

The AMERICAS *Project*

bringing together emerging leaders
of the western hemisphere

PROGRAM

program description

The Americas Project is a collaborative venture uniting the resources and expertise of Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and the Organization of American States. This undertaking is designed to create a leadership forum where emerging economic, political and cultural pacesetters throughout the Western Hemisphere can engage in dialogue on important topics of hemispheric consequences. The Americas Project brings together approximately 15 fellows selected competitively from the various countries of the Western Hemisphere. They represent some of the region's brightest and most promising, rising young leaders.

We share a hemispheric space in the Americas that increasingly requires multinational attention to convergent interests and concerns. These include trade and structural reforms, the flow of capital and labor within the region, growing intraregional trade, shared consumer tastes and marketing, challenges to the order of law, and a common concern for the environment. The need to manage the growing interdependence among the American countries is creating a new and quite different policy climate. The Americas—particularly the developing nations of Latin America—occupy an increasingly vital position on our world's economic, political, cultural, and social map. From Mexico to Venezuela to Chile, these emerging countries are assuming a vital presence on the world's stage.

the colloquium

The Americas Project Fellows meet at the Baker Institute over a four-day period. This is a period of critical involvement for the fellows that includes several components:

Significant discussion activity. The fundamental thrust of the project is to create dialogue and lay out the groundwork for innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges confronting the nations of the Americas. Toward the end of the colloquium, fellows draft a position paper articulating the conclusions reached in their discussions. The resulting document serves as the conference's final report and is disseminated through the Organization of American States to policymakers throughout the hemisphere.

Lectures from prominent voices in the international arena. These lectures keynote specific concerns and topics of the colloquium and are open to the community, often attracting a wide audience of media, faculty, students and community leaders.

Interaction with senior scholars from Rice and other academic institutions. Fellows have a chance to capitalize on Rice's formidable intellectual resources through personal interaction with academicians and scholars.

T h e AMERICAS *P r o j e c t*

bringing together emerging leaders
of the western hemisphere

Each colloquium focuses on a different subject that we anticipate will yield a significant number of tangible results in key areas:

Leadership. By harnessing the collective energy of exceptional young leaders, the Americas Project helps foster leadership throughout the hemisphere. Americas Project Fellows—future industrial chieftains, up-and-coming political office holders, and nascent social and cultural trendsetters—will return to their home countries emboldened to carry the mantle of leadership.

Networking. The Americas Project helps forge alliances among future North and South American leaders, something that is vital as our world becomes increasingly interdependent. After their tenure in the project, fellows will be able to draw upon relationships with their counterparts in other countries of the region.

Dialogue. The Americas Project recognizes that solutions to pressing world challenges require interaction, collaboration and dialogue. Through this effort, we can promote forward-thinking discussions on the many concerns facing the North and South American continents. Our hope is that this constructive dialogue will endure beyond the four-day seminar, leading to increased collaboration in the years to come.



CONTACT US

Erika de la Garza
Program Director, Latin American Initiative
Baker Institute for Public Policy – MS 40
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
U.S.A.

713.348.2675 phone
713.348.5993 fax
erika7@rice.edu e-mail

For more information about the program and its publications, please see the website at:
www.americasproject.bakerinstitute.org