

Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Leadership Summit **REPORT**



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE
2020**



**LANE GLOBAL YOUTH
LEADERSHIP**

KANTAR



Microsoft

A MESSAGE FROM CLAUDIA ECHEVERRY

President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Latin America



I would like to thank you, athletes, Youth Leaders and mentors who have come from different countries of the Region to enrich this Summit with your ideas, enthusiasm and commitment seeking to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive world: on the playing field, in your schools and in your communities, Leading to Include!

The challenge we face is relevant. Exclusion and discrimination have made our world more divided today than ever, and inclusion has never been more urgent.

Our goal is ambitious: Together we are working to create a future where there is room for everyone. You dear participants are living proof that, if everyone can influence the life of one person in your community, you can and are making a profound difference.

This is an ambitious task - but it is exactly this ambition that will lead us to a better future!

We believe in you, we know that you can make an expansive impact in your communities, your youth activism and commitment can create important changes in our society.

We are here to hear your voices, to provide you with new tools and a platform on which you can build a strong network and plant innovative ideas that motivate people across the region.

We need you. We need your passion, your energy and your vision. We are confident that together we can build a better future.

Claudia Echeverry

President & Managing Director
Special Olympics Latin America Region

A MESSAGE FROM EMANUELLE DUTRA

Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger



Greetings to all of you!

What I like about Summits is that we have the opportunity to listen and to be listened to by people from across the continent, people who are fighting our same fight and working towards the same goal as us. They allow us to unite forces and become stronger and bigger than before.

We face a lot of challenges when it comes to inclusion, and that's why we need people with good hearts and the right tools to take up leadership positions around the world.

You have the power to effect change. Everyone here, working together, has that power. We can make a difference. We can change our present and build a better future. We are the change.

We are stronger together,

Emanuelle "Manu" Dutra

Special Olympics Brazil

Sargent Shriver International
Global Messenger

CONTENTS



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

05 REGIONAL OUTCOMES

06 Regional Youth Leadership Summit Overview

08 Day 1 Overview

09 Day 2 Overview

10 Day 3 Overview

11 Impact

11 Outcomes

13 LEGACY OF THE YOUTH SUMMIT

14 Program Spotlight: Special Olympics Panama

15 Program Spotlight: Special Olympics Venezuela

16 Program Spotlight: Special Olympics Guatemala

18 SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

19 Highlights



LANE GLOBAL YOUTH
LEADERSHIP

KANTAR

 **Microsoft**



REGIONAL OUTCOMES



OVERVIEW

REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The **2020 Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Leadership Summit** brought together youth with and without intellectual disabilities from 10 Special Olympics Programs across the Region to launch the next 50 years of the Special Olympics movement and drive initiatives for respect and inclusion in their home countries. The 10 Programs in attendance included: Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela.

During the three-day Summit, Youth were equipped with the skills needed to return to their Programs and create inclusive communities through the power of youth engagement. Participants were offered a platform for brainstorming, sharing, and planning youth involvement across Special Olympics Latin America. The Youth Summit also addressed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and how their work could create more sustainable communities around the world. While in Guatemala City, Youth Leaders met with their adult mentors to work on project plans they will implement into their school/community upon return from the Youth Summit. Alongside the collaborative discussion, representatives of the World Scouts Organization and the Organization of American States led engaging activities and provided additional opportunities for team building among participants.

Special Olympics and **Lane Global Youth Leadership** teamed up for a groundbreaking collaboration to empower Youth Leaders with and without intellectual disabilities through the Lead to Include Project, with added support by **Kantar**, and **Microsoft**. This project is bringing forth a new opportunity for Youth Leaders to develop plans to implement an inclusive vision of Special Olympics in their home communities. The Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Leadership Summit and Lead to Include Project would not have been possible without the project partners.



