



COCHA-LINA HERALD

Newsletter of the North Carolina Partners of the Americas (Partners with Cochabamba, Bolivia)

Newsbits

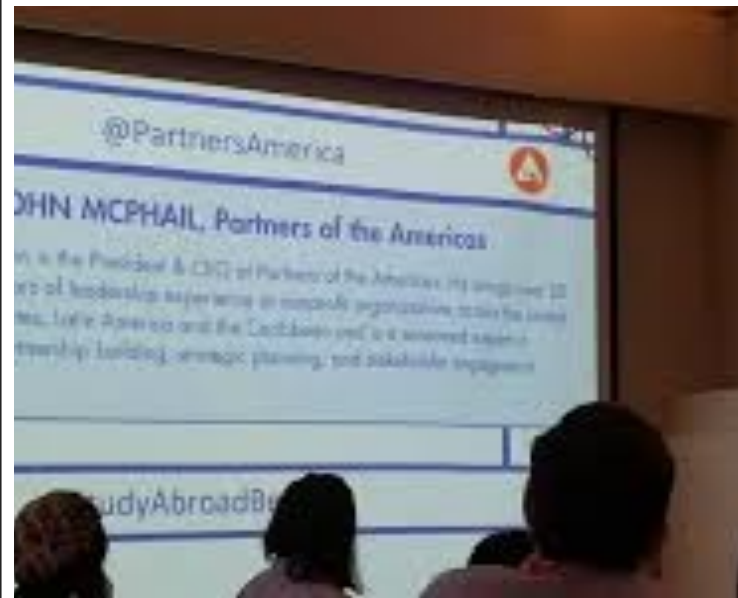
- **Update on Partners of the Americas Farmer to Farmer Program.**
- **Low-income Bolivians receive free medical hand surgery**
- **TESOL policy and advocacy summit for ELL professionals June 18-20, 2018**
- **La Paz is South America's coolest city, according to Travel and Leisure.**
- **A new type of mansion called cholets by some, la nueva arquitectura andina by others, in Bolivia.**
- **Cholita fashion.**
- **Bolivia's Madidi National Park is considered the world's most biodiverse protected area .**
- **Bolivian Clemson tennis star Daniela Ruiz talks of how she overcame the language barrier.**

Raleigh, NC

The NC Partners' of the Americas annual meeting is always something to look forward to- hearing about successful projects, reconnecting and networking, cultural exchanges that highly benefit both hemispheres- but the past year's meeting was especially eventful. The new CEO, John McPhail was the key speaker at the annual meeting and outlined Partners of the America's vision going forward.

John McPhail started at POA on June 1, 2018. Since then, he has been able to visit the chapters in Nicaragua, Columbia, Mexico, Argentina, and Paraguay. Organizational successes in 2017 were a donation of an ambulance in Nicaragua, equipping indigenous Ecuadorian farmers to prevent deforestation, youth exchanges between Colombia, Venezuela, and USA, 100,000 strong grants to 38 institutions. Partners has also started a food program in Haiti to increase availability of nutritious foods, expand local production and importation, and contribute directly to Haiti's nutrition strategy.

Going forward, Partners of the Americas will focus on a 5-pronged organizational strategy which includes updating the organization's technology to connect across the hemispheres. There is now a comprehensive budget Instead of a separate budget for each program. Partners is looking for other sources of funding and is always trying to diversify its funding from government organizations.



The biggest Partners program is with the Department of Labor but there are other programs with the Department of Commerce and the State Department.

Because of Bolivia's political stance, there are not as many programs as there are in Colombia and Paraguay, but there is a tremendous chapter presence in Bolivia.

After John McPhail's talk, Hank Graden gave a presentation on the Autism project.

Psychiatrist Dr. Bethea gave a presentation and is helping with the medical aspects of working with autistic behavior.

The next meeting will be June 16, 2018 at the Eva Perry Regional Library for June 16 at 10:30am. The library is at 2100 Shepherd's Vineyard Dr., Apex, NC 27502.



WHAT WORKS

Juntos Podemos | December 5-8, 2018

El Tropicano Hotel | Save the date - Details soon!
San Antonio, TX | Aparte la Fecha - ¡Detalles Pronto!

