca sits on multiple government boards including the Child Protection and Family Services Agency, Early Childhood Commission and Natural History Museum.

María del Roble García

Coordinator, NEO Mexico, Mexico

Roble is a participatory and results-oriented leader who is skilled at working with multidisciplinary teams. She has extensive experience implementing sustainable economic and social development programs, including more than 10 years of management experience in educational institutions and civil society organizations. She also consults for multinational businesses and the government on social reengineering and corporate social responsibility. Roble has a master's in education and public policy with a concentration in multi-stakeholder alliances.

Carlos Gauto

Coordinator, NEO Paraguay, Paraguay

Carlos Gauto is a doctor with a specialization in psychiatry, which he studied in Brazil and France. Since 2000, Carlos has directed the Youth Area at Fundación CIRD (Development Information and Resource Center Foundation), NEO Paraguay's executing agency. He has extensive professional experience in youth-related areas such as drug abuse, youth development, youth employment and youth entrepreneurship. Carlos coordinated various employability projects for disadvantaged youth, including a project for the entra21 program, which was led by the International Youth Foundation in collaboration with the Multilateral Investment Fund. Currently, Carlos is the Coordinator of NEO Paraguay.



Andrea González

Co-founder, SALTO PERÚ & YouthActionNet® Fellow, Peru

Andrea González holds a master's degree in economics and a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from Oxford University, where she studied as a CAF-Development Bank of Latin America Scholar. Throughout her academic career, she has focused on productivity growth and the role of technology adoption in development programs in Latin America. After receiving her bachelor's degree in economics from Maastricht University, Andrea worked as President of the United Netherlands Foundation. In 2015, Andrea co-founded SALTO PERÚ, a social enterprise in the Peruvian Andes that trains university students in consultancy skills and connects them to low-income micro-entrepreneurs. Through SALTO PERÚ, micro-entrepreneurs can improve their businesses and generate better income. At the same time, university students are empowered to put their skills into practice. SALTO PERÚ has received multiple international awards, including recognitions from UNESCO, YouthActionNET®, and VIVA, and has developed a wide network of partnerships with government agencies and other private institutions.

Liliana González Ávila

Executive Director, QUALIFICAR, Colombia

Liliana has extensive experience designing education and employment training policies, as well as designing, coordinating, evaluating, and systemizing projects on topics related to quality assurance, curriculum, and job, socioemotional, and financial skills. She has been a consultant for the International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Colombia Confederation of NGOs, and Colombia's National Planning Department. QUALIFICAR has led projects for Colombia's National Ministry of Education, Secretaries of Education, business foundations, the International Youth Foundation, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), among others. Liliana has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the Pontifical Xavierian University, as well as a specialization in regional planning and administration, and a master's in education from the University of the Andes.

Marcio Guerra Amorim

Executive Manager, Corporate University, SESI and SENAI, Brazil

As an Executive Manager at the Corporate University, SESI and SENAI, Marcio Guerra Amorim is responsible for the development of 45,000 managers, staff, and technicians from across Brazil that are part of the SESI/SENAI system. He leads the NEO-associated project Educação Livre, which focuses on youth, apprenticeship, and work inclusion, and is responsible for the Industrial Observatory and Prospective Studies. Marcio is also a lecturer for graduate programs and an education consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Since joining SENAI in 2004, he has been the Manager of the Studies and Prospective Unit and coordinated studies on the labor market, technology, education, and health. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's in labor economics for the Catholic University of Brasilia.

Elena Heredero Rodríguez

Lead Specialist, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

Elena Heredero is a Lead Specialist at the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), an innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Development Bank that promotes development through the private sector. She



has more than 17 years of experience testing and piloting new solutions to development challenges and creating opportunities for poor and vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). She coordinates the MIF's strategy to build a competitive workforce for the future of work, promoting 21st century skills development, youth training, upskilling of current workers, and alignment of training to industry needs. She leads the NEO initiative, which aims to improve workforce quality and the overall employability of 1 million vulnerable young people in LAC. Elena holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Autonomous University of Madrid.