OVERVIEW



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

BY THE NUMBERS



20 Youth Leaders
with and without
ID trained



10 Programs
involved in the
Youth Summit

YOUTH SUMMIT STATISTICS

96%

of participants were **very satisfied** with the
Youth Leadership Training they received

100%

of participants feel **very confident** in their
ability to lead a project in their community to
promote inclusion

99%

of participants feel they **learned skills** that
they can use in other **areas of their life**

OVERALL **98%** of participants were
very satisfied with their
Youth Leadership
Summit experience

DAY 1 OVERVIEW

6 March 2020



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

The Special Olympics Latin America Youth Leadership Summit began with an Opening Ceremony welcoming participants, volunteers, partners and honored guests. Some of the honored guests who attended include:

- **Pamela Molina**
 - Disability Specialist, Organization of American States
- **Rebeca Arias**
 - UN Resident Coordinator, Guatemala
- **Reginaldo Sierra**
 - Chief Scout, Guatemala
- **Jorge de León**
 - Board Chair Special Olympics Guatemala.
- **Vivian Galvez**
 - Country Manager Kantar

Following the Opening Ceremony, **Pamela Molina**, Disability Specialist in the Organization of American States, led a session addressing the question *“How can Youth contribute to accomplish the United Nations 2030 Agenda?”* This session provided guidance on is the United Nation's agenda for the next 10 years, described the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, and discussed actions youth can take to create a more inclusive society.

After learning about the UN's 2030 Agenda, **Melissa de Leon**, Athlete Leader and **Juan Espinoza**, SOLA Youth Leadership Coordinator, led a Youth Leadership Training. During this time, participants described what inclusive leadership is, identified great leaders, and collaborated with others on characteristics of Unified Leadership.

The day continued with a workshop led by the **Scout Association** about how youth can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This session focused on the following SDG's:

- Quality Education
- Reduced inequalities
- Sustainable Cities and Communities

The day concluded with reflection and discussion on how the Youth Leaders could transform the future of inclusion in the next 10 years.



DAY 2 OVERVIEW

7 March 2020



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

After a day of learning and sharing, the second day of the Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Summit opened with an energizing speech from **Daniel Guerra**, an Athlete Leader, who shared his experience as a Master of Ceremony, world medalist in swimming and triathlon disciplines, and chair of the Special Olympics Guatemala National Athlete Input Council. His reflection inspired participants and set the stage for another day of collaboration and discussion.

Maria Elena Muñoz, certified coach on Lego Serious Play, led the session, *“Empowerment, Creativity and Imagination.”* Through the methodology presented, Youth Leaders learned how to communicate, analyze, and resolve conflicts through the expression of ideas, emotions, and feelings with Lego models. The Lego models were used to create and formulate the concepts of their Youth Innovation Projects.

Following this session, Youth Summit participants were able to hear stories from Youth Leaders who had already led Youth Innovation Projects across the Special Olympics Latin America Region. A Unified pair from Special Olympics Mexico and a Unified pair from Special Olympics Argentina shared their experience of leading a project and how it expanded opportunities for inclusion within their home communities. This insight helped participants as they prepared to discuss the importance of Project Management.

During the afternoon sessions, the **Scouts from Guatemala** led a session about Project Management. In this session, participants learned how to create and communicate their projects and share their expected outcomes with other individuals within their communities.

In the Project Management session, participants were able to reflect on the information they learned from the Youth Leadership Training and how their leadership skills could be leveraged to lead a successful Youth Innovation Project.

After concluding the session, participants had the opportunity to play Unified Golf. While at the Unified Golf event, Youth Leaders were able to see a variety of techniques presented in a demonstration from Guatemalan Athletes.



DAY 3 OVERVIEW

8 March 2020



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

As the Latin America Youth Summit came to a close, participants had time before the final sessions to think and reflect on what they learned throughout the first two days of the event. On the final day, Youth Leaders would take the information they learned and create their final project plans that would be presented in front of all participants.

