

Biografías Organizing Team/ *Organizing Team Biographies*

Biografías autoridades Gobierno de Córdoba

Guillermo Acosta - Minister of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science of Córdoba Province



Guillermo Acosta is the Minister of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science of Córdoba Province. Economist, graduated from the National University of Córdoba, he performed as Senior Economist and later as Director of the Institute for Economic Investigations at Córdoba Stock Exchange. He has experience in the area of regional and productive development as a consultant for industrial, services and agribusiness companies. Acosta has also directed projects related to cluster and competitiveness development in health and technology areas. Regarding his recent academic experience, he serves as teacher at the National University of Córdoba and Catholic University of Córdoba, and has taken the courses “Program for Management Development, ESADE / Catholic University of Córdoba” and “Microeconomics of Competitiveness (MOC)” with Professor Michael Porter at Harvard University.

Pablo de Chiara - Secretary of Industry at the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science of Córdoba Province



Pablo de Chiara is the Secretary of Industry at the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science of Córdoba Province. Systems Engineer, graduated from the National Technological University of Córdoba, he performed as NAP Córdoba Main Coordinator. He also was a member of the Board of the Argentine Chamber of Internet and of the Board of Industrial Chamber of Córdoba. De Chiara has experience in the area of regional and productive development as a consultant, and has directed projects related to cluster initiatives and competitiveness development in technology area. Regarding his recent professional experience, he serves as president of the Cluster Córdoba Technology.

Biografías equipo Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) *Organization of American States (OAS)*

Maryse Robert - Director of the Department of Economic and Social Development



Maryse Robert is director of the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) at the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). DESD promotes inclusive economic growth, competitiveness and innovation in OAS member states through policy dialogue, institutional capacity building and the strengthening of existing networks to facilitate the exchange of experiences and successful practices particularly through horizontal and triangular cooperation. Dr. Robert, a Canadian national, has authored numerous studies on development-related issues. She is the coeditor with José M. Salazar-Xirinachs of *Toward Free Trade in the Americas/Hacia el libre comercio en las Américas* (Brookings Institution Press/OAS, 2001) and the author of *Negotiating NAFTA: Explaining the Outcome in Culture, Textiles, Autos, and Pharmaceuticals* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000). She is an economist with training in international trade law. She holds a Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) and a Master's degree in applied economics from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) (Montreal, Canada). Before joining the OAS, she worked at the World Bank and the United Nations, and in the private sector on telecom issues.

Cesar Parga - Chief of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology



Cesar Parga is Chief of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). Mr. Parga is in charge of the OAS Competitiveness Program which serves as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network. He also coordinates the support to the Meeting of Ministers and High level Authorities on Science and Technology and the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT). Mr. Parga is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center in Washington DC. He graduated from the Law School of the University of Guadalajara, México and was awarded a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.) in Patent and Intellectual Property Rights at the Law School of the George Washington University. He also received a Post-Graduate Certificate on International Trade from the University Institute of European Studies and the ILO International Training Center in Torino, Italy. He has served as visiting researcher at the National University of Singapore and guest lecturer at the University of Baylor Law School, the IP Graduate Program at the University of the Americas in Ecuador, American University Law School in Washington D.C., the IP Licensing Academy of U.C. Davis and the Tech Transfer Academy of the Americas in La Paz, B.C.S., Mexico. He collaborates as a volunteer international evaluator of technology transfer projects for INNPULSA, Colombia.

Pablo de Chiara - Secretary of Industry at the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science of Córdoba Province



Adriana Bonilla is Coordinator of the Americas Competitiveness Forum, which every year brings together more than a thousand representatives from governments of the Americas, the private sector, academia and international organizations to find solutions to common challenges and help foster greater economic competitiveness in the region. She is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) Annual Work Plan and for supporting the exchange of communication, knowledge and experiences among competitiveness authorities and experts in the Americas. Ms. Bonilla joined the Organization of American States in 2007 and has provided support in the design and execution of projects related to innovation and competitiveness, SMEs, entrepreneurship, and corporate social responsibility, among others. Ms. Bonilla holds a Master's Degree in International Affairs from the University of Comillas in Madrid, Spain, and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the Complutense University in Madrid. She was selected by the Office of the President of Colombia to participate in the G8 Young Leaders Summit held in Washington, D.C. in May 2012, and by the OAS Secretary General for a one-month scholarship exchange program in Dalian, China, in October 2013.

Juan Carlos Montoya



Juan Carlos trabaja con gobiernos, sector privado y la academia de las Américas en el diseño y ejecución de proyectos de desarrollo económico impulsados por la innovación y la competitividad. Por los pasados siete años Montoya ha trabajado en la Organización de los Estados Americanos para la oficina de Competitividad, Innovación y Tecnología. Con su experiencia a contribuido al impulso de agendas de desarrollo económico, competitividad y responsabilidad social en las políticas públicas de los gobiernos nacional, estatales y municipales de las Américas. Específicamente apoyando como Secretaría Técnica a la Red Interamericana de Competitividad (RIAC) y la Red Innovanet.

Previamente, Juan Carlos fue Primer Secretario y Representante Alterno de Honduras ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos en donde fungió como diplomático ante diversas comisiones internacionales representando a su país.

Juan Carlos es egresado de la American University en donde obtuvo un Master en Relaciones Internacionales y una Licenciatura en Negocios Internacionales de Strayer University, ambas en Washington D.C. Juan Carlos se autodenomina un emprendedor con la creación de cinco empresas exitosas en su natal Honduras.

Aryanne Quintal

Aryanne Quintal is the Project Coordinator of the Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas (OAS-ARTCA), a joint project of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology of the Organization of American States (OAS); the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) of the University of Illinois; the Latin American Corporation of Advanced Networks (RedCLARA) and the Costa Rica – USA Foundation for Cooperation (CRUSA). The OAS-ARTCA initiative seeks to promote effective multilateral collaboration between government agencies of education, science and technology; academia and the private sector in the interest of the region's social and economic growth. In her current position, Ms. Quintal is responsible for the planning, budgeting and forecasting of the OAS-ARTCA project, as well as for its outreach and expansion strategy, which includes the design, implementation and evaluation of training activities, seminars and international conferences. Ms. Quintal also provides support in the organization of hemispheric high-level dialogues, including the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Americas; Meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology; and the Americas Competitiveness Forum, the largest annual regional forum on innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development.

Previous to her current position, Ms. Quintal worked as Editor-in-Chief of the International Section for a local newspaper in Montreal, Canada. She also participated in various development projects on the ground – first in Peru, in collaboration with the NGO Development and Peace – and later in Ecuador and Colombia. Ms. Quintal holds a Master's degree in International Relations, Foreign Policy, Cooperation and Development from the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), as well as a Bachelor's degree in Political Communication from the same institution and a Specialty in Journalism from the University of Montreal.

Sofía Jaramillo

Sofía Jaramillo is an intern at the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) in the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). She assists the preparation of the Americas Competitiveness Forum, which every year brings together more than a thousand representatives from governments of the Americas, the private sector, academia and international organizations to find solutions to common challenges and help foster greater economic competitiveness in the region. As well she supports the preparation of the Fourth Exchange for Competitiveness in the Americas and the other section's events. Sofía is finishing her studies in International Business at the Universidad Autónoma de Manizales where she has obtained the recognition "Best Academic Average of International Business program" during all semesters and holds a scholarship for her Academic Excellence and leadership capacity.

Biografías departamento de Comercio Estados Unidos

Dr. Barrett Haga- Senior Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist- Economic Development



Barrett Haga, Ph.D. – Dr. Haga joined the Economic Development Administration (EDA) - U.S. Department of Commerce in April 2010 as the Senior Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist. He assists in coordinating two divisions (The Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of the Executive Secretariat). Prior to joining EDA, he worked at the U.S. Department of Labor advising senior leadership on economic development projects relating to healthcare, green jobs, and manufacturing.

One of his key projects was the “Tools for America’s Job Seekers Challenge” which used crowd sourcing to find the best online job tools. This project received national attention as a low-cost and highly effective approach to get quality online job tools to job seekers.

His other employment experience includes working for the Florida Community College System, the Florida Office of the Attorney General, the Florida Department of Education, the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives.

In addition to his current position, he is also an Adjunct Associate Professor within the University of Maryland System teaching courses that focus on international corporations, team building, and decision making. He has also taught courses at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities.

Dr. Haga holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development; a M.P.A. in Public Administration and Policy from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University; and a double B.A. in Political Science and Greek and Roman Studies from Rhodes College.

Shawn M. Ricks - Senior Policy Advisor- International Trade Administration



Ms. Ricks has close to 25 years of experience as part of the International Trade Administration. She served as the Director for the Americas Project Team, Office of the Western Hemisphere, for two years. In June 2012, she became the Senior Advisor on Global Affairs with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) where she helped to develop the Agency’s global strategy. In January 2013, she joined the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC) as a Senior Advisor, spearheading the U.S. government’s Doing Business in Africa (DBIA) Campaign. In January

2014, she returned to Global Markets as Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, assisting with ITA’s engagement on trade and economic issues related to entrepreneurship, education, and competitiveness.

Early in her tenure with ITA, she provided guidance on market access and compliance issues as they relate to business opportunities with Mexico and Canada. She also contributed to the development of U.S. trade policy in the Western Hemisphere for a number of U.S. bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the U.S. - Chile Free Trade Agreement, and the U.S. -Central America- Dominican Republic FTA, as well as, the U.S. free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and Peru.

In 2007, Ms. Ricks was recruited to join a special regional coordination team created to design and implement key strategic initiatives in the Americas surrounding the issues of competitiveness and economic development.

Ms. Ricks is a recipient of two Gold Medal Awards, the Department's highest honor, a Silver Medal, and Bronze Medal. In 2009, she developed the concept for an award-winning international opportunities seminar for minority- owned firms, which reached over 1000 individuals. She has traveled extensively throughout Latin America and the Caribbean as well as across the United States and spoken at numerous events and conferences on behalf of the Department, consulting with the U.S. private sector and other invested stakeholder groups on key trade and economic subject matters.

Ms. Ricks is a graduate of Hampton University's School of Business in Hampton, Virginia. In addition to his current position, he is also an Adjunct Associate Professor within the University of Maryland System teaching courses that focus on international corporations, team building, and decision making. He has also taught courses at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities.

Dr. Haga holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development; a M.P.A. in Public Administration and Policy from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University; and a double B.A. in Political Science and Greek and Roman Studies from Rhodes College.

Dakshina Voetsch - International Trade Specialist - International Trade Administration



Dakshina Voetsch - *As an International Trade Specialist for the International Trade Administration, Office of the Western Hemisphere, Dakshina works to assist U.S. companies expand and maintain their commercial presence in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. In addition to helping increase the U.S. commercial presence in these markets she also works with the hemisphere's Operations Advisor to support the U.S. Commercial Services offices throughout Canada and Latin America. Dakshina joined the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2011 through the Student Career Experience Program while earning her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from American University in Washington, DC.*