Martha Herrera González

Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, CEMEX, Mexico

Martha Herrera González is the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at CEMEX and the Director of the CEMEX-Tecnológico de Monterrey Center for Sustainable Development. She is currently the President of the Global Compact Network in Mexico, President of NEO Mexico, Board President of RedEAmérica in Latin America, and President of the Nuevo Leon Strategic Planning Council's Committee on Human Development. She also participates in 20 other civil society and university councils. Martha has led the establishment of more than 500 active global partnerships with governments, universities, multilaterals, NGOs, citizens, and businesses. Throughout her career, she has promoted programs aimed at gender equity, sustainable communities, and reducing poverty; these programs have worked hand-in-hand with 14.1 million community partners at the global level. In the past ten years, she has been recognized as one of the top women business leaders in Mexico by *Expansión* and *Forbes*. Martha graduated with honors in international studies from the University of Monterrey and has a master's in political science from McGill University in Montreal, as well as a master's in business administration.

Víctor Hugo Illanes

Director of Sectoral Projects, Fundación Chile, Chile

Víctor is currently the Director of Sectoral Projects at Fundación Chile's Job Training Center. He is an expert in policies that aim to manage the school-to-work transition. He has more than fifteen years of experience in initiatives aimed at social inclusion policies, and in the last ten years has focused on job training programs. Before joining Fundación Chile, he held various government positions. He was the Strategic Planning Coordinator for the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Head of the Social Vulnerability Studies Division, focusing on social and environmental risks. Víctor has published works on social vulnerability individually and as part of research teams studying workforce gaps in the mining industry. He has a master's in public policy from the Adolfo Ibáñez University.

Juan Pablo Jimenez

Partner, B.O.T., Colombia

Juan Pablo Jimenez is a Partner at the transformational consulting firm B.O.T., which focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy and sustainable and efficient business strategies, and has more than 15 years of social and economic impact. Juan has more than 7 years of consulting experience in Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Ivory Coast, Kenya, the United States, and the United Kingdom. He has focused on the education, agricultural, energy, and development sectors, as well as the science and technology sectors, where he has carried out sectorial diagnostics, benchmarking exercises, operational and



financial modeling, situational analyses, strategic planning, process redesign, social impact evaluations, and short and medium-term action plans. Before joining B.O.T., Juan was a Project Manager at the international consulting firm Dalberg Global Development Advisors and a Project Assistant at the Research Center at the University of the Andes School of Engineering.

Rodrigo Kon

Executive Director, Fondation Forge, Argentina

Rodrigo Kon is the Executive Director of Fondation Forge, an organization that provides low-income youth with access to quality jobs through an innovative training and employment program. It currently operates in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, and Mexico. Rodrigo studied Anthropological Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires and completed graduate studies in Non-Profit Organizations. His graduate program combined teaching with the design and leadership of social organizations and programs that target vulnerable youth. In the last 20 years, Rodrigo has worked as the Executive Director or General Coordinator of civil society organizations and programs driven by multilateral bodies in several Latin American countries. He has provided technical assistance around the design public policy for youth and has participated in research on this topic.

Lyana Latorre

Head of Corporate Social Engagement, Arcos Dorados, Colombia

Lyana Latorre is the Head of Corporate Social Engagement at Arcos Dorados, McDonalds' largest franchisee worldwide, spanning from Mexico to the southern hemisphere covering a total of 20 countries and more than 2,100 restaurants. Lyana joined Arcos in 2011 where she coordinated the Ronald McDonald House Charities program for Latin America, growing the operation from 21 to 54 programs in 13 countries. In 2016, she created the Corporate Social Engagement Department within Arcos Dorados, covering all 20 countries where the company has operations, with a special focus on youth employment and sustainability. Prior to joining Arcos, Lyana had a successful career as an investment banker in Boston and San Francisco, where she eventually took a sabbatical to be a full-time volunteer for Make-A-Wish Foundation, unexpectedly leading her into her true passion and a completely different career path.

Aitor Llodio

Executive Director, Fundación para la Sostenibilidad y la Equidad (ALIARSE), Costa Rica

Aitor has a master's degree in environmental impact assessment and management from Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom. He is the Executive Director of Fundación para la Sostenibilidad y la Equidad (ALIARSE), an organization that promotes public-private partnerships for development in Costa Rica. Aitor is a senior associate consultant for The Partnering Initiative (United Kingdom) and has consulted on public-private partnerships and social responsibility for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), German Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (UICN), among others. He has authored and co-authored books and articles about public-private partnerships for development and corporate social responsibility, including the *Guide for the Design and Management of Public-Private Partnerships for Development* and *Legal Framework of Public-Private Partnerships in Costa Rica*. Aitor has extensive experience developing and managing environmental and social projects in Spain, the United Kingdom, and Costa Rica.