To ensure Youth Leaders had the guidance needed to lead their projects when returning to their home countries, a group of panelists provided recommendations on how to improve their projects. Youth received feedback from the following panelists:

- **Maria Elena Muñoz**
 - LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® Certified Facilitator
- **Monserath López**
 - Coordinator, A Better World Movement Scouts Guatemala
- **Pamela Molina**
 - Disability Specialist, Organization of American States
- **Byron Alvarado**
 - Representative of Microsoft
- **Maricarmen Arauz**
 - Senior Manager, Marketing and Development, SOLA

Once the presentations concluded, all participants were invited to the stage to receive a certificate in celebration of the knowledge and skills they gained throughout the three-day experience. With the distribution of certificates, the Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Summit closed and the participants were able to reflect on everything they learned throughout the event in an evening activity.

A Unified cultural activity was held in La Antigua (Old Town) in conjunction with volunteers from the Scout Association of Guatemala. At this event was a rally where the Youth Leaders engaged in activities related to leadership, teamwork, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through these activities, participants enhanced their relationships and reflected on the importance of inclusion, empowerment, youth, and leadership. As participants led these activities, the voices of the Unified Generation could be heard across Guatemala.



IMPACT



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

BY THE NUMBERS



**35 Athlete Leaders, Unified
partners and volunteers engaged**



12 partners and VIPs engaged



55k+ social media impressions

"Diversity and inclusion are priorities within Microsoft. Our mission to empower each person and each organization on the planet to achieve more through being inclusive, not only in our own company and in the design of our products, but in the communities where we live. We think that with the right tools, all people can achieve their goals, and that without these opportunities to take advantage of talents and abilities, it is the whole society that loses. Movements such as Special Olympics demonstrate that inclusion is essential to generate innovative ideas in any area of society."

- Roberto Marroquín
Country Manager for Microsoft Guatemala

OUTCOMES



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE

Special Olympics Latin America Youth Leadership Summit

The **2020 Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Leadership Summit** offered the attending Programs a platform for sharing best practices, addressing critical issues and creating strategies for enhancing Regional youth engagement. Throughout the course of the three-day summit, Youth Leaders developed and expanded their understanding of how to drive social inclusion in their respective countries, cities, schools, and communities. Each delegation will receive a Youth Innovation Grant ranging from \$1,000 - \$2,000 USD to implement a project in their school or community based on the information they learned at the Youth Summit. These projects will be implemented in 10 countries across the Latin America Region and will further promote inclusion in schools and communities.



MOVING FORWARD

Special Olympics Latin America Regional Staff will oversee the planning and implementation of upcoming national and local-level Youth Summits across the Latin America Region. Participants of the Regional Youth Leadership Summit will help to support the Program-level and local-level Youth Summits and educate other Youth Leaders about the power of the **#UnifiedGeneration**.



LEGACY OF THE YOUTH SUMMIT

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PANAMA



Exsaul and **Rodrigo** are two Youth Leaders from Special Olympics Panama who will be leading a project to raise awareness of employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Exsaul and Rodrigo noticed a lack of opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to enter the labor market in Panama and wanted to expand awareness of employers of the skills and abilities all individuals possess.

Through their project, Exsaul and Rodrigo's main goal is to raise awareness across companies of individuals with ID, so they stop seeing inclusion of people with disabilities as a legal requirement, but to understand others better and provide them with opportunities for both professional and personal development. Exsaul and Rodrigo will be creating a Unified Companies Pilot Plan to launch more inclusive opportunities in companies across Panama. To lead their project, Exsaul and Rodrigo will contact business unions for national and international companies and identify three that would implement the Unified Companies Pilot Plan. By working with a specific group of companies, Exsaul and Rodrigo will establish alliances to support training of individuals with ID and assist with their transition in the labor market.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL OLYMPICS VENEZUELA



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE



Giancarlo and **Maria Elisa** are Youth Leaders from Special Olympics Venezuela who will be leading a project to engage more Special Olympics athletes and partners as certified coaches or assistant coaches within their Program.

