



THIRD INTERIM REPORT
JULY - DECEMBER, 2015
JANUARY 31, 2016



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ColomboAmericano
Medellin



INTRODUCTION

The MLK Program prepares outstanding ethnic minority students from the most in-need communities in our country to compete nationally and internationally so they become high-qualified professionals and increase their chances to reach their personal and academic goals.

The present cohort includes a total of 125 high-achieving university students of Afro- and Indigenous Colombian heritage from Barranquilla, Cali, Cartagena, Medellin, and Quibdo. It is important to mention that the MLK Fellowship Colombia intends to graduate 120 students in 2016; however, as a contingency plan additional applicants were selected in each city. From July to December 2015, most MLK fellows moved to an intermediate level of competence in English at the different BNCs and achieved a B1 level. The leadership component continues to be successfully implemented and fellows around the country have started to get more involved in social projects intending to help vulnerable communities.

The present report includes three sections: First, a description of MLK fellows' performance in the English Programs per city, followed by a description of the activities done in the leadership component; second, some success stories of MLK students in the different cities; finally, conclusions on the implementation of the MLK Program around the country.

▶ PART I: Academic and Leadership Report BARRANQUILLA

Academic Report

By and large, records of MLK fellows' performance during the semester 2015-2 show satisfying results. Barranquilla MLK fellows have completed fourteen of the 24 courses of the scholarship for a total of 504 hours of English instruction. Currently, there are 23 active MLK recipients at the Intermediate English for Adults Program at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano. The following chart shows their performance during the semester. The minimum passing grade is 70.

	Last Name	Names	Courses Taken Jul-Dec 2015	Average Grade Jul-Dec 2015	Courses taken (TOTAL)	Instruction hours (TOTAL)	CEF Level	Remarks
1	Arenas Peñalosa	Jonathan Andrés	2	66,1	10	360		Withdrawn from the program
2	Casseres Berrio	Lindys Katherine	6	85,5	14	504	B2	
3	Castaño Ramos	Yésica Paola	6	89,9	14	504	B1	
4	Ceballos Arrieta	Jhonatan	2	61,3	10	360		Withdrawn from the program
5	Cera Ruiz	Eider José	4	75,7	12	432	B1	
6	Córdoba Mendoza	Noris Esther	6	78,3	14	504	B1	
7	Escobar Acosta	Dayan Carolina	6	88,4	14	504	B1	
8	Escorcía Herrera	Jeniffer	6	86,2	14	504	B1	
9	Espitaleta Toro	Efigenia	5	82,2	13	468	B1	
10	González Solano	Arturo Javier	0		8	288		Dropped out in July 2015
11	Gutiérrez Pérez	Stefany	6	82	14	504	B1	
12	Guzmán Jarariyú	Inés Patricia	6	79	14	504	B1	
13	Herazo Escobar	Josué David	6	85,1	14	504	B1	
14	Herrera César	Luz Mery	6	80,5	14	504	B1	
15	Julio Viloria	Dayana Patricia	6	91,1	14	504	B1	
16	Montes Mosquera	Saida Patricia	6	83,3	14	504	B1	
17	Navarro Herrera	María Fernanda	6	79,8	14	504	B1	
18	Palacio Cantillo	Ledis	6	75,4	14	504	B1	
19	Palomino Macías	Laura Vanesa	6	85,1	14	504	B1	
20	Pérez Barrios	Jefferson	6	84,1	14	504	B1	
21	Ramos Jerez	Jesús Alberto	6	82	14	504	B1	
22	Rolong Durán	Rubén Antonio	4	83,1	12	432	B1	
23	Ruidiaz Ferrín	Sayulis Marcela	5	81,4	13	468	B2	
24	Sandoval Peñate	Julieth Vanessa	6	80,1	14	504	B1	
25	Tejedor Herrera	Francis Patricia	5	88,4	13	468	B2	
26	Verbel Vanegás	Andrea	6	79,5	14	504	B1	
GROUP AVERAGE GRADE						81,3		
EQUIVALENT GRADE						4.0		

504 HOURS OF ENGLISH INSTRUCTION

As it can be observed in the chart, all 23 active fellows had a good performance during this term. However, three students were withdrawn or quit the program for different reasons. These cases are described below.

▶ OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Eider José Cera Ruiz

He participated in 2015 SUSI Program, Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars interested in the topic of American, State and Federal Public Policymaking. The program took place at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst from July 11 to August 15.

Eider is a student of the History Program at Universidad del Atlántico and an English student at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano in Barranquilla. He is also a proud member of the Mokaná community, a rather big indigenous settlement located in the northern area of Colombia, and someone interested in supporting his community's children.

Dayana Patricia Julio Viloría

Throughout her studies at the Colombo, she has shown great commitment and passion for her English studies. Dayana conveys happiness and passion for languages. At the Modern Languages Program at Universidad del Atlántico, Dayana is highly respected for her responsibility which has allowed her to be chosen as a teacher assistant in the language lab.

In December 2015, Dayana got the highest grade average of the MLK group. In her free time, Dayana has taught French classes to the recipients of the Access Program.

Dayana Carolina Escobar Acosta

She has completed the first fourteen courses of the English Intermediate Program at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano in Barranquilla and she holds the second highest academic average among the recipients of the MLK Program. Dayana has also become one of the most active and committed fellows thanks to her self-discipline and her wonderful rapport with the other MLK students and the rest of the community.

At the Architecture Program at Universidad del Atlántico, Dayana is well-known for her excellent performance and her wonderful rapport with people. Within her community, she has participated in different campaigns to help poor children.

SPECIAL CASES

Rubén Antonio Rolong Durán

He was absent from October to December 2015 due to personal reasons. He came back to the program in January 2016.

WITHDRAWN STUDENTS

Arturo Gonzalez Solano

He quit the Colombo in June 2015 due to financial problems. The Colombo has offered him the chance to continue in the program, but he has not answered.

Jhonatan Andrés Arenas Peñaloza

He was withdrawn from the MLK Program in September 2015 since he failed two modules. In October 2015, he was given a work-study scholarship at the Colombo so he could continue his English studies.

Jonathan Ceballos Arrieta

He stopped attending classes in August 2015 due to personal reasons and as a result he was withdrawn from the program. In December 2015, he registered for the modules of December and January on his own initiative. In February 2016, he will rejoin the MLK Program upon his request and the authorization of the Academic Direction of the Program.

▶ ACADEMIC EVENTS

On November 10, 2015 the MLK fellows gave a talk to the students of the Access program of Barranquilla BNC about the ancestral values of Afro Colombian and Indigenous peoples in Colombia regarding the post conflict time.

After the conference, the MLK fellows held a team work session at Centro Recreacional Comfamiliar with the ACCESS fellows.

▶ PROGRESS MADE

All of the 23 active MLK fellows reached the top three evaluation ranks (Excellent, Very Good and Good) of the Intermediate English for Adults Program at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano.

MLK Fellows Grade Average July – December 2015		
Excellent	90 - 100	4%
Very Good	80 – 89.9	70%
Good	70 – 79.9	26%
Average	60 – 69.9	0%
Barely Adequate	Up to 59.9	0%

Likewise, 87% of the fellows have reached a B1 level, compared to only 15% in 2015-1. In addition, 13% of the students have moved to B2. These data reveal that all MLK students in Barranquilla achieved the target academic indicators for 2015: getting to B1 level.

MLK fellows CEF Levels	
B2	13% (3 fellows)
B1	87% (20 fellows)



▶ LEADERSHIP REPORT

MLK fellows in Barranquilla have shown great commitment with the leadership program. They usually hold a formal meeting every two weeks in which they share ideas on how to improve their impact in the Colombo and in the community. In most of the meetings, the mentor of the program coordinates the discussions.

The MLK fellows also show great rapport with the rest of the Colombo community (teachers, staff and students) and, in special, with the fellows of the Access Program in Barranquilla with whom they have established great bonds. On November 10 last year, they organized a great event for the Access kids in which they gave them a lecture about the ancestral values of ethnic communities in the Caribbean area of Colombia.

Besides the formal meetings and events, the MLK fellows also hold informal meetings in which they share ideas about the upcoming events of the program.

Regarding, attendance to the leadership meetings, there was a big improvement in the second semester of 2015. The Academic Direction sent them a letter motivating them to take meetings more seriously and had them sign a letter of commitment. During the second semester of 2015, 24 hours of leadership sessions were offered to MLK fellows.



**REPORT
LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION HOURS**

Last name	Names	No. of Activities done (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops attended	Comments
Arenas Peñaloza	Jonathan Andrés	8	24	0	Withdrawn from the program in August 2015
Casseres Berrio	Lindys Katherine	8	24	20	
Castaño Ramos	Yésica Paola	8	24	22	
Ceballos Arrieta	Jonathan	8	24	8	Withdrawn from the program in August 2015
Cera Ruiz, Eider	Eider, José	8	24	20	
Córdoba Mendoza	Noris Esther	8	24	22	
Escobar Acosta	Dayan Carolina	8	24	20	
Escorcía Herrera	Jeniffer	8	24	18	
Espitaleta Toro	Efigenia	8	24	20	
González Solano	Arturo Javier	8	24	0	Withdrawn from the program in July 2015
Gutiérrez Pérez	Stefany	8	24	22	
Guzmán Jaraviyú	Inés Patricia	8	24	14	
Herazo Escobar	Josué David	8	24	16	
Herrera César	Luz Mery	8	24	14	
Julio Viloria	Dayana Patricia	8	24	20	She is in charge of tutoring sessions on Saturday She has some financial difficulties that make it difficult for her to attend the sessions.
Montes Mosquera	Saida Patricia	8	24	18	
Navarro Herrera	María Fernanda	8	24	20	
Palacio Cantillo	Ledis	8	24	20	
Palomino Macías	Laura Vanesa	8	24	22	
Pérez Barrios	Jefferson	8	24	18	He has had different personal situations which he has formally informed about.
Ramos Jerez	Jesús Alberto	8	24	18	
Rolong Durán	Rubén Darío	8	24	12	Leadership sessions overlap with his university classes.
Ruidíaz Ferrín	Sayulis Marcela	8	24	10	
Sandoval Peñate	Julieth Vanessa	8	24	22	Leadership sessions overlap with his university classes.
Tejedor Herrera	Francis Patricia	8	24	20	
Verbel Vanegas	Andrea	8	24	12	

Most of the MLK fellows at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano in Barranquilla show great commitment to their community work and their leadership training. Of all of them, there are some fellows who stand out for putting their heart in the accomplishments of the goals of the group.

Jefferson Pérez Barrios

He has been one of those MLK fellows who is always eager to help and gives the best of him when he shares with the other fellows, the other Colombo students and teachers. In his community, he is highly recognized as a young man with strong Christian values and the son of a wonderful family. Everybody sees in Jefferson a prospective successful professional and an even better leader.

Inés Guzmán Jarariyú

She is a proud member of the Wayúu community in the northern of Colombia. While giving talks about leadership and academic events about her indigenous origin, Inés always speaks in her indigenous language and wears her ancestral attires. She says it is a must for every member of her community to speak in their own language; otherwise they do not deserve to be called Wayúu.



Andrea Verbel Vanegas

She is not only an outstanding student of the Arts Program at Universidad del Atlántico, but she is also an MLK fellow with deep social responsibility. She is always ready to cooperate and her proposals are always respected by all the MLK recipients.

As a recognition of her great performance, Andrea has been chosen to lead an important national project of the fellowship group.

Josué Herazo Guzmán

He is a devoted student of Spanish and Literature at Universidad del Atlántico; he also shows great interest in his English studies at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano and respect for his Afro descendant roots.

As a recipient of the MLK Fellowship Program, Josué shows great interest in the MLK group issues has an excellent rapport with the fellows of the Access Program who see in him an elder brother.

CALI Academic Report

Currently, there are 30 active MLK fellows in the program. The quality of this cohort of MLK Fellows is extremely high due to their commitment to the program, leadership skills and proactive nature. To date, fellows have been offered a total of 448 hours of English instruction in 14 courses and 80% of students have achieved the English Program's goals. However, 20% have had difficulties related to health, family or class schedules, which have affected their attendance and/or performance in the program. The following chart summarizes the results during the second semester in 2015. The minimum passing grade is 3.

	Last Name	Name	Courses Taken July-Dec	Average Grade July-Dec	Courses taken (TOTAL)	Instruction hours (TOTAL)	CEF Level	Remarks
1	Bermudez Caicedo	Jackeline	5	3	11	352	B1	
2	Betancourth Lopez	Cristian	1	4,5	9	288	B1+	He could not take all courses due to lack of advanced courses programmed. He'll continue in January.
3	Bomba Ocampo	Edgar	4	3	11	352	A1	He failed Beginner 3 and went back to Beginner 2 (Nov-Dic).
4	Carabali Mina	Kelly Johana	5	4	13	416	A2	
5	Casanova Ramirez	Kelly Johana	5	4,3	14	448	B1	
6	Cuenú Mosquera	Yair André	4	4	13	416	B1+	
7	Cuero Granja	Estefania	5	3	14	448	A2	She failed Intermediate 2 and went back to High Beginner 1.
8	Cuaran Perez	Edin Romeiro	5	3,6	14	448	B1+	
9	Eslava Rivera	Carolina	5	3,3	14	448	A2	
10	Hurtado Montaña	Holwer Antonio	4	4	13	416	B1+	
11	Hurtado Mosquera	Yaisa	5	4	14	448	B1+	
12	Lozano Mosquera	Dianny Yicela	5	3,73	14	448	B1+	
13	Lucumi Mosquera	Lina Fernanda	5	4	11	352	B1	
14	Martinez Cadena	Andrés Fernando	1	4	9	288	B1+	He did not take the last two courses. He'll take TOEFL Prep in

448

HOURS OF ENGLISH
INSTRUCTION

15	Moreno Casarán	Liby Magaly	3	4	12	384	B1	
16	Mosquera Palacios	Karen Dayana	5	4	14	448	B1+	
17	Muyuy Ojeda	Yenny Alejandra	5	2,8	14	448	A2	
18	Orobio Cuero	Elver	5	4	14	448	B1+	
19	Palacios Possú	Maria Elisa	5	4	14	448	B1+	
20	Parra Gómez	Ingrid Tatiana	2	3,7	11	352	B1	Due to health issues, she has not taken courses since September.
21	Pilcúe Piamba	Lidya Stella	5	3	14	448	A1	
22	Renteria Saldaña	Lucy	3	4	13	416	B1	Due to health issues, she did not study in October. She attended Intermediate 2 in Nov-Dec.
23	Rodriguez Montenegro	Diana Patricia	5	3,7	14	448	B1	
24	Salazar Quiñones	Maria José	5	3,3	14	448	B1+	
25	Solis Banguera	Jorge Leonardo	4	3,5	13	416	B1	
26	Tarapues Cuastumal	Thania Jhisela	5	3,3	14	448	B1+	
27	Tenorio Angulo	Eider Andrés	5	2,8	14	448	B1+	
28	Valencia Segura	Katty Samira	5	3,3	14	448	B1	
29	Valencia Mosquera	Karen Giseth	5	3,86	14	448	B1+	
30	Williams Vallejo	Cindy Liliana	5	4	14	448	B1+	
GROUP AVERAGE GRADE						3.7		

▶ OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

At the end of the basic English program when students are in the High Intermediate 3 level, they are required to take an exit test and get a minimum score of 44 (B1+ according to the Common European Framework). All five of the MLK fellows who have taken the test have passed it, most of them with much higher scores.

NAME	NUMERICAL AVERAGE	CEF LEVEL
Maria Elisa Palacios	45	B1+
Karen Mosquera	69	B2
Yair Cenú	67	B2
Andrés Fernando Martínez	76	B2
Cristian Betancourt	91	C1

Maria Elisa Palacios

She is a student at Universidad del Valle who is majoring in Environmental Studies. She is 26 years old and was born in Cali.

Karen Mosquera

She is 20, is a law student at Universidad Santiago de Cali. Karen was born and raised in Cali.

Yair Cenú

He is majoring in Literature at Universidad del Valle. Yair is 27 years old and was born and raised in Cali. He lives in a particularly violent part of the District of Aguablanca.

Andrés Fernando Martínez

He is majoring in Economics at Universidad Libre. Andrés is 26 years old and is from Cali. He attended the SUSI leadership course for students in July-August, 2015.

Cristian Betancourt

He majors in Foreign Languages at Universidad del Valle. He's 27 years old and was born and raised in Villa Rica, a village about an hour from Cali. Cristian still lives in Villa Rica and commutes every day.

SPECIAL CASES

As mentioned earlier, MLK fellows in this cohort have stood out for their leadership skills and great commitment to the program. However, this is also the cohort that seems to have struggled the most with the process of learning English. In addition, for the first time, we have indigenous students in this cohort and they are having great difficulty in learning English.

Two of the thirty fellows in Cali, representing 7% have been sent back to repeat several levels and are currently at an A1 level of English. These two students, Lidia Pilcué and Edgar Bomba, are indigenous. They have been tutored in addition to being asked to repeat courses, and yet they continue to struggle. Nevertheless, they have been allowed to stay in the program since the leadership component is highly beneficial to them.

The situation of the students still at the A2 level is similar. They had reached a certain level and then had to be sent back. All of these students, Estefania Cuero, Kelly Carabali, Carolina Eslava and Jenny Muyuy are doing well in their university studies and are very active in the MLK leadership classes.

The case of Kelly Carabali is representative of this group. Kelly is a very dynamic, successful student at Universidad del Valle where she majors in Recreation. Kelly tends to volunteer perhaps a bit too much and her multiple extracurricular activities had a negative impact on her English studies, which was detected very early. She repeated Basic 3 and failed it again, and then was sent back to Basic 1 to start the process all over again. Since that time, her performance has improved and she hasn't had to repeat any courses.

All of these students have received tutoring but they have not attended all of the tutoring sessions programmed for them. At this point, the performance of three of them seems to have stabilized while Estefania Cuero improved quite a bit in the last level she took in 2015, getting an average grade of 4 out of 5

80%

OF THE MLK FELLOWS
IN CALI HAVE NOW
REACHED LEVEL B1

▶ PROGRESS MADE

80% of the MLK fellows in Cali have now reached level B1, thus achieving the program's goal for 2015. However, 20% (6 students) are still in levels A1 or A2 due to different special situations. Struggling learners continue to receive all the academic support they need in order to continue improving since their motivation and commitment to be MLK fellows have been constant.

CEF Level	Student percentage	Number of students
B1+	47%	14
B1	33%	10
A2	13%	4
A1	7%	2

A brief description of what students can do in English:

The A1 students can talk about free time activities but in more detail than those at an A1 level. They can exchange personal information and sustain a simple conversation. They are able to talk about vacation plans and vacations they've taken and make future plans.

Those at an A2 level are able to discuss popular issues such as the place of Internet in our society, describe their personal values and comment on ethical issues such as honesty.

B1 students are able to do all of the above with greater confidence and fluency and in more detail. They are able to sustain longer conversations about controversial topics, for example, and are able to do so using the appropriate register.

B1+ students are able to exchange opinions and information in a way that sounds quite natural and fluent. They make grammar and pronunciation mistakes but these mistakes do not usually interfere with comprehension. They possess the strategies necessary to challenge the opinions of others and defend their own, for example.

▶ LEADERSHIP REPORT

The fellows have completed the first major goal of the leadership course which was the preparation and delivery of their life projects and are now engaged in completing the second main goal which is to contribute to their communities as volunteers in community projects/groups. For example, a group of indigenous Fellows is working with an indigenous group that focuses on environmental education of a group of displaced indigenous people living in Cali. Another group of Fellows is working with a foundation that provides shelter and education to abused and at-risk youth.



A group of MLK Fellows gives a presentation on the community group they will be working with as volunteers

The following chart shows the record of attendance to the leadership sessions during the semester. Nine sessions were held for a total of 27 hours of leadership instruction provided.

REPORT LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION HOURS				
Name and Last Name	No. of Activities done (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops offered (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops attended by students	Remarks
1. Andres Fernando Martinez	9	27	24	
2. Carolina Eslava Rivera	9	27	24	
3. Cindy Liliana Williams	9	27	18	
4. Cristian Betancourth Lopez	9	27	18	
5. Diana Patricia Rodriguez	9	27	21	
6. Dianny Yicela Lozano	9	27	21	
7. Edgar Bomba Ocampo	9	27	21	
8. Edin Romeiro Cuaran	9	27	21	
9. Eider Andres Tenorio	9	27	27	
10. Elver Orobio Cuero	9	27	27	
11. Estefania Cuero Granja	9	27	15	
12. Holwer Antonio Hurtado	9	27	27	
13. Ingrid Tatiana Parra	9	27	6	She could not attend sessions from October to December because of health problems. She will be back again in January 2016.
14. Jackeline Bermudez Caicedo	9	27	18	
15. Jorge Leonardo Solis	9	27	24	
16. Karen Dayana Mosquera	9	27	27	
17. Karen Giseth Valencia	9	27	24	

27 HOURS OF LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION PROVIDED

18.	Katty Samira Valencia	9	27	24
19.	Kelly Johana Carabali	9	27	27
20.	Kelly Johana Casanova	9	27	24
21.	Liby Magaly Moreno	9	27	27
22.	Lidya Stella Pilcue	9	27	24
23.	Lina Fernanda Lucumi	9	27	24
24.	Lucy Renteria Saldaña	9	27	21
25.	Maria Elisa Palacios	9	27	27
26.	Maria Jose Salazar	9	27	27
27.	Tania Jhisela Tarapues	9	27	27
28.	Yair André Cuenú Mosquera	9	27	27
29.	Yaisa Hurtado Mosquera	9	27	27
30.	Yenny Alejandra Muyuy	9	27	27

▶ SPECIAL EVENTS

During the second semester, we offered the Fellows 3 additional events that took place during their regular leadership classes.

Encounter with Dr. Afua Cooper October 9, 2015

Dr. Afua was a special guest of the Feria Internacional del Libro y las Culturas de Cali. She spent two hours with our MLK fellows discussing her research and inviting their questions. The fellows were extremely interested in Dr. Cooper and their interaction was intense and productive. One of our fellows, Yair Cenú, ended the session by reading a poem he had written to honor Dr. Cooper.

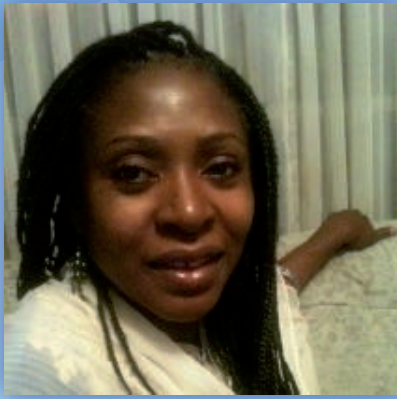


Dr. Afua Cooper invites questions from the MLK Fellows



MLK Fellow Yair Cenú reads Dr. Cooper a poem he wrote to her

AFUA COOPER



Associate Professor: James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

Research Topics: Social justice and inequality, African diaspora, Body and embodiment, Critical race theory, Decolonizing studies and methodologies, Gender, Slavery, abolition and freedom, Africa, Black Canada

Research interests

Afua Cooper is the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies. Her research interests are African Canadian studies, with specific regard to the period of enslavement and emancipation in 18th and 19th century Canada and the Black Atlantic; African-Nova Scotian history; political consciousness; community building and culture; slavery's aftermath; Black youth studies.

Dr. Cooper founded the Black Canadian Studies Association (BCSA), which she currently chairs. Read about its first conference here.

Selected publications

- Forthcoming. 'Voices Heard Over the River: Henry and Mary Bibb, and the Role of the Black Press in the Underground Railroad Abolitionist Movements,' in *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Freedom and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderlands*, eds. Karolyn Smardz and Veta Tucker (Detroit: Wayne State University Press).
- 2009. 'A New Biography of the African Diaspora: The Odyssey of Marie-Joseph Angelique, Black Portuguese Slave Woman in New France, 1725-1734,' in Darlene Clark Hine, ed. *Global Conversations: New Scholarship on the History of Black Peoples* (University of Illinois Press), p. 46-73.
- 2007. 'Unsilencing the Past: memorializing Four Hundred Years of African Canadian History,' in David Divine, ed. *Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora Located in Canada* (UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing), p. 11-22.
- 2007. 'Acts of Resistance: Black Men and Women Engage Slavery in Upper Canada, 1793-1803,' *Ontario History* 99, 1: 5-17.
- 2006. *The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal* (Toronto: HarperCollins). Published in French in 2007 as *La Pendaison d'Angelique*. Translated by André Couture. (Montréal: Les Éditions de L'Homme). Published in the USA in 2007 by the University of Georgia Press.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afua_Cooper

Biography

Born in Westmoreland, Jamaica, Cooper grew up in Kingston, Jamaica, and migrated to Toronto in 1980. She holds a Ph.D. in African-Canadian history with specialties in slavery and abolition. Her dissertation, "Doing Battle in Freedom's Cause", is a biographical study of Henry Bibb, a 19th-century African-American abolitionist who lived and worked in Ontario. She also has expertise in women's history and New France studies.

Cooper still lives in Toronto. She is a winner of the Harry Jerome Award for professional excellence.

She has published four books of poetry, including *Memories Have Tongue* (1994), one of the finalists in the 1992 Casa de las Americas literary award. She is the co-author of *We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up: Essays in African Canadian Women's History* (1994), which won the Joseph Brant Award for history. She has also released two albums of her poetry.

Her book *The Hanging of Angelique* (2006) tells the story of an enslaved African Marie-Joseph Angelique who was executed in Montreal at a time when Quebec was under French colonial rule. It was shortlisted for the 2006 Governor General's Literary Award for non-fiction.[3]

TALK ABOUT SEMILLEROS DE TALENTOS SCHOLARSHIP BY NELSON CUEVAS OF COLFUTURO NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Nelson kindly gave a talk exclusively to our MLK Fellows on November 10th. Such is the level of interest on Colfuturo's part in the MLK Fellows in Colombia, Colfuturo decided to extend the deadline for receipt of applications and prepared a special flyer for them (see flyer below).



Diciembre 2015

SEMILLERO MLK PST

Lo invitan a hacer parte de nuestro Programa Semillero de Talentos de COLFUTURO

Somos conocedores de su excelencia académica y su buen desempeño como becario Martin Luther King, sus conocimientos y capacidades son las herramientas necesarias para lograr los objetivos que se proponga y son el punto de partida para transformar un país.

Es por esta razón que COLFUTURO quiere invitarlo a postularse a la convocatoria que hemos abierto exclusivamente para ustedes.

¿En qué consiste?

Este programa consiste en brindar consejería y acompañamiento a estudiantes de último semestre y profesionales destacados por su excelencia académica, durante el proceso de búsqueda, preparación y admisión a un posgrado (maestría o doctorado) en universidades de renombre internacional.

BENEFICIOS DEL PROGRAMA

- El PST está diseñado para guiar y orientar a los estudiantes en la búsqueda, selección y admisión a un posgrado en el exterior
- Ser parte de un grupo privilegiado de estudiantes que recibirán orientación en su proyecto de estudio
- Talleres, charlas, chats, videoconferencias y boletines informativos
- Información de universidades, programas y ayudas financieras
- Opción de revisión de ensayos, revisión de formularios de postulación y asesoría en el simulacro de entrevistas de universidades en el exterior
- Programa gratuito

CARACTERÍSTICAS DEL PARTICIPANTE

- Ser estudiante de 9 y 10 semestre de pregrado (o últimos dos semestres de carrera), profesional o profesor de una Universidad colombiana
- En caso de ser profesional: Haberse graduado en los últimos 4 años
- Cumplir con dos o más de los requisitos de excelencia académica
- Estar interesado en realizar un posgrado en el exterior
- No tener un posgrado en una universidad en el exterior

REQUISITOS DE EXCELENCIA ACADÉMICA

- Para poder postularse al Semillero debe cumplir con dos o varios de los siguientes requisitos de excelencia académica:
- Estar en el 5% superior de los mejores estudiantes de su promoción
 - Promedio académico sobresaliente
 - Tesis meritosa / Laureada
 - Mejores pruebas SABER
 - Haber tenido matrícula o semestre de honor, premios, honores o distinciones
 - Pertenecer a un grupo de investigación

¿Cómo Postularme?

¿QUÉ DOCUMENTOS NECESITA PARA POSTULARSE?

- Tenga a la mano los siguientes documentos para adjuntarlos a la hora de llenar el formulario:
- Certificado de notas donde aparezca su promedio acumulado (pueden ser originales o descargadas del sistema de la universidad).
 - Certificado puesto ocupado (documento emitido por la universidad. Si su universidad no lo emite por favor indicarlo).

LLENAR EL FORMULARIO

1. Regístrese en la página de COLFUTURO, www.colfuturo.org
2. Ingrese a la sección Semilleros e inscribáse y complete el formulario de la Convocatoria PST2016_MLK.

Recuerde que este formulario sólo se activará en las fechas mencionadas anteriormente, para llenar este formulario le recomendamos leer primero el instructivo que aparece en la misma página.

¿QUÉ NO OTORGA EL PROGRAMA?

- El Programa Semillero de Talentos (PST) es independiente del Programa Crédito-Beca (PCB) de Colfuturo, por lo tanto no otorga ningún beneficio para ser beneficiario de PCB.
- Por ser un programa de orientación y tutoría, COLFUTURO no es responsable de la solicitud de admisión a las universidades, ni de garantizar el ingreso a un programa de posgrado.

FECHAS:

Apertura:
16 de diciembre

Cierre:
20 de enero

Resultados:
8 de febrero

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CARTAGENA

Academic Report

21 MLK Fellows in Cartagena continue to show improvement in their process of learning English. During the second half of 2015, they took 6 courses in which all of them proved to have a good performance. So far, Cartagena students have taken 14 courses for a total of 560 hours of English instruction. The following chart shows their performance in 2015-2 (70 is the minimum passing grade).

	Last Name	Name	Courses Taken Jul-Dec 2015	Average Grade Jul-Dec 2015	Courses taken (TOTAL)	Instruction hours (TOTAL)	CEF Level	Remarks
1	ALMENTERO ARRIETA	HEYNI	6	96,71	14	560	B1	
2	ANZOATEGUI GUERRERO	LILIANA	6	89	13	520	B1	
3	ASPRILLA MOSQUERA	IRINA	6	91,38	14	560	B1	
4	BALLESTEROS MATOS	JOSYMAR	2	88,88	8	320	B1	He finished the core program courses on August 25(*)
5	BERRIO CAMPO	SEUDIS	6	88,59	14	560	B1	
6	CANO IRIARTE	SAMIR	4	95,67	12	480	B2	He finished the core program courses on October 20 (*)
7	CASTRO MARTINEZ	SHANNY ROCIO						
8	DIAZ BARRIOS	EDDIE	6	86,41	14	560	B1	
9	DIAZ VALDEZ	ORLEY	6	85,5	14	560	B1	
10	GENES AMARÍS	HADER ENRIQUE					A1	
11	GUZMAN BARRIOS	DILSON	3	78	10	400	B1	He finished the core program courses on August 25 and took one advanced course (*)
12	HERRERA ARROYO	PAMELA	6	75,93	14	560	A2	She has had some academic difficulties and is taking tutoring sessions
13	JIMENEZ VILLERO	ZOILA	6	88,19	14	560	B1	

14	LEON GARCÍA	ANIBAL	6	78,79	13	520	B1	
15	MARIN FONSECA	LUIS	5	78,43	12	480	A2	He had to stop classes for several months due to health problems
16	MARÃ N CANTERO	YEFERSON	4	95,29	12	480	B2	He finished the core program courses on October 20
17	MARTINEZ MOLINA	MARGARY	2	96,89	8	320	B2	She finished the core program courses on August 25(*)
18	MEZA HERAZO	ALVARO	4	92	12	480	B2	He finished the core program courses on October 20(*)
19	NAVAS VILLALOBOS	JOSIRYS	2	73	9	360	A2	
20	OROZCO CASTRO	JESUS	6	92,18	14	560	B1	
21	POLO ESPINOSA	LEWIS ENRIQUE	0	89,5	5	200	B2	He participated in the SUSI program and has an excellent level. He's been taking conversation classes (*)
22	SALAZAR	WILMER	6	91,62	14	560	B1	
23	SALDARRIAGA	LUIS	5	88,54	13	520	B1	
24	TORRES PADILLA	DEIBER						
						GROUP AVERAGE GRADE	87	
						EQUIVALENT GRADE	4,3	

(*)Students who finished the core English program will continue to take advanced courses; however, these courses are programmed on demand and therefore might not be offered on a regular basis.

▶ OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Outstanding students are congratulated with an e-card that is sent on a monthly basis. In addition, the students' names are posted on the Institution's honor roll.



The image shows a congratulatory e-card for the MLK Best Students program. On the left, the text reads "MLK Martin Luther King, Jr. PROGRAMA DE BECAS". To the right, it says "Best Students April - May" next to a black and white portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. Below this are the logos for USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) and the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica. The central text reads "CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RESULTS" followed by the names "Margary Martínez Molina - Nivel 14" and "Alvaro Meza Herazo - Nivel 11". At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "You can be one of them! Just be the best of your class".

MLK
Martin Luther King, Jr.
PROGRAMA DE BECAS

Best Students
April - May

USAID
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR RESULTS

Margary Martínez Molina - Nivel 14
Alvaro Meza Herazo - Nivel 11

You can be one of them!
Just be the best of your class

MLK students also receive a monthly message, reminding them of their commitment to the program and inviting them to take advantage of institutional resources in order to improve or maintain their academic performance.

These are the best students during the second semester of 2015:

Jesús Orozco Castro

He is very motivated to learn English; he loves going to the library and regularly attends the cultural events organized at the institution. Since the beginning of the program he has stood out for his excellent academic performance. Currently, he studies International Business at Fundación Universitaria Tecnológico de Comfenalco.



Seudis Berrio

She is an economics student at Universidad de Cartagena. This Young fellow has shown great interest in learning English from the beginning of the program. Teachers always have positive comments about her and see her as a great leader.



Luis Fonseca

He is a musician who studied at UNIBAC (Institución Universitaria Bellas Artes y Ciencias de Bolívar). His teachers say he is a curious learner who is always eager to learn more; he participates actively in the English lessons and is willing to take tutoring sessions when necessary.

SPECIAL CASES

Pamela Herrera

She has had difficulties in her English learning process. Her performance during the last semester has declined and she failed one course. Pamela has received the necessary support by the Academic Coordination through tutoring and bibliographic resources mainly.

Luis Marín Fonseca

He could not study for three courses due to an accident that affected his right hand. He went back to classes by the end of July.

Josirys Navas

Sometimes, her teacher has reported lack of interest in learning English. She was sent back to level 9. She is currently on probation in the program.

Dilson Guzmán

This student was placed in course 15 after a test and then in course 16, he could not pass the proficiency test. Therefore, he was given a placement test again and is now in course 15. He is on probation and staying in the program will depend on his performance during the first semester of 2016. He has also received tutoring sessions and all the necessary support by the Academic Coordination.

▶ ACADEMIC EVENTS

November 7th - Welcome Breakfast

At a special breakfast, fellows were reminded of important aspects of the MLK program and their necessary commitment. They also shared some of their experiences in the program.



Brenda Vargas, Education USA coordinator, talked to students about exchange and scholarship programs abroad.

November 9th, 10th, and 11th - OTA Course

A group of five scholarship recipients were invited to a special workshop hosted by Oxford regarding English teaching and learning strategies. During this 3-day workshop, teachers from the Centro Colombo Americano shared their expertise with MLK students.



▶ PROGRESS MADE

MLK fellows in Cartagena continue to be motivated to learn English and have made significant progress in their learning process. 86% of students have reached a B1 or B2 level whereas 14% of them are still struggling to move from A2 to B1 due to academic or personal reasons. All of the fellows have received the necessary academic support and resources to work on their needs and continuously encouraged to take actions to improve

86%

OF STUDENTS HAVE
REACHED A B1 OR B2
LEVEL

CEF Level	Student percentage	Number of students
B2	24%	5
B1	62%	13
A2	14%	3

▶ LEADERSHIP REPORT

During this semester, a 5-session leadership course was held for a total 15 hours of leadership instruction. These morning and afternoon sessions took place on Saturdays. MLK fellows showed great interest in the themes of Afro-Colombian history and leadership.

Ana Paula Lozano, highly-qualified in these areas, taught these dynamic sessions intending to spark a spirit of leadership in students through theoretical and practical workshops. Guided by Ms. Lozano, fellows could also attend several additional activities in museums and cultural centers in order to develop the themes of leadership and African heritage.

During this same semester, MLK students also had the opportunity to meet Bernardo Romero, director of Escuela de Gobierno y Liderazgo de Cartagena. Mr. Romero spoke about the leadership themes necessary for the advancement of the city.

The following chart shows the sessions and attendance to leadership sessions during the second semester of 2015. A total of 15 hours of leadership workshops were offered to students during this term.

15

HOURS OF LEADERSHIP
WORKSHOPS WERE
OFFERED TO STUDENTS
DURING THIS TERM.

**REPORT
LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION HOURS**

Name and Last Name		No. of Activities done (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops offered (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops attended by students	Remarks
ALMENTERO ARRIETA	HEYNI	5	15	15	
ANZOATEGUI GUERRERO	LILIANA	5	15	6	
ASPRILLA MOSQUERA	IRINA	5	15	12	
BALLESTEROS MATOS	JOSYMAR	5	15	6	
BERRIO CAMPO	SEUDIS	5	15	9	
CANO IRIARTE	SAMIR	5	15	15	
CASTRO MARTINEZ	SHANNY ROCIO	5	15		
DIAZ BARRIOS	EDDIE	5	15	9	
DIAZ VALDEZ	ORLEY	5	15	15	
GENES AMARÍS	HADER ENRIQUE	5	15		
GUZMAN BARRIOS	DILSON	5	15	3	
			15	3	Her clases at the university overlap with leadership sessions
HERRERA ARROYO	PAMELA	5			
JIMENEZ VILLERO	ZOILA	5	15	9	
LEON GARCÍA	ANIBAL	5	15	6	
MARIN FONSECA	LUIS	5	15	15	
MARÃ N CANTERO	YEFERSON	5	15	3	
MARTINEZ MOLINA	MARGARY	5	15	9	
MEZA HERAZO	ALVARO	5	15	12	
NAVAS VILLALOBOS	JOSIRYS	5	15	9	
OROZCO CASTRO	JESUS	5	15	6	
POLO ESPINOSA	LEWIS ENRIQUE	5	15	9	
SALAZAR	WILMER	5	15	15	
SALDARRIAGA	LUIS	5	15	12	
TORRES PADILLA	DEIBER				

Regarding attendance to the leadership sessions, sometimes fellows do not provide a valid explanation. However, every time they are absent, they are sent a reminder of the importance of these sessions and their mandatory nature in the MLK Program.

▶ LEADERSHIP REPORT

August 3rd - A special invitation to the Cathedral Inauguration

The MLK scholarship recipients were invited to a special event hosted by Unicolombo and The Centro Colombo Americano which is held at the beginning of each semester. These events always include a few words intended to motivate the students in their studies and other endeavors.

This particular talk was given by Juan Carlos Diez, an international speaker with over 16 years of professional experience. Mr. Diez is an expert in the fields of communication, public speaking, leadership and group work.



August 28th - "Black is Beautiful"

MLK fellows participated in this event held in Cartagena, which sought to promote a message of acknowledgement and acceptance of the African heritage. Laura Morelos, a former MLK recipient, organized this event in collaboration with the Observatorio Distrital de Antidiscriminacion Racial ODR. Ms. Morelos and Colombian actor Adrian Makala were the speakers. During the lecture, students discussed the cultural campaign themes that would be promoted within the Afro descendent communities.



October 10th - New leadership theme

Under the guidance of teacher and researcher Ana Paula Lozano, MLK students began a new series of leadership workshops and lectures.



December

The Centro Colombo Americano is involved with a variety of social projects that benefit impoverished areas of Cartagena. Among these is a foundation headed by one of our scholarship recipients, Wilmer Salazar. Fifty underprivileged children were given presents last December.



▶ GUEST SPEAKERS

Ana Paula Lozano

She has extensive experience in management education in undergraduate and graduate programs in Management and Business Administration; rigorous research training (small group and classroom projects), internships and university services. In addition, her administrative skills in the direction of teams with a sense of social responsibility make her a great guide for the leadership workshops.

Juan Carlos Diez Posada

Mr. Diez is considered one of the most skilled and entertaining Latin American speakers in topics such as customer service, communication skills, public speaking and effective presentations, personal growth, talent, and leadership.

Bernardo Romero

Director of Escuela de Gobierno y Liderazgo de Cartagena. He is a communicator in social-journalism, with graduate studies in Citizen Participation from the Universidad del Litoral de Argentina.

MEDELLÍN

Academic Report

30 MLK fellows continue their English learning process with significant progress this semester. To date, they have taken 14 courses and a total of 532 hours of English lessons. Although most students have achieved the goals of the English Program, some have struggled due to academic difficulties, problems with schedules, or personal reasons.

The following chart shows MLK students' performance during the second semester of 2015; 3.0 is the minimum passing grade.

532

HOURS OF ENGLISH LESSONS

	Last Name	Name	Courses Taken Jul-Dec 2015	Average Grade Jul-Dec 2015	Courses taken (TOTAL)	Instruction hours (TOTAL)	CEF Level	Remarks
	Arcos Ceballos	Adriana Marcela						Withdrawn from the program in April 2015
1	Caicedo Sánchez	Andrés Felipe	5	4,1	13	494	B1	
2	Díaz Buenaños	Beyfan	4	3,4	11	418	A2	She has had academic difficulties in the program
3	Morales Mosquera	Carlos Andrés	5	3,9	12	456	A2	
4	Ruiz Hurtado	Clara Fernanda	5	3,8	13	494	B1	
5	Tapia Palencia	Clara Inés	5	3,6	13	494	B1	
6	Robledo Delgado	Cristian Ariel	6	4,0	14	532	B1	
7	Portilla Enriquez	Daniel Alejandro	3	3,5	10	380	A2	He has had academic difficulties in the program
8	Mosquera Cuesta	Digna Paola	6	4,2	14	532	B1	
9	Murillo Alegría	Jhen Javes	6	3,7	14	532	B1	
10	Palacios Valdés	Jhoan Andrés	5	3,4	13	494	B1	
11	Cuesta Asprilla	Jhon Abelardo	6	4,4	13	494	B1	
12	Urango Pérez	Juan Camilo	6	4,5	14	532	B1	
13	Sánchez Moreno	Juan Carlos	6	3,7	14	532	B1	
14	Ángel Bustamante	Ledis Yorleidis	5	3,5	13	494	B1	
15	Rentería Hernández	Leidy Paola	6	3,6	14	532	B1	
16	Perea Cuesta	Lic Amiris	5	4,0	13	494	B2	
17	Vargas Núñez	Lilibeth	6	3,8	14	532	B2	
18	Beltrán Durango	Lina María	5	3,2	13	494	B1	

19	Echavarría Lloreda	María Victoria	5	3,7	12	456	B1	
20	Valoyes Chaverra	Marian Yiseth	6	4,3	14	532	B2	
	Banguera Hurtado	Mario Yesid			2	76		Withdrawn from the program in January 2015
21	Ledesma Cuesta	Mery Luisa	6	4,1	14	532	B1	
22	Diaz	Rosy Stephanie	6	3,8	8	304	A1	She started in the program in April 2015
23	Hoyos Pérez	Sandra Milena	4	4,4	12	456	B2	
24	Tipas Puerres	Saulo Sebastián	6	3,8	14	532	B1	
25	Sánchez Gómez	Sebastián	2	3,6	9	342	A2	He was on an Exchange program in Canada from August-Dec 2015 He has had academic difficulties in the program He has had difficulties to take some courses
26	Palacios Moreno	Sócrates	4	3,6	10	380	A2	
27	Moreno Robledo	Yeffer Anilio	4	3,8	12	456	A2	
28	Cuesta Mosquera	Yenifer	6	3,6	14	532	B1	
29	Agualimpia Córdoba	Yéssica	6	3,7	14	532	B1	
30	Moreno Sánchez	Yissely	6	4,1	14	532	B1	
GROUP AVERAGE GRADE						3.8		

▶ OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Best students in each cycle are sent an excellence certificate. The idea is to motivate them to continue working hard and to acknowledge their short-time achievements in the program. This is a sample of the certificates they receive.

MLK

Martín Luter King Jr.

PROGRAMA DE BECAS


This Certificate of Outstanding Academic Achievement is awarded to

Juan Camilo Urango

July - August

CONGRATULATIONS!

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk.
If you can't walk, then crawl.
But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."



These are the best students during the second semester of 2015:

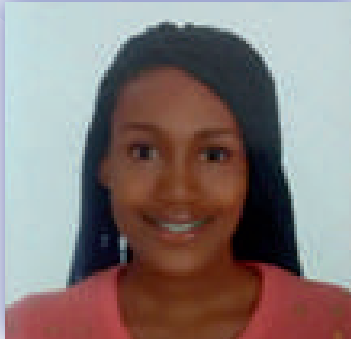
John Abelardo Cuesta

John is a Petroleum Engineering student from Universidad Nacional de Colombia who showed an outstanding performance during this semester. According to his teachers, John has a very positive attitude towards his learning process and shows great commitment to the program.



Marian Valoyes

Marian is an outstanding student that has had a great performance throughout the courses at the Colombo. She has good writing skills overall due to her good vocabulary and mastery of grammar; besides, many teachers say they are glad to have her in their classes since she has a very enthusiastic attitude and a genuine willingness to participate and learn.



Juan Camilo Urango

Juan is an industrial engineering student from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. He has shown great potential, motivation to learn English, and high leadership skills during the courses taken in the program. Last October, Juan Camilo was awarded as one of the best MLK students during the first year of the program. Some of his teachers highlight his participation in class, his commitment and high English skills.



SPECIAL CASES

Beyfan Diaz Buenaños

Beyfan is a microbiologist and microanalysis student Universidad de San Buenaventura in Medellín. Since the beginning of the program it has been difficult for her to comply with her English and university classes at the same time. Therefore, she has had difficulties to achieve the English learning goals in different courses and so far she has failed two of them. She has been offered special tutoring sessions and has been authorized to stop taking courses in two occasions. Reports from her tutors highlight her improvement in the last tutoring sessions that took place in December last year.

Daniel Alejandro Portilla Enriquez

Daniel is an indigenous university student of mechanic engineering at Universidad Nacional. He has also had some difficulties to arrange schedules and comply with his English and university classes. Throughout the program Daniel has gotten average results in the courses and has so far failed two of them. He has also attended special tutoring sessions and stopped taking courses to do reinforcement activities, but sometimes he has shown lack of commitment to the MLK Program.

Yeffer Anilio Moreno Robledo

Yeffer is a software engineering student at Tecnológico de Antioquia. Although he has shown a good potential to learn English, his lack of continuity in the studies are affecting his performance in the program. He has stopped taking courses on several occasions due to university activities or schedules, but he has not provided a formal excuse. Reports from his teachers show he needs to be more committed as an English learner and as an MLK fellow. He has failed one course so far; evidence of his lack of commitment is his recurrent absence to tutoring sessions, tardiness for class sessions and constant absences.

Sócrates Palacios Moreno

Sócrates is a student of Information Technology and Systems Engineering at Universidad Nacional. He started in the MLK Program in January 2015. His performance in the English Program has been average and teachers report he needs to be more committed and devoted to learning English. He has been offered special tutoring sessions and has had different talks about his motivation with the Program's mentor.

▶ SPECIAL EVENTS

Conversation Club: MLK Fellows Medellin and Barranquilla.

Last September 24th MLK fellows in Medellin had the opportunity to meet their peers in Barranquilla in an online conversation club held via Skype. This was an initiative by Mr. Juan Pacheco, MLK Program Coordinator in that city. Fellows introduced themselves and interacted in English for over one hour. Both groups were absolutely thrilled to be able to meet and chat with their MLK peers. Definitely a memorable experience!



First Anniversary Celebration

Last October 24, we celebrated the first anniversary of MLK fellows in the Program. During the leadership session, a special celebration took place to award different MLK fellows for their academic excellence and outstanding leadership skills during the first year of the Program. The Colombo's General Director, Michael Cooper; the Academic Director, Claudia Villa; the Program Coordinator, Janeth Ortiz; and guest teacher Juan Carlos Ruiz attended the meeting.



StudyCalifornia Fair

Last November 16, two of our MLK fellows and two alumni worked as interpreters in the StudyCalifornia Fair held by the Colombo Americano Medellin. Eight representatives from different universities in California provided information to the community about their undergraduate and graduate programs. Our interpreter fellows did an outstanding job and were really grateful to have this opportunity. Other MLK fellows attended this fair and took advantage of it to get ideas for future studies and to communicate in English.



► PROGRESS MADE

30 MLK fellows in Medellín are actively working on their process of learning English. 76% of them have reached B1 and B2 levels of performance, thus achieving the goals of the Program: reaching level B1 in 2015. Some students (20%) are still in an A2 level after failing courses or having difficulties to register in all courses offered so far. Only one student is still in level A1 since she started in the program in April 2015 and has taken seven courses.

CEF LEVEL	Percentage of Students	Number of Students
B2	13,3%	4
B1	63,3%	19
A2	20,0%	6
A1	3,3%	1

76% OF THEM HAVE REACHED B1 AND B2 LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE

LEADERSHIP REPORT

MLK fellows in Medellin had an active participation in the leadership activities held during the second semester of 2015. A total of 20 hours of instruction were offered during this term in 6 different sessions. Some of the themes addressed were: the qualities of a leader, youth and leadership, and gender equality. Fellows showed a great interest in the sessions and participated actively in all of them.

Regarding attendance to leadership sessions, MLK fellows are constantly reminded about the importance of receiving instruction on leadership; however, because of problems with schedules, personal or academic situations some of them did not attend several sessions.

REPORT LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION HOURS					
Name	Lastname	No. activities done July-Dec 2015 (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops offered (TOTAL)	Hours attended by students	Remarks
Adriana Marcela	Arcos Ceballos				Withdrawn
Andrés Felipe	Caicedo Sánchez	6	18	14	
Beyfan	Díaz Buenaños	6	18	12	
Carlos Andrés	Morales Mosquera	6	18	9	
Clara Fernanda	Ruiz Hurtado	6	18	6	Personal problems
Clara Inés	Tapia Palencia	6	18	14	
Cristian Ariel	Robledo Delgado	6	18	18	
Daniel Alejandro	Portilla Enriquez	6	18	6	No excuse provided
Digna Paola	Mosquera Cuesta	6	18	14	
Jhen Javes	Murillo Alegría	6	18	14	
Jhoan Andrés	Palacios Valdés	6	18	14	
Jhon Abelardo	Cuesta Asprilla	6	18	14	
Juan Camilo	Urango Pérez	6	18	12	
Juan Carlos	Sánchez Moreno	6	18	18	
Ledis Yorleidis	Ángel Bustamante	6	18	10	
Leidy Paola	Rentería Hernández	6	18	14	
Lic Amiris	Perea Cuesta	6	18	14	
Lilibeth	Vargas Núñez	6	18	14	
Lina María	Beltrán Durango	6	18	10	
María Victoria	Echavarría Lloreda	6	18	10	
Marian Yiseth	Valoyes Chaverra	6	18	14	
Mario Yesid	Banguera Hurtado	6	18		
Mery Luisa	Ledesma Cuesta	6	18	14	
Rosy Stephany	Díaz Buenaños	6	18	10	* New student
Sandra Milena	Hoyos Pérez	6	18	6	Problems with schedules
Saulo Sebastián	Tipas Puerres	6	18	8	
Sebastián	Sánchez Gómez	6	18	12	He was in Canada since October
Sócrates	Palacios	6	18	12	
Yeffer Anilio	Moreno Robledo	6	18	0	Lack of commitment
Yenifer	Cuesta Mosquera	6	18	12	
Yéssica	Agualimpia Córdoba	6	18	12	
Yissely	Moreno Sánchez	6	18	10	

▶ GUEST SPEAKERS

Renata "Tony" Roy

Founder of Progressive Partners Achieving Solutions, Inc, (PPAS) & ACCESS Consortium, African American Women's Entrepreneurial Organization" Building Partnerships for Business Growth, Knowledge and Profit.

Teresa Castro

Sociologist from Universidad Autónoma Latinoamericana - UNAULA, M.A. in Education, coordinator of the novice researchers' group for DIVERSER, awarded with the golden medal of merit as a female citizen of Medellin, and creator of the Diploma Course in union education from an intercultural and gender perspective.

Cristina Buitrago

B.A. in Elementary Education with a major in social studies from Universidad de Antioquia, M.A. candidate in Education and Human Development at Fundación Centro Internacional de Educación y Desarrollo Humano - CINDE, and university professional of the program Antioquia Joven by the department's government.

▶ SPECIAL EVENTS

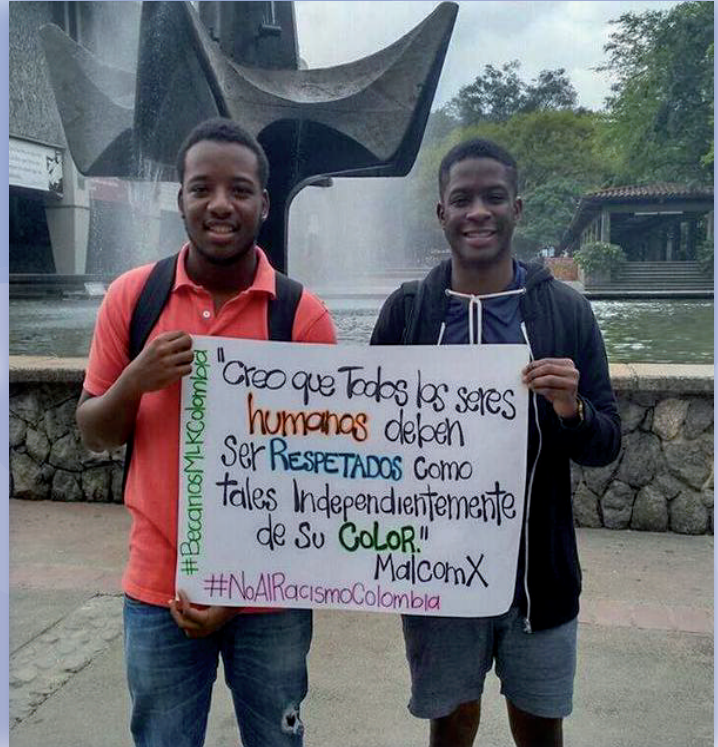
Cultural Exchange with the HBCU Legacy Voices Choir

On August 4, 2015, MLK fellows in Medellin as well as some alumni had the opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange reunion with 37 singers, choir conductors and accompanying persons of HBCU Legacy Voices Choir: Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Central State, Alabama A&M, Prairie View Universities. The meeting consisted in a talk about leadership guided by Mrs. Renata "Toni" Roy, founder of 105 Voices of History Exploring future HBCU-Colombia project.



National MLK Fellows' Campaign against Racism and Discrimination

Last October 8, MLK students in Medellin joined the national MLK fellow's campaign against racism and discrimination. In Medellin MLK fellows invited the Colombo Americano community to say no to racism and to take pictures of them and post them on Twitter under the hashtag: #NoAlRacismoColombia #Becarios MLK.



First Meeting: MLK Fellows Mentoring College Horizons' Students

On November 6th, MLK fellows had the opportunity to meet the kids from College Horizons (a scholarship program offered to secondary - school Afrodescendant students in the city of Bello) through several activities that allowed them to interact and exchange information. This time, the coaches were the MLK students who will be constantly giving support and advice to the kids during the next year.



Academic Report

21 MLK fellows are actively participating in the English Program in Quibdó. So far, they have taken 12 courses for a total of 456 hours of instruction. All the fellows in Quibdo have made great progress in their English learning process; nevertheless, two fellows were withdrawn from the Program after failing several courses. Other two students were placed back in lower courses that better suited their needs.

The following chart summarizes their performance and courses taken along the program.

	Last Name	Name	Courses Taken Jul-Dec 2015	Average Grade Jul-Dec 2015	Courses taken (TOTAL)	Instruction hours (TOTAL)	CEF Level	Remarks
	Valencia Boneth	Albert Ricardo	3	3,8	10	380	A2	Withdrawn from the program in September 2015
1	Mena Romaña	Andrés Francisco	6	4,1	12	456	A2	
2	Mosquera	Anyi Yicel	6	4,2	12	456	A2	
	Palomeque Palomeque	Aurelio			2	76		Withdrawn from the program in January 2015
	Palacios Palacios	Carlos Yair			2	76		Withdrawn from the program in January 2015
3	Ochoa Ibarguen	Daniel Alberto	6	4,0	11	418	A2	He entered the program in October 2014
4	Aramburo Palacios	Davinson Enrique	6	4,5	12	456	A2	
5	Córdoba Hurtado	Diany Surleidy	6	3,7	12	456	A1	
6	Serna Romaña	Enny Marlenis	6	3,8	12	456	A2	
7	Gil	Fabian Guillermo	4	4,2	4	152	A2	Entered the program in September 2015
8	Ledesma Palacios	Geidy	6	4,0	12	456	A2	
9	Mosquera Mosquera	Jorge Luis	6	4,2	10	380	A2	He entered the Program in January 2015
	Robledo Martínez	Jhon Elvis	1	3,0	8	304		Withdrawn from the Program in August 2015
10	Moreno Perea	Juan Carlos	6	4,5	12	456	A2	
11	Martínez	Leidy Paola	4	4,0	4	152	A2	She entered the Program in September 2015
12	Palacios Aguilar	Leiner Eccehomo	6	4,1	12	456	A2	
13	Córdoba Moreno	Lina Marcela	6	4,1	12	456	A2	
14	Becerra Martínez	Lyanne Anetty	6	4,2	12	456	A2	
15	Hinojosa Moreno	Magda Yiced	6	4,0	12	456	A2	
16	Marmolejo Liloy	Milfer	6	4,5	12	456	A2	
17	Lozano Torres	Nelson Enrique	6	3,9	12	456	A2	
18	Rivas Guerrero	Sandra Yulieth	6	4,4	12	456	A2	
19	Romaña Machado	Shirley	6	4,0	12	456	A2	
20	Murillo Rengifo	Wilson Antonio	6	4,1	12	456	A2	
21	Rentería Martínez	Yineth Paola	6	4,5	10	380	A2	He entered the Program in January 2015
	Palacio Rodríguez	Yisiris			1	38		Dropped out in October 2014
				AVERAGE GROUP GRADE	4,1			

▶ OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



Davinson Enrique Aramburo

He is an environmental engineering student at UTCH. Teachers see him as a highly-committed student who is always willing to help his peers and eager to learn.



Juan Carlos Moreno

Juan Carlos is currently studying a major in language Teaching at UTCH. He is a self-demanding and motivated student who loves sharing what he knows with his peers. On his own initiative, he conducts two weekly conversation clubs with his fellow classmates. At the same time, he participates in a social community project teaching English to children from different schools in rural areas of Choco.



Yineth Paola Rentería

She is a Public Accounting student at Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia. Teachers describe her as a very active learner, caring, willing to help her classmates, and as a charismatic leader. Yineth thinks the MLK Program has changed her life and will also help her become more active in the development of her community.



Milfer Marmolejo

He is also a language teaching student at UTCH in Quibdo. Together with Juan Carlos, he conducts some weekly conversation clubs with his MLK peers. He loves teaching and always tries to speak in English. He is also very committed to the MLK Program and thinks that this opportunity has changed his life and is helping him become a more useful member to his community.

SPECIAL CASES

Diany Surleidy Córdoba.

Learning English has been very challenging for her. As she moved on in the English Program, it was increasingly difficult for her to comply with the new competences of each course. Therefore, considering her high sense of commitment and belonging to the Fellowship Program, she was sent back from Course 9 to Course 5. She has also been attending tutoring sessions and her teachers report she has made good progress.

WITHDRAWN STUDENTS

Albert Ricardo Valencia Bonet.

Albert had been reported by teachers as a student who did not seem to be committed to learning English. He did not pay attention in class, did not do homework and or seemed to make time to practice English at home. Although he was sent to tutoring sessions, his attendance was not regular. As a last chance to stay in the Program, he was sent back from course 9 to course 5 and failed it; therefore, after his fourth failed course, he was withdrawn from the Program.

Jhon Elvis Robledo Martinez.

Jhon Elvis struggled with every aspect of the language. However, his teachers reported him as a laid-back student who did not seem to take this opportunity seriously. He was withdrawn from the program after failing two courses.

▶ ACADEMIC EVENTS

First anniversary in the MLK Program

On November 6, MLK fellows in Quibdó also celebrated their first year in the Program. Students showed how grateful they feel to be part of the program by giving quite emotional speeches during the meeting. Besides, they prepared typical food from their region and talked about their plans for the next year regarding social projects and academic matters. They also evaluated their performance along the program and committed to work hard to improve their weaknesses regarding English.



In addition, 6 students were awarded for their best academic performance during the first year. These students are, Leiner Palacios, Juan Carlos Moreno, Davinson Aramburo, Milfer Marmolejo, Yineth Rentería and Fabián Gil.

▶ PROGRESS MADE

95% of the fellows in Qibdo are now in an A2 level and soon will reach level B1, except for 1 student (5%) who was sent back to a lower course. To date, they have taken 12 courses for a total of 456 hours of English instruction; however, they did not reach B1 this term since one of the courses (the ninth course offered) was a review course. Therefore, they will be reaching a B1 level after completing the first course in 2016 (Course 12); and at the same time the student in A1 will move to A2. It is also important to mention that MLK students in Qibdó are highly motivated to learn English and are very devoted and responsible learners.

CEF LEVEL	Percentage of Students	Number of Students
A2	95%	20
A1	5%	1



Course 8 MLK students dressed up for a fashion show (as part of their course project).

95% OF THE FELLOWS IN QIBDO ARE NOW IN AN A2 LEVEL

▶ LEADERSHIP REPORT

Fellows in Quibdo are taking full advantage of the leadership sessions. Workshops conducted by *Fundación Liderazgo and Democracia* have addressed different aspects of leadership (personal and public leadership, citizen participation, and social projects). MLK students have been particularly enthusiastic with the creation of different social intervention projects, which have started to show evidence of the leadership qualities they are developing.

This semester they had 7 leadership sessions for a total of 28 hours of leadership instruction; attendance to the workshops was always high.

REPORT LEADERSHIP INSTRUCTION HOURS

	Name and Lastname	No. activities done July-Dec 2015 (TOTAL)	Hours of leadership workshops July-Dec 2015(TOTAL)	Hours attended by students	Remarks
1.	Aramburo Palacios Davinson Enrique	7	28	28	
2.	Becerra Martinez Lyanne Arletty	7	28	12	She has had some health problems
3.	Cordoba Hurtado Diany Surleidy	7	28	28	
4.	Cordoba Moreno Lina Marcela	7	28	28	
5.	Gil Copete Fabian Guillermo	7	28	20	
6.	Hinojosa Moreno Magna Yiced	7	28	24	
7.	Ledesma Palacios Geidy	7	28	28	
8.	Lozano Torres Nelson Enrique	7	28	28	
9.	Marmolejo Liloy Milfer	7	28	28	
10.	Martinez Heredia Leidy Paola	7	28	20	
11.	Mena Romana Andres Francisco	7	28	20	
12.	Moreno Perea Juan Carlos	7	28	28	
13.	Mosquera Mosquera Anyi Yicel	7	28	28	
14.	Mosquera Mosquera Jorge Luis	7	28	28	
15.	Murillo Rengifo Wilson Antonio	7	28	28	
16.	Ochoa Ibarguen Daniel Alberto	7	28	28	
17.	Palacios Aguilar Leiner Ecce Homo	7	28	28	
18.	Renteria Martinez Yineth Paola	7	28	28	
19.	Rivas Guerrero Sandra Yulieth	7	28	20	
	Robledo Martinez Jhon Elvis	7	28		Withdrawn
20.	Romana Machado Shirley	7	28	28	
21.	Serna Romana Enny Marlenis	7	28	28	
	Valencia Boneth Albert Ricardo	7	28		Withdrawn

► GUEST SPEAKERS

Gloria Valenzuela

Psychologist, PhD in Education, specialized in pedagogical mediation from Universidad de la Salle in Costa Rica. She holds an M.A. in knowledge management, specialized in human resources management. She is also a certified coach with experience as a national and international advisor in public and private institutions.

Álvaro Forero

He is a lawyer from Universidad de los Andes and has been the Director of several transnational companies in the fiscal and financial sectors. He has also occupied top public positions in the Colombian presidency and the government's ministries. He is the Director of Fundación Liderazgo y Democracia. Dr. Forero is also a political and public opinion analyst, a columnist for El Colombiano newspaper, El Espectador and a panelist for BluRadio.

Paulius Yamin

He is an anthropologist and holds a master's degree in cultural studies from the University of London. He has worked as a professor, advisor, and researcher for several companies and is currently a fellow student of the program "Líderes por Bogotá" by Universidad de los Andes and Fundación Liderazgo y Democracia .

Diego Cancino

He is a Philosopher and holds a master's degree in Public policies. He was a member of the town council in Bogotá in 2015 and advisor in projects carried out by the Congress of the Republic of Colombia. Currently, he is a teacher at Universidad del Externado in the fields of economics and philosophy.

► SPECIAL EVENTS

Social Intervention Projects

Last September 4th and 5th, MLK fellows in Quibdo participated in the 12th and 13th leadership session and finished the module on civic culture with Professor Paulius Yamin. In these two sessions, MLK fellows shared some social intervention projects that they had previously implemented in their local context in order to contribute with solutions to relevant issues.

An outstanding project created and implemented by MLK fellows was a huge campaign against buying votes. They ran this campaign last October before the regional elections in Quibdo took place. These are some of the products:



They also created the amazing video “Yo no vendo mi voto”, the final product of this campaign: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY6-vPsBdVc>



Campaign against Racism and Discrimination

MLK students in Quibdo also participated in the national campaign against racism and discrimination on October 8. They made posters and went around town inviting people to say no to racism.



▶ PART II: SUCCESS STORIES BARRANQUILLA

Academic Report

Estilita Cassiani, the First Bucknell University Professor from Palenque

Estilita Cassiani Obeso, a young African descent, could not believe her eyes as she approached a giant advertisement at the cafeteria of Universidad del Atlántico, the public college institution in her hometown where she was taking the fourth semester of Spanish and Literature. In the second half of 2011, she was attending college thanks to efforts made by their parents: her father is an operator of heavy machinery and her mother a candy vendor in the streets of Barranquilla.

The next day, she attended the talk offered to publicize the terms of the scholarship. There she knew that the Martin Luther King Fellowship Program was offered by the American Embassy in Bogotá and Centro Cultural Colombo Americano and that it provided English instruction and leadership empowerment for two years. Little by little Estilita got interested about the possibility of studying the language and strengthen her career, so she decided to apply for the scholarship. Once she was admitted, she met Professor Juan Pacheco, coordinator of the Martin Luther King program in Barranquilla, whom Estilita considers her most important mentor.

"It's hard to believe that these opportunities may come true. In spite of being a leader in my community and having emerged as an outstanding student my high school, my financial situation had truncated all the dreams I had had at that time", said African descendant Estilita Cassiani, today 23 years old, while in Barranquilla enjoying the winter break from classes.

Estilita says that attending college the whole day and going to Centro Cultural Colombo Americano at night was really hard for her, especially because her English language knowledge was very low and she did not even had funds for transportation and food.

There were times when Estilita wondered if all those days without lunch and those long walks were worthy, but she did not give up. "At first it was pretty tough, but with the help of teachers, my classmates, and my family, I managed to go through," said Estilita.



The first time on a plane

In 2013, after the first year of studies at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano, when Estilita was learning two languages simultaneously, she was invited by the US Embassy, together with some other fellows of the MLK Program in Colombia, to travel to Bogota and Washington.

This young lady will never forget her visit to the embassy in Bogotá where she met some famous Colombian leaders. “It was exciting when we received our visas and it was wonderful to arrive in Washington City where we were guests”, she said.

During her visits to museums, the Congress and all kinds of diplomatic places, Estilita had the opportunity to meet the Latin American issues advisor of President Barack Obama and the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Estilita and the other MLK fellows talked with them about education in Afro Colombian communities.

Back in Barranquilla, Estilita realized she had become a celebrity in her neighborhood. Of course, her parents were the proudest of all. She was happy to be back home, but she was certain she would return to the United States.

After graduating from college, Estilita did some teaching practice at Centro Cultural Colombo Americano and, but in August 2015, she traveled to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania to climb another step of her dreams.

Plans about Europe

Estilita says she still has the same values, but now she has bigger dreams. Now, back to work in Lewisburg, she is getting used to life in the United States and she is also planning to apply to a Swedish College to pursue a master’s degree. She also dreams of taking her mom to the United States.

“I have learned that everything is possible. With commitment and passion you can get whatever you want for your life and you will never need to go over anyone. I am proud of my country and my community. I am always talking about my ancestral values and customs”, says Estilita back at work in Bucknell University.

▶ CALI

Yair Cenú, an outstanding MLK fellow who was recently asked to participate in an academic project, shares his testimony.

Colombo Americano, English and much more...

If I'm going to talk about the Colombo Americano, I need to think about my society. Why? The Colombo Americano is more than an institution where you can go to study. As the Colombo's slogan says, "English and much more," here, you can find a little piece of the United States, a place where people try to make you feel part of a big family; and the Colombo is an important heritage in this city. We can't talk about the Colombo Americano as if it's a couple of buildings. It's more than a place, it's a cultural center where you can find a lot of interesting events and, there, the doors are always open.

I've been at the Colombo Americano since 2014. I was chosen to be part of the Martin Luther King program. It's one of the best opportunities that I've had in my life. It has been good not only for me but also for my family and people who live in my neighborhood Manuela Beltrán, on the east side of the city, Distrito de Aguablanca. During my studies I've been teaching English to some children in my neighborhood.

Why do I say that? Because we, on the east side, are thousands of people, so, it's pretty difficult to even imagine that each one of us is able to receive an opportunity to do what we want and develop our skills. There are so many of us. So, when one of us gets an opportunity like I did that allows us to change in a positive way, it must be understood as a change for everybody. It's my responsibility do things in the best way that I can, be the best in everything that I do. Because I am not: Yair André, I'm Distrito de Aguablanca; my face is our face; my actions and behavior prove what we can do, how we can be.

So the Colombo Americano impacts not only my life but also other lives. Here, I've learned how I can teach English to other people. I've shared my knowledge with different people, and each level has a beautiful group full of people with great ideas! My teachers have been amazing -they always try to teach us to be better people. Also I should talk about the staff. They do their job in the best way, helping us every day and showing us the different services that the Colombo Americano has. We have the Auditorium, Art Gallery, Conversation clubs, the first Afro cine club in Cali and..., as you already know: much more!

Finally, I'm glad to be part of the Colombo Americano family and for being part of the MLK program. We're a great team! We want to do a lot of things for people; we have hundreds of ideas and projects that we hope to do. When someone asks me: why the Colombo Americano? I say: because the Colombo Americano is a big family who receives you with open arms; embraces you each day, teaching you how to be a valuable person; and puts you back in society; so, if you're part of the Colombo Americano you'll have ability to serve people.

▶ CARTAGENA

Four of our students shared their personal experiences in the program

Heyni Almentaro Arrieta

20 years old - Graphic Design

I am grateful to God and the Centro Colombo Americano for this fantastic opportunity to study English. Not only to increase my knowledge of English, but also to be a better leader. It is one of the best things that has happened to me and has enabled me to have a better future as a professional and to achieve my personal goals.



Alvaro Meza Herazo

24 years old - Systems Engineering

My name is Alvaro Meza Herazo. I am 24 years old and study systems engineering at the University of Cartagena, where I am currently in the eighth semester. In October of 2014, I applied for and was awarded the MLK scholarship. This gave me the opportunity to improve my knowledge of English and open those doors for those who speak the language.

The scholarship program has been an interesting experience. In addition to the English courses, the leadership course has prepared us to continue social efforts in our community foundations.

And by learning from various experts about different themes, each group member has improved their knowledge and attitude as leaders.

The English program has helped a great deal in my career as I frequently come in contact with documents in English due to its wide occurrence. This in turn, has improved my general knowledge.

Thanks to my practical knowledge of English...due to my exposure with music, movies, and videogames, I have done quite well in the English program.

Wilmer Salazar Oviedo

21 years old - Law

My name is Wilmer Salazar Oviedo. I am 21 years old and live in the Nelson Mandela neighborhood of Cartagena. I study law at the University of Cartagena and am about to finish the English program at the Centro Cultural Colombo Americano.

I am very proud to be an MLK Scholarship recipient. Besides learning English and developing leadership themes, I have been transforming my life little by little and those of the members of my community. This is reflected by the activities that took place at the Ninos de Madera foundation in the month of December when presents were distributed to underprivileged children. Through the participation of my peers and the support of the Centro Colombo Americano, we were able to bring joy to these kids.

It's important to note that I had the opportunity to take part in a workshop about teaching English given by Oxford University. This workshop enabled me to improve my English skills and use them in teaching my community classes.

This has been a marvelous experience that has brought only good to my life and will permit me to contribute to a better society.

MLK Scholarship to Study Abroad

Lewis Polo, scholarship recipient in the MLK program at the Centro Cultural Americano, was selected to participate in the Study of U.S. Institutes (SUSI's) for student leaders. This is a short term academic program in the United States directed by university leaders from throughout the world.



My experience in SUSI



From July 11th until August 15 in 2015, I was the beneficiary of a scholarship awarded by the US Dept. of State. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I was in the United States for five weeks participating in an academic program for young university leaders interested in learning about the history and government of the US.

I spent three weeks in the city of Amherst and took classes such as history, politics, economy, entrepreneurship, leadership, poetry and even ballet. Then I spent the remaining two weeks in different cities where we visited more universities and took some of the aforementioned courses. These places included Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Harvard University in Boston, Columbia University in New York City, the University of Arizona at Tucson, Smith University in Northampton and Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

I visited famous locations such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, the Empire State Building, Emily Dickson's home, the White House, the Washington Monument, the 911 Memorial, Times Square, the Martin Luther King and Lincoln Monuments, the Interamerican Dialogue, among others.

This was an enriching experience which allowed me to make friendships with nineteen other youth (Colombia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) and share experiences that will last a lifetime.

Mr. Polo is a student of Economics at the University of Cartagena and Education at Unicolombo. He is a member of a labor market research group at the U. of Cartagena where he is involved in two projects dealing with factors affecting the success of students at that university. At Unicolombo, he works in a post-conflict project entitled Multiculturalidad y Educacion en el posconflicto Colombiano.

▶ MEDELLÍN

Jhen Javes Murillo

Being part of the MLK program has been one of the most meaningful experiences in my life, mainly because of 3 reasons. One of them is the fact that now I belong to this great MLK fellowship that I call family. The other two reasons are the chance to strengthen my English language skills and the opportunity to attend to these great leadership sessions that offer genuine tools to help my community.

I'd like to remark that learning English has been one of my dreams because it is the language of the world and I'm sure it will open doors in a near future. My interest towards this language started when I was a child and the MLK program set the ground for it to come true. I'm sure that my responsibility in learning this language is huge and that's why I do my best in each class.

Personally, I feel I have grown up not only academically but also in terms of being a leader. My leadership skills have improved notoriously and now I feel I can project myself as the leader I have inside. As I mentioned before, the leadership component of the program provides us with real tools that I will use in my community eventually.

All of this useful knowledge that I have acquired in the program will be the key to access to academic opportunities and will build the leader that my community needs.





Yineth Paola Rentería Martínez

Hello everyone, I want to send a special greeting for all our coordinators.

My name's Yineth Paola Rentería Martínez, I was born in Bagadó- I'm 18 years old; now I'm living in Quibdó City and I'm studying Public Accounting in the University Cooperativa de Colombia in sixth semester and proudly I'm a part of the family of the fellows of the MLK Program.

My academic life has been excellent since I finished with honors from the high school and now occupying the top places in my university for academic excellence and with my outstanding participation in several competitions: "Short Stories", "Rymel Serrano Uribe-Vision Emprendedora", and the 20th International Congress of Students in Public Accounting in Cali City. In this event, I represented the "Semillero Contable y Tributario" and we got the second place. Currently, I'm the representative of the students in my school. Now I am the architect of my goals and I'm in the learning and education process to help the development of my community.

Today I want to share with you my wonderful experience!

All my life has been filled with many experiences that have allowed me to grow as person and strengthen my social spirit and leadership component. I've noticed that an opportunity can change our lives because only when we dream big, we can get great things.

This experience added up to my life, commitment, and desire to succeed, values and principles, and above all, it strengthened my leadership skills so that every day I can contribute to the development of my community.

All this has been important and even better because I found a great family. Day by day, we learn to smile and to work as a team with the help of our wonderful teachers.

We make a dream, the dream of all of us, in each smile, each special moment, each look of pride and each word for improvement; these are real feelings that become our strength to remain united with a lot of memories that will link our lives forever.

I've learned more than I imagined and I want to continue to learn to take gigantic steps. Sometimes, we don't know everything that is involved in learning a new language; It has been very rewarding to learn about a new culture, new people, to be able to sing well in English, develop new skills and, above all, to learn from the culture of Native-Americans such as the LAKOTAS.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

BUILD UP A FUTURE BY EDUCATING LEADERS WITH A GREAT VISION IN MY DEPARTMENT!