Gustavo Londoño Rengifo

Coordinator, NEO Colombia, Colombia

Gustavo Londoño is an agricultural economist with specializations in finance and project design and evaluation. He has extensive experience designing and implementing development cooperation programs for rural and urban communities in different regions of Colombia in the public and private sectors. Before joining Comfenalco Antioquia, he worked at the United Nations Development Program in Colombia as the Coordinator of the IED (Inclusive Economic Development) Project and the ORMET Cesar Labor Market Observatory (2012-2014). He also worked with the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF) Colombia/USAID as the Atlantic Coast Regional Manager for their support program for the displaced population (2006-2012).

Sheila Mancebo Cordero

Fashion Design student, Higher Technical Community Institute, Dominican Republic

Sheila Mancebo Cordero graduated with honors from the Cardinal Sancha Technical Professional School, Fe y Alegría. Thanks to having participated in NEO Dominican Republic, Sheila now teaches fashion design, fabric cutting, and sewing at her alma mater. Currently, she studies fashion design at the Higher Technical Community Institute. She is a tireless entrepreneur; she started CORED Clothes, a clothing brand and fashion design workshop, which aims to provide clients with the best quality and exclusivity. After establishing herself as an entrepreneur, she was able to expand to a series of other projects, such as investment and loan services, drop shipping, and marketing and management networks for retail and e-commerce businesses.

Bastián Ignacio Martín González

Gastronomy student, Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna High School, Chile

Bastián Martín, a NEO Chile participant, completed his primary education at the Claudio Matte and Hispanic American Schools. He is currently finishing his secondary education at the Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna High School, where he studies gastronomy with a concentration in cuisine. Bastián seeks to study computer engineering in college, so every Saturday he participates in the Support and Effective Access Program (PACE), which helps students continue on to higher education. Bastián has acting experience and this year, he is the President of the Student Center at his school.

Kathia Mejía

Executive Director, Fundación Sur Futuro, Dominican Republic

Kathia Mejía's professional experience spans the private, public, and social sectors. In the private sector, Kathia worked in development banking. In the public sector, she held administrative and financial positions at the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. Kathia has worked in the social sector for the past ten years at Fundación Sur Futuro (Sur Futuro Foundation), where she has held the position of Executive Director for the past four years. She has led processes for local development, initiatives and innovative products through more than thirty simultaneous projects that the Foundation implements. Kathia has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in financial management through a dual degree program between the Mother and Teacher Pontifical Catholic University and the University of Bordeaux. She is currently pursuing a master's in corporate



social responsibility and sustainability through a dual degree program between the Mother and Teacher Pontifical Catholic University and the University of Valencia in Spain.

Ana Miranda

Academic Coordinator, Youth Research Program, FLACSO, Argentina

Ana Miranda has been the Academic Coordinator of the Youth Research Program at the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Argentina since 2005. She is a researcher in youth, education, and work and has experience working in technical assistance programs with United Nations organizations (Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Development Program, UN Women, International Labour Organization). Ana participates in the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET) and has published seven books and numerous academic articles on education and work. She has a doctorate in social sciences from FLACSO and a master's in political science from the University of Buenos Aires. Ana participates in various Latin American academic networks, including ALAST and LASA, as well as international scientific associations like ISA. In 2016, Ana received the Ford/LASA award for creating the Latin American Network for School-to-Work Transition Studies (RELATET).

Luz Yaneth Mosquera Mosquera

Refrigeration Assistant, Implementos y Suministros IMPYS, Colombia

Luz Mosquera has lived in Nueva Colonia, a small town in the Turbo municipality in Urabá, Antioquia for 23 years. She is a graduate of the Nueva Colonia Educational Institution. With the support of NEO Colombia, Luz completed a course in Residential Electrical Networks, and earned a professional certification from the National Council of Electrical Technicians. With the support and encouragement of a friend, Luz prepared a resume and applied for a job at Implementos y Suministros IMPYS, where she was hired for her first job as a Refrigeration Assistant in March 2017.

