

#ACXchange



*The Premier Economic Development,
Innovation and Entrepreneurial
Network of the Americas*

www.riacevents.org/ACE



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THE ACE

The Premier Economic Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Network of the Americas

The ACE is the Premier Economic Development, Innovation, and Entrepreneurial Network of the Americas that aims to boost international and regional partnerships, increase trade and investment, strengthen innovation and competitiveness, and foster inclusive economic development in the region.



The ACE successfully connects decision-makers from the Americas and beyond and is a catalyst for enhanced economic development and commercial ties in the Americas.

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PARTNERS

Created in 2014 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of State and the Organization of American States (OAS).

The ACE is convened by the Organization of American States (OAS) through the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) <http://riacevents.org/ace/>



BENEFITS OF ACE

The ACEs are designed to build cooperation networks throughout the Americas and beyond to promote economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurship efforts that promote sustainable and inclusive economic development and increased trade.

- Opens dialogue for trade & investment
- Encourages global and regional inter-connected networks
- Attracts and stimulates investment
- Promotes coordinated economic development strategies
- Opportunity to showcase community assets to attract more investment.



ACE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



- Promoting long-term multilateral commercial, trade, and investment partnerships among decision-makers of the Americas and beyond;
- Identifying and sharing best practices in economic development, including public private partnerships, building local assets that grow businesses, cluster development, promoting entrepreneurship, and coordinating regional economic development strategies;
- Stimulating capital investment and job creation in the region;
- Fostering an environment for innovative companies to startup and expand.

ACE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Bringing together universities, industries, and governments to solve complex, multisectoral challenges that business could not address on their own;
- Facilitating commerce and trade;
- Promoting economic resiliency; and
- Enhancing opportunities for underrepresented populations

THE EXCHANGE

1 Week
50 Participants
40+ Sites and projects



PARTICIPANTS

The 50 ACE participants are decision makers from the OAS Member States and, as relevant, OAS Permanent Observer Countries including:

- Ministers/Vice Ministers or equivalent
- Members of Congress/Parliament
- Mayors or Senior Leaders from cities/provinces
- Chancellors/VP of Universities
- Presidents/VP of Competitiveness Councils
- Presidents/VP of Chambers of Commerce
- Secretaries and Directors of Innovation
- Private Sector Leaders
- Top entrepreneurs



EXAMPLE OF ACE RESULTS

- ✓ The consolidation of a \$10M research and development program to support innovation ventures between Brazil and Israel
- ✓ The launch of Haiti's first Incubator Center for Technological Innovation (ALPHA Haiti) modeled after U.S. and Mexico incubators and supported by ACE leaders
- ✓ The incorporation of a new aerospace company called Aerospacefy LLC in Puerto Rico, subsidiary to Orbital Engenharia S.A. from Brazil
- ✓ The creation of a Corporate Venture called Amberes Ventures in Medellin, Colombia, to provide smart funding to food and beverage startups in Latin America
- ✓ Multiple Colombia companies soft landing into Puerto Rico.
- ✓ Helped drive Chapter 6 of USMCA using U.S Canada and Mexico: US Clustermapping methodology.
- ✓ New agreement between UNITEC Honduras and University of California San Diego: Entrepreneurship Soft Landing



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EXAMPLE OF ACE RESULTS

- ✓ Collaboration between MARS (Toronto) and the Colombian Federation of Software and IT Industry (FEDESOFIT) on capacity building for SMEs in Colombia and soft-landing services for Colombian companies to scale-up into Canada.
- ✓ Based on the experience at Water Tab in the ACE 6 in Canada, the Aqueduct Company of Medellin redesigned the technological approach and startup investment structure for water management technologies.
- ✓ After ACE Canada, technical assistance from Vineland Research Center (Niagara) and Niagara College to Barbados to collaborate on greenhouses and food testing facilities.
- ✓ After ACE Canada, Vineland Research Center collaborated with experts for Wine and Grape Growers from Wisconsin, United States.
- ✓ CORFO Chile entered into a partnership with Germany to send companies to Germany to open new market opportunities and also for training. It is an ongoing effort.
- ✓ Increased funding allocated for R&D cooperation between SME and Research Institutes of Canada and Germany.



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RECOGNITION AND ADOPTION

ACE was recognized as part of the 2016 North American Competitiveness Work Plan, agreed to by Presidents Obama and Peña Nieto and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, at the North American Leaders Summit (NALS) held in Ottawa, Canada's capital.

The United States Conference of Mayors urges communities across the US to host and participate in the ACE program. The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) of the United States adopted a resolution in support of the expansion of ACE.

The ACE Network was featured by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) by the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Co-operation in their report "Triangular Co-operation in the Era of the 2030 Agenda".