Save the Date
December 5-8, 2018



HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

INTERNATIONALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS
CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA | SEPTEMBER 25 - 27 2018

Proposals are still being accepted for the Higher Education Partnership. For more information, click [here](#).

www.ncpoa.net

www.Partners.net

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website www.ncboliviapartners.org, go to the DONATE page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!**

Cochabamba Partners

President: Danny Balderrama

General Secretary: Celia Calani

Treasurer: Silvia Quiroga

Environmental Subcommittee: Mike Valdivia

Education/Arts/Culture: Silvia Quiroga

Mujer and Familia: Lic. Claudia Jimenez and Univ. Alejandra Fuentes

Sports, Rehabilitation: Dra. Marlene Mercado
Phoebe Johnson

Science and Technology: Dr. Saul Escalera

Health: Vacant

**2018 Summer Meeting
For Partners of the Americas**

When: Saturday, June 16, 2018, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Where: Eva Perry Regional Library, 2100 Shepherd's Vineyard Dr. , Apex, NC 27502.

Contact: Janis Holden-Toruno at janisht@gmail.com

NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS

Janis Holden-Toruno, Current President
George Wilson, Vice-President
Jessica Kinard , Secretary
Karen Brown Interim Treasurer and Past President

Members: Includes the Executive Committee above and Hank Graden, Virginia Freedman, Carlos Vargas, Lori Snyder, Anita Crowley Steve Gibson, Katushka Olave, Daniel Johnson , Judy Gibson, Gail Kelly, Carolyn Checkley , Linda Watson

Subcommittees and Chairs: (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**
Culture and the Arts - **Daniel Johnson**, Kitty Stalberg,
Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons
Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins
Emergency Preparedness– Vacant
Education –**Karen Brown**, Deborah Wilkes
Environment and Natural Resources– Vacant
Sports–Vacant
Membership – **Anita Crowley** , Virginia Freedman
Newsletter Editor: **Virginia Freedman**

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING A PROJECT-BASED GRANT BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET STARTED?

This year's program activities will focus on three themes that work to:

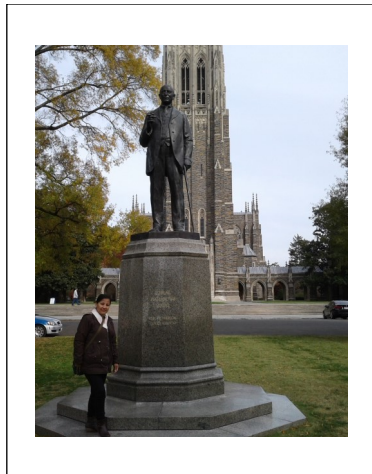
- increase English language learning;
 - increase and strengthen university partnerships; and
 - engage youth, and promote economic empowerment and social inclusion.
- (1) If you have an idea for a project, write to the corresponding subcommittee chair. The chair will be the person that has the contacts, and helps plan the itinerary. For help with visas and the necessary paperwork, please email the president and vice-president of the Executive Board.
- (2) **Travel Grants** for volunteers and community leaders to visit partner chapter to participate in skills training, give presentations and workshops, build program action plans, and participate in community projects. Travel grants are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (3)**Teacher-in-Residence Grants** are travel grants for English teachers and administrators to share methodologies and pedagogy for teaching English as a second language, including methodologies for reaching out to marginalized communities. Travel requests are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (4) **Public-Private Partnership Events** to bring together volunteers and community leaders from throughout the region to share effective practices and build multi-national networks that include the US. Information on upcoming events will be sent out soon. If you are interested in hosting an event on one of the priority areas, please contact Melissa Golladay.

Contacts:

Carmen Sepassi, Senior Program Officer, csepassi@partners.net
Melissa Golladay, Director, mgolladay@partners.net
Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net

PICTURES FROM PAST PROJECT S

These are pictures from some of past years' cultural exchanges. Clockwise from top right is Carlos Guaman, Orthotist and Prosthetist of Cochabamba, the Cochabamban 31st Partners Celebration. Teacher-in-residence Maria Eugenia Balderrama visited Duke University's West campus. Nutritionist Julia Paul of Wake Medical Center in Raleigh shares knowledge with Nutritionist Albina Torrez from La Paz . Below is a picture of Wilma Vargas helping children adjust to their surgery .



NC POA's most recent medical mission, March 2018.. From the top, Dr. Malcolm Marks speaks with Bolivian doctors. Next, doctors take a break from the burn center. Young POA volunteers entertain child burn victims. Bottom, doctors meet with child burn victims.