Hugo Ñopo Aguilar

Senior Researcher, GRADE, Peru

Hugo Ñopo holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University (Illinois, United States), a Master of Science in Mathematical Economics from the Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and two bachelor's degrees: one in mathematics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (Lima, Peru) and another in systems engineering from the National Engineering University (Lima, Peru). He is currently a Senior Researcher at GRADE, where he has conducted studies for the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Consortium for Economic and Social Research. Hugo is also a board member at different start-ups and foundations for the social development of Peru and Latin America. He has been Lead Economist of the Education Division at the IDB and previously researcher of its research Department. Before joining the IDB he was Assistant Professor at Middlebury College, affiliated Researcher at GRADE and advisor at the Ministry of Labor and Social Promotion in Peru.

Genesis Peguero Reyes

Chemical engineering student, Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University, Dominican Republic

Genesis studies chemical engineering at Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University in the Dominican Republic. She graduated with honors from Hail Mary Polytechnic, where she studied Administration and Commerce with a concentration in Marketing and participated in NEO Dominican Republic. Through the Job Placement and Internships Office (OILP), she was connected to an internship at the National Industrial Property Office (ONAPI), where she was later hired as an administrative assistant. While at this institution, Genesis has had the opportunity to take courses in Intellectual Property and Searching for Patent Information at the World Intellectual Property Organization. She has also earned certifications in assistant secretarial studies and customer service from the Technical Professional Training Institute (INFOTEP). Genesis also completed a course for phone representatives at the Carlos Slim Foundation. She is also involved in the Innovative Summer Camp, a project aimed at high-achieving public school students in the Dominican Republic. In addition to being a college student, she continues to work as an administrative assistant at the institution where she completed her internship.

Sarah Pimentel

Coordinator, NEO Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic

With experience working in the public, private and civil society sectors, Sarah Pimentel has overseen organizing, managing, and coordinating the NEO Dominican Republic initiative. Before joining NEO, she was the Director of the National Employment Service (SENAE) at the Ministry of Labor. She led the creation and development of the SENAE, which was made possible by a loan from the IDB's Labor Market and Social Transfers program. Previously, Sarah was a Corporate Business Manager for one of the Dominican Republic's major pension fund administrators. She holds a master's degree in public employment services from the University of Zaragoza in Spain, has completed graduate studies in strategic direction of services and marketing management, and has a bachelor's in advertising arts.

Jorge Quezada

Coordinator, NEO Chile, Chile

Jorge Quezada, a native of Northern Chile, is a professor and expert in managing and facilitating public-private alliance interventions to expand and interrelate people's skills at advocacy and service delivery organizations. He has been a director, manager, and facilitator at civil society organizations and decentralized public institutions that focus on regional and social development. Jorge has also worked at Chilean universities as a lecturer, adviser, and project director, focusing on basic professional training, knowledge updating and relationships with institutional communities. He has worked on teams that design and implement projects dedicated to basic housing solutions, socioeconomic ventures, training youth and adult leaders, popular communication and networks, managing shared knowledge, systemizing best practices, and training professionals for local economic development and technical capacity strengthening. Jorge has also participated in the design of regional plans for productive development, regional and national development of small-scale fishing, and national policy for aquaculture development.



William S. Reese

CEO, International Youth Foundation, USA

Bill Reese was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the International Youth Foundation (IYF) in 2005. Before joining IYF in 1998 as Chief Operating Officer, he was President and CEO of Partners of the Americas for twelve years. Previously, Bill served with the Peace Corps for ten years, first as a volunteer in an urban community development project in Salvador, Brazil, and later as director of Brazil operations. He was deputy director of the Latin American and Caribbean Region before heading a special task force that managed the international celebration of the Peace Corps' 20th anniversary in 1981. He currently sits on the board of Youth Business International (YBI) and previously served on the board of InterAction. Bill Reese also serves as a founding board member of Solutions 4 Youth Employment (S4YE), a multi-stakeholder alliance, as well as on the boards of W.R.A.P., ICTI Care Foundation, iMMAP and Women's Economic Imperative. Bill received his bachelor's in political science from Stanford University and is a 1995 graduate of the Business School's Executive Program.