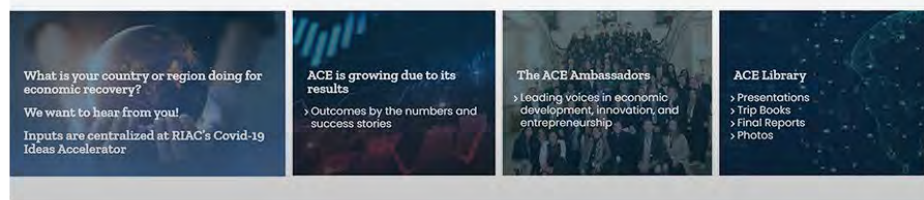
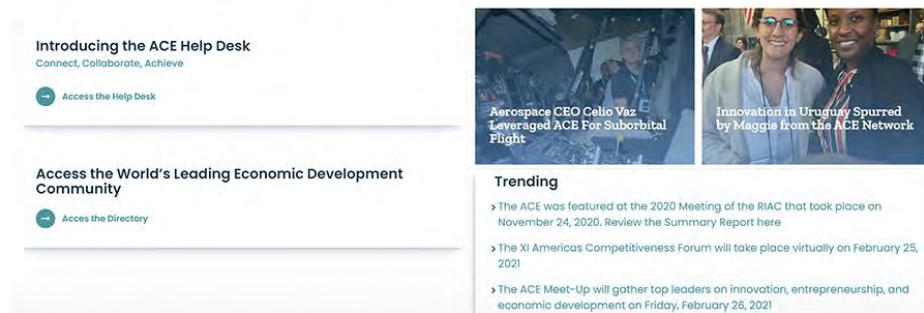
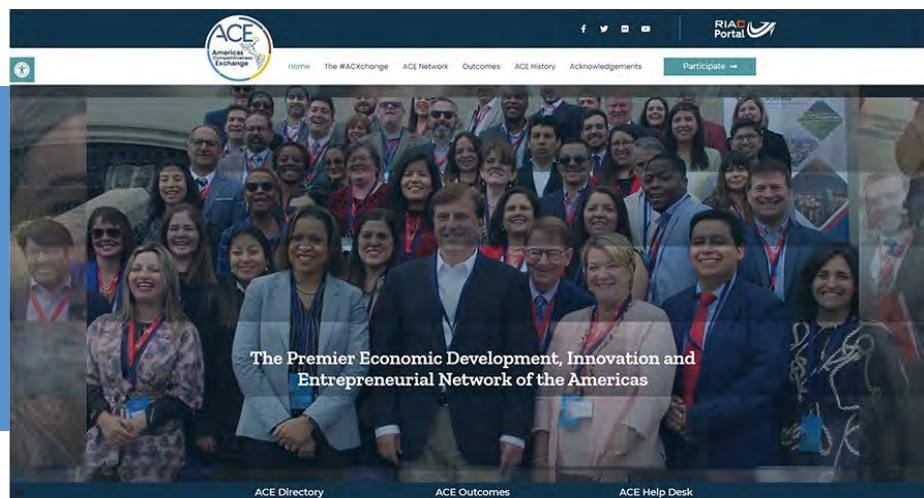
12 PROGRAMS SINCE 2014

2 ACEs per year

- ✓ ACE 1 in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 2 in Mexico DF, Guadalajara, and Aguas Calientes – **Mexico**
- ✓ ACE 3 in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 4 in Province of Cordoba – **Argentina**
- ✓ ACE 5 in Arizona and Southern California – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 6 in Ontario – **Canada**
- ✓ ACE 7 in Texas – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 8 in Florida – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 9 in **Israel and Germany** (Special Edition)
- ✓ ACE 10 in Northern California – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 11 in Puerto Rico – **United States**
- ✓ ACE 12 in Santiago de Chile – **Chile**
- ✓ **Future ACE Hosts:**
 - Colorado – **United States**
 - Louisiana – **United States**



PRESENTING THE ACE NEW WEBSITE



MAIN FEATURES

- ACE Directory
- ACE Help Desk
- ACE Library
- ACE Ambassadors
- ACE Acknowledgements
- ACE Outcomes



ACE is a result-based program influencing the creation of Centers of Innovation and Entrepreneurship to incubate and accelerate businesses; launching new companies to create jobs and innovation ventures; opening new markets to companies that are soft-landing in other countries/regions; starting new projects that support access to capital for entrepreneurs; and establishing initiatives to empower women and youth in entrepreneurship and STEM. These are just some of the many successes coming from this initiative.

12 Successful #ACXchange
57 Regions explored
910 Showcased projects
36,759 Beneficiaries



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACE Website

<http://riacevents.org/ACE>

Social Media

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