

# Special Olympics Latin America Regional Youth Leadership Summit REPORT



LANE GLOBAL YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP

**KANTAR**



**Microsoft**

# A MESSAGE FROM CLAUDIA ECHEVERRY

President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Latin America



I am pleased to share with you that Special Olympics Latin America just held its first Regional Youth Summit – Lead to Include. During the three days of this successful and productive gathering, Youth Leaders from across the region showed us their boundless creativity and their strong commitment to a truly inclusive future, both in and out of the playing field.

The challenges we face today are considerable. Exclusion and discrimination have made our world more divided than ever before. Inclusion has never been more urgent.

Special Olympics believes in youth. We know they are capable of creating a far-ranging impact in their communities, through their tireless activism and their unshakable commitment. Youth have the amazing ability to raise awareness, not only in their communities, but also through social media, amplifying their message to a global audience.

I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to our partners, Lane Global Youth Leadership, Kantar, Microsoft, Guatemala's Scouts, the Organization of American States and the speakers that offered their invaluable knowledge, for supporting the strengthening and edification of our Youth Leaders, who stand at the forefront of a Unified Generation.

It's clear that an inclusive world needs the energy, vision and passion of youth. And that's why I invite you to stay tuned to the next steps of our youth, that truly lead to include. And not only to bear witness to their initiatives, but also to support them and spread the word. Because only by working together can we build that better future we all strive for.

**Claudia Echeverry**

President & Managing Director

Special Olympics Latin America Region

# A MESSAGE FROM EMANUELLE DUTRA

Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger

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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.

I was honored to be invited to speak to all my fellow Youth Leaders. Despite the distance, we are all connected and working towards the same goal: a more inclusive world for people of ALL abilities. I am truly excited to see and hear about all the development and implementation of all these projects!

My parting words for the youth of the Americas: You have the power to effect change. No matter where you are, everyone working together has that power. We can make a difference. We can change our present and build a better future. We are the change. Remember to always be open to expressing your ideas and experiences, as well as listening to other points of view. Exchanging ideas is one of the best ways to build the communities that we deserve to live in.

We are stronger together.

*Emanuelle Dutra F. de Souza*

**Emanuelle "Manu" Dutra**

*Special Olympics Brazil*

Sargent Shriver International  
Global Messenger

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**LEAD TO INCLUDE**

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**LANE GLOBAL YOUTH**  
LEADERSHIP

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A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a blue jacket and a white lanyard with a red logo, is smiling and holding a small, colorful LEGO structure. She is surrounded by other people, some of whom are also working with LEGO bricks. In the foreground, there is a large pile of various colored LEGO bricks and pieces. The background is slightly blurred, showing other participants and a red wall with some text.

# 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

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### 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
- **Patricía Mejía**
  - Solution Assessment Manager, Microsoft Centroamerica and Venezuela

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 **Scouts** 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 Costa Rica, Special Olympics El Salvador, and Special Olympics Guatemala 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** 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 at a Unified Golf. While at the activity, Youth Leaders were able to see a variety of techniques presented in a demonstration from Special Olympics Guatemala 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:

- **María 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 Scouts. This event consisted of a circuit race where Youth Leaders and their mentors had to complete different tasks to continue and advance to the next area. The tasks were related to leadership, teamwork, and 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

## REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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### 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 every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more by 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

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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

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS PANAMA



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
LEAD TO INCLUDE



**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

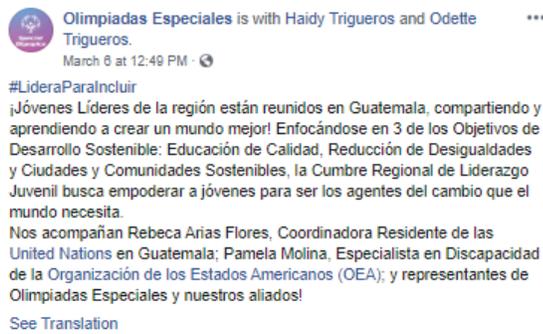
## REGIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS



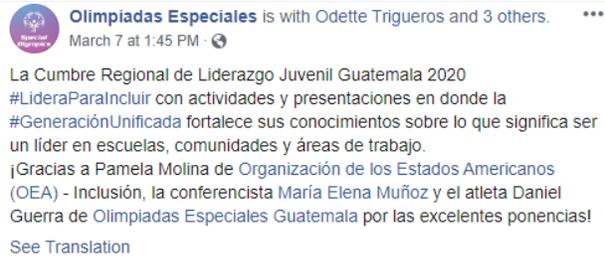
malenmunoz2468 · Follow  
16 likes  
malenmunoz2468 #lideraparaincluir #juventudunificada @olimpiadas\_especiales @specialolympics Cumbre Latinoamericana de Liderazgo Juvenil Guatemala 2020



rodricordova24 · Follow  
111 likes  
rodricordova24 "Diversity is being invited to a party, inclusion is being asked to dance"  
#leadtoinclude #lideraparaincluir #generacionunificada #eligincluir #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



# SUMMIT SUPPORTERS





# SUMMIT SUPPORTERS

## REGIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

The Organization of American States brings together all 35 independent states of the Americas and constitutes the main political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere. In addition, it has granted permanent observer status to 69 states, as well as to the European Union (EU).

The OAS uses a four-pronged approach to effectively implement its essential purposes. The Organization's four main pillars -- democracy, human rights, security, and development -- support each other and are intertwined through political dialogue, inclusiveness, cooperation, and legal and follow-up instruments that provide the OAS with the tools to maximize its work in the Hemisphere.

The Department of Social Inclusion supports the efforts of Member States in formulating strategies to combat inequality and promote social inclusion through initiatives that seek:

- Breaking structural barriers in access to opportunities
- Promoting public policies that generate social inclusion
- Raising living conditions of various groups more vulnerable

### SCOUTS OF GUATEMALA

Scouting is a global movement with over 50 million members worldwide, all part of National Scout Organizations (NSOs).

"The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society."



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
Creating a Better World

Scouting provides young people with opportunities to participate in programs, events, activities, and projects that contribute to their growth as active citizens. Through these initiatives, young people become agents of positive change who inspire others to take action.

They do some amazing things, from simple community actions to large-scale projects. Throughout its history, Scouting has inspired its millions of members to make a difference -- applying their leadership to create a better world.



# SUMMIT SUPPORTERS

## REGIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



**OEA - Inclusión**  
@OEA\_Inclusion

@OEA\_Inclusion sigue acompañando la Cumbre Regional de jóvenes líderes con y sin discapacidad intelectual de @OEamericalatina en Guatemala. Hoy apoyamos aprendizaje a través del juego, y la elaboración de proyectos para incluir. Políticas Públicas siempre deben ser inclusivas.

Translate Tweet



Roberto Rojas Davila and 3 others

6:27 PM · Mar 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

7 Retweets 19 Likes



**Pamela Molina**  
@hjadela1una1

Cómo parte del Acuerdo Marco firmado entre la @OEA\_oficial y @OEamericalatina, @OEA\_Inclusion acompaña la cumbre regional de jóvenes con y sin discapacidad intelectual: #LideraParaIncluir, capacitando líderes para un mundo inclusivo y con equidad.

Translate Tweet

**OlimpiadasEspeciales** @OEamericalatina · Mar 6

Nos acompañan Rebeca Arias Flores, Coordinadora Residente de @ONU\_es en Guatemala; Pamela Molina, Especialista en Discapacidad de @OEA\_Inclusion; y representantes de Olimpiadas Especiales y nuestros aliados! #LideraParaIncluir



4:58 PM · Mar 6, 2020 from Guatemala · Twitter for iPhone

7 Retweets 18 Likes



### SCOUTS OF GUATEMALA



**Monse López Guillén** está aquí: Courtyard by Marriott Guatemala City.

10 de marzo a las 20:23 · Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala, Guatemala

El fin de semana tuve la oportunidad de ser expositora en la Cumbre de Liderazgo organizada por Olimpiadas Especiales - América Latina. Durante todo el fin de semana hablamos de Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, inclusión y proyectos para cambiar el mundo. Que inspirador convivir con jóvenes tan comprometidos con un mundo inclusivo y lleno de oportunidades para todos. #ODSinfluencer #MundoMejorG1 #lideraparaIncluir



47

9 comentarios



62 likes

**olimpiadasespeciales** Un mundo más inclusivo necesita líderes preparados. Las chicas de @mundomejorgt / @scoutsguatemala lo saben y comparten su conocimiento sobre #ODS con la #GeneraciónUnificada en la Cumbre Regional de Liderazgo Unificado Guatemala 2020. #LideraParaIncluir y apoya a nuestro movimiento!

LEAD TO INCLUDE MADE POSSIBLE BY



LANE GLOBAL YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP

SUPPORTED BY



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