Susan Reichle

President & Chief Operating Officer, International Youth Foundation, USA

Susan Reichle joined IYF in 2017 as President and Chief Operating Officer. She came to the organization with 25 years of experience leading USAID policy development and programs overseas and in Washington, D.C. In her most recent position, she served as the Counselor to the Agency and advised the Administrator and senior leadership on key global development policies and management issues. As Assistant to the Administrator for Policy Planning and Learning, Susan spearheaded development of USAID policy, including the agency's first Youth and Development Policy. She also oversaw USAID's response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake as Acting Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) in Washington. As Mission Director and Deputy Director in Colombia, Susan led USAID's largest mission in the western hemisphere and worked closely with the Government of Colombia to devise and implement a new strategy to consolidate presence of the Colombian government in conflict and post-conflict zones. As one of USAID's first democracy officers, she designed and promoted electoral and democratic reforms in Haiti and Nicaragua. She has a master's degree in national security strategies from the National Defense University's War College and master's degrees in international development appropriate technology and government administration from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College.

David Rosas Shady

Principal Specialist, Labor Markets and Social Security Division, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

David Rosas Shady is a Principal Specialist in the Labor Markets and Social Security Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). At the IDB, David specializes in labor markets, with a special focus on workforce development and job placement, and in evaluating the impact of labor market interventions. He coordinates the preparation of new operations of the Division in all the countries of the region and is responsible for those that are developed in Peru. Additionally, he coordinates the Technical Support Network to Public Employment Services in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red SEALC). Previously he worked as an Economist in the Social Protection and Health Division. He holds a Ph.D. and a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Paris 1-Pantheón-Sorbonne.



Peter Shiras

Executive Vice President, Partnership Development, International Youth Foundation, USA

Peter joined the International Youth Foundation in September 2005 as the Vice President for Employability and was appointed to Executive Vice President in January 2008. Peter has extensive international experience in Latin America and Africa, where he directed humanitarian and development programs during his 13-year tenure at Catholic Relief Services. He lived and worked in Central America from 1981 to 1985 and in Kenya from 1987 to 1990. He also worked for 11 years in Washington, D.C. with InterAction and Independent Sector. Peter has served on the Global Philanthropy Advisory Committee of the Council of Foundations and the board of Casa de Maryland. He is a graduate of Cornell University, with a Master and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics.

Miguel Székely

Director, Centro de Estudios Educativos y Sociales, Mexico

Currently, Miguel is the Director of the Centro de Estudios Educativos y Sociales (Center for Educational and Social Studies) and an advisor to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Organization, as well as other international organizations. From 2010 to 2013, he was the Director of the Instituto de Innovación Educativa (Educational Innovation Institute) at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education. Between 2006 and 2010, he served as Mexico's Deputy Secretary of Upper Secondary Education, and from 2002 to 2006, he was the Deputy Secretary of Forecasting, Planning, and Evaluation at the Mexican Ministry of Social Development. From 2000 to 2001, he worked as the Head of the Regional Development Unit for the Office of the Mexican Presidency and between 1996 and 2000, he was a Research Economist at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C. Miguel holds a doctorate and a master's in economics from Oxford University.

Verousckha Uchofen Herrera

Regional Coordinator, Ferreycorp Association, Peru

Verousckha has a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology and a master's in anthropology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, where she also studied theater and somatic education. She has interest and experience in development and personal growth through art, body language, and design and facilitation of life skills workshops. Her career has also included qualitative research on education and mental health. She has worked with the Delgado Noguchi Mental Health Institute, the Ministry of Education and Fundación Telefónica. She has also participated in panels on the implementation of soft skills for employment for various institutions like Pronabec, Senati, Scientific University of the South and the University of San Marcos. She has been the Coordinator of the Ferreycorp Association since 2008.

Angela Venza

Regional Director, International Youth Foundation, USA

Angie currently serves as Regional Director for The Americas at the International Youth Foundation, where she oversees a regional team and a diverse portfolio of government, corporate and foundation-funded programs in Latin America and the United States that focus on holistic youth development and employability for young people. Since joining IYF in 2010, Angie has managed various global programs



funded by the World Bank, USAID and corporate donors, as well as country-based programs in Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Mexico, Tanzania and India. Prior to her work at IYF, Angie consulted on corporate social responsibility and nonprofit management for a variety of clients in the international development field. She also directed a program in Ecuador to promote corporate social responsibility and managed Latin American partnerships at Synergos in New York. Angie started her career at JP Morgan, working in their offices in New York and Madrid. She holds a bachelor's in business administration from Georgetown University and a master's in public administration from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Angie is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.