

COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

March 19, 2018



Ambassador Reyes Meets with Top Business Leaders, Government Officials in Kansas City

Last week, Colombian Ambassador to the United States Camilo Reyes visited Kansas City, Missouri. While in town, he met with Kansas City Mayor Sly James and Director of International Affairs for the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City Narbeli Galindo to discuss how to expand the Colombia-Kansas City economic partnership to benefit Kansas Citians and Colombians alike. The Ambassador also met with business leaders at an event hosted by the Business Council for International Understanding and in the local offices of engineering company Burns & McDonnell and Black & Veatch, a global leader in building critical human infrastructure in energy, water, telecommunications and government services.

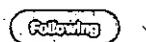
Check out these tweeted highlights from his visit:



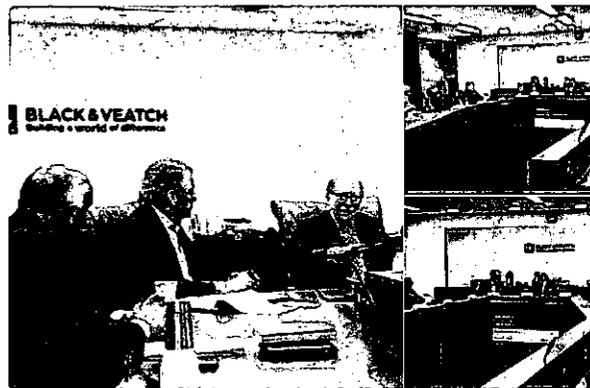
Ambassador Reyes met today with Kansas City @MayorSlyJames and @EDCKC Director of International Affairs @NarbeliGalindo to discuss ways to expand the economic partnership between Colombia and #KansasCity



3:37 PM - 14 Mar 2018



Today, Ambassador Reyes is talking with top officials from the #KansasCity office of @Black_Veatch, global leader in building critical human infrastructure in energy, water, telecom and government services, about opportunities in Colombia



12:28 PM - 15 Mar 2018

 **Embajada De Colombia**
@ColombiaEmbUSA

Following

Great meeting today with @BurnsMcDonnell in #KansasCity to discuss new economic partnership opportunities. Thanks to @BCIU for playing an instrumental role in advancing the economic alliance between the city and Colombia



7:17 PM - 14 Mar 2018

 **Embajada De Colombia**
@ColombiaEmbUSA

Following

It was an honor to sit down today with syndicated columnist and member of the @KCStar editorial board @msanchezcolumn. Had a wide-ranging conversation about many issues, from the strong US-Colombia alliance, the situation in Venezuela and the 2018 elections in Colombia - CR



4:46 PM - 15 Mar 2018

While in Kansas City, the Ambassador also visited with the local Colombian community and delivered remarks at a community meeting about his visit and what's happening on the ground in Colombia.



*Photo: Ambassador Reyes addressing the Colombian community in Kansas City.
Photo Credit: Michael Alvarado*

On the Ground: What's News in Colombia

President Santos Distributes 600 Tablets Students in Meta



Photo: President Santos and students from Mesetas, Meta. Photo Credit: César Carrión

Last Thursday, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos Santos delivered 600 tablets to schoolchildren in the department (state) of Meta.

President Santos said:

“These children from the village of La Guajira, here in the municipality of Mesetas, will have the same access to that wonderful world of technology that rich children have in Bogotá or rich children in Miami.”

Over the course of President Santos's two terms in office, 350,000 tablets have been distributed to teachers and students across Colombia to advance teaching and learning.

The Santos Administration has made education one of the core pillars of the plan for national development, and since 2013, education has been prioritized in the national budget, with annual education spending nearly doubling defense and security spending.

Colombian Government and ELN Resume Peace Talks in Ecuador



Photo: President Santos, High Commissioner for Peace Rodrigo Rivera and the Chief of the Negotiating Team Gustavo Bell, March 12, 2018. Photo Credit: César Carrión

Also on Thursday in Quito, Ecuador, the Colombian government and the ELN resumed peace talks. President Santos announced on Monday that he decided to resume the talks, *“thinking about life, about saving lives, about achieving a complete peace for Colombia.”* On September 5, 2017, the government announced it reached a bilateral ceasefire with the ELN, the first agreement reached with that guerrilla group in 50 years – a historic milestone following the achievement of a Peace Agreement with the FARC in 2016. The talks with the ELN began in February 2017.

After a series of violent attacks perpetrated by members of the ELN, President Santos suspended the talks in late January 2018.

What We're Reading

- **Library of Congress: “From Nigeria to Colombia: an Homage to Braille Music” | March 15, 2018 (Read)**
Excerpt: *“Braille Music’ is a 2017 documentary about a group of highly accomplished blind musicians paying homage to Louis Braille, the inventor of not only literary braille but also braille music code. ... The seven blind musicians participating in the musical ensemble range from under 20 to over 70 years old, representing four different continents. There is a young singer who learned braille music as a child in her home country of Nigeria; an older Indian percussionist and sitar player who writes down music using his braille display to transmit it to other musicians, and a young pianist from Colombia who emphasizes the importance of reading braille music in order to interpret and express one’s understanding of the music.”*

- **ParkRecord.com (Park City, UT): "Park City Day School welcomes students from Colombia" | March 15, 2018 (Read)**
Excerpt: "When four new students came to Park City Day School, they had to make some adjustments. For starters, they could no longer call teachers by their first names, and they weren't able to leave the school during lunchtime. Not to mention they were in an entirely new country. Four eighth-grade students from Colegio Los Nogales in Bogotá, Colombia, are participating in Park City Day School's first global exchange program. The teens spent two weeks in Park City earlier this month and, next month, four Park City students will visit Colombia's capital. Ian Crossland, head of the Park City Day School, said that the exchange is part of the school's goals to be both 'Park City-centered' and 'global in our reach and perspective.'"
 - **Associated Press: "Colombia blocks ISIS linked plot to kill US diplomats" | March 15, 2018 (Read)**
Excerpt: "Police hauled a handcuffed Cuban man into court in Colombia's capital Thursday for allegedly plotting to kill U.S. diplomats in the name of the Islamic State extremist group. A judge ordered the suspect, Raul Gutierrez, held without bail on terrorism and conspiracy charges. He was arrested earlier in the week in the western city of Pereira in a coordinated investigation involving police in Spain and the FBI, officials said."
-

Connect with Colombia.

**Learn about Colombia's work in the United States
through our social channels:**



CANCILLERÍA



Embassy of Colombia in the United States

www.colombiaemb.org