When thinking about areas for engagement across Special Olympics Venezuela, Giancarlo and Maria Elisa noticed that there is high turnover of coaches and assistant coaches in the sports offered. Through their project, these Youth Leaders will identify and recruit Special Olympics athletes and partners to complete the coaching certification. Giancarlo and Maria Elisa will work to analyze the current coaching curriculum and adapt it to provide a more accessible option for those completing the certification. Once they have a new group of certified coaches, Giancarlo and Maria Elisa will attend the first few coaching sessions of these individuals to see how the training supported their learning styles. With the accessible option for the training, Giancarlo and Maria Elisa are hopeful more Special Olympics athletes and partners will become certified coaches and expand Unified Sports opportunities across Venezuela.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GUATEMALA



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
LEAD TO INCLUDE



Odette and Jaime are two Youth Leaders from Special Olympics Guatemala who will be uniting young people at educational institutions together to create awareness about disabilities, eliminate stereotypes, and promote inclusion.

Odette and Jaime noticed a lack of awareness for individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout their country. They also realized that most youth have little to no understanding of how to create opportunities for inclusion. Through their Youth Innovation Project, Odette and Jaime will work with schools and universities to implement an inclusive education program. Through their program, they will educate volunteers on types of disabilities, ways to eliminate stereotypes and reduce bullying, and activities to promote inclusion. By creating a group of volunteers at each school and university, Odette and Jaime are hopeful they can create a network of leaders who will continue to carry out Unified activities on their campuses. As volunteers lead their activities, Odette and Jaime will oversee the implementation and provide support where necessary. Through their project, Odette and Jaime are excited to see the impact inclusive programs will have on individuals with and without intellectual disabilities at schools and universities across Guatemala.



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



SOCIAL MEDIA

REGIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS



malenmunoz2468 · Follow



16 likes

malenmunoz2468 #liderapara incluir #juventudunificada @olimpiadas_especiales @specialolympics Cumbre Latinoamericana de Liderazgo Juvenil Guatemala 2020



rodricordova24 · Follow
Courtyard by Marriott Guatemala City



111 likes

rodricordova24 "Diversity is being invited to a party, inclusion is being asked to dance" #leadtoinclude #liderapara incluir #generacionunificada #eligeincluir #costarrica #raaaa



Olimpiadas Especiales is with Haidy Trigueros and Odette Trigueros.

March 6 at 12:49 PM · 🌐

#LideraParaIncluir

¡Jóvenes Líderes de la región están reunidos en Guatemala, compartiendo y aprendiendo a crear un mundo mejor! Enfocándose en 3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible: Educación de Calidad, Reducción de Desigualdades y Ciudades y Comunidades Sostenibles, la Cumbre Regional de Liderazgo Juvenil busca empoderar a jóvenes para ser los agentes del cambio que el mundo necesita.

Nos acompañan Rebeca Arias Flores, Coordinadora Residente de las United Nations en Guatemala; Pamela Molina, Especialista en Discapacidad de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA); y representantes de Olimpiadas Especiales y nuestros aliados!

[See Translation](#)



Olimpiadas Especiales is with Odette Trigueros and 3 others.

March 7 at 1:45 PM · 🌐

La Cumbre Regional de Liderazgo Juvenil Guatemala 2020

#LideraParaIncluir con actividades y presentaciones en donde la #GeneraciónUnificada fortalece sus conocimientos sobre lo que significa ser un líder en escuelas, comunidades y áreas de trabajo.

¡Gracias a Pamela Molina de Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) - Inclusión, la conferencista María Elena Muñoz y el atleta Daniel Guerra de Olimpiadas Especiales Guatemala por las excelentes ponencias!

[See Translation](#)



Meghan Hussey and 49 others

3 Comments 21 Shares



Kaitlyn Hamrick, Meghan Hussey and 55 others

2 Comments 23 Shares



LEAD TO INCLUDE MADE POSSIBLE BY



LANE GLOBAL YOUTH
LEADERSHIP

SUPPORTED BY

KANTAR



Microsoft

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GLOBAL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS
FOUNDATION



LANE GLOBAL YOUTH
LEADERSHIP



Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education



Samuel Family
Foundation



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

KANTAR



ESPN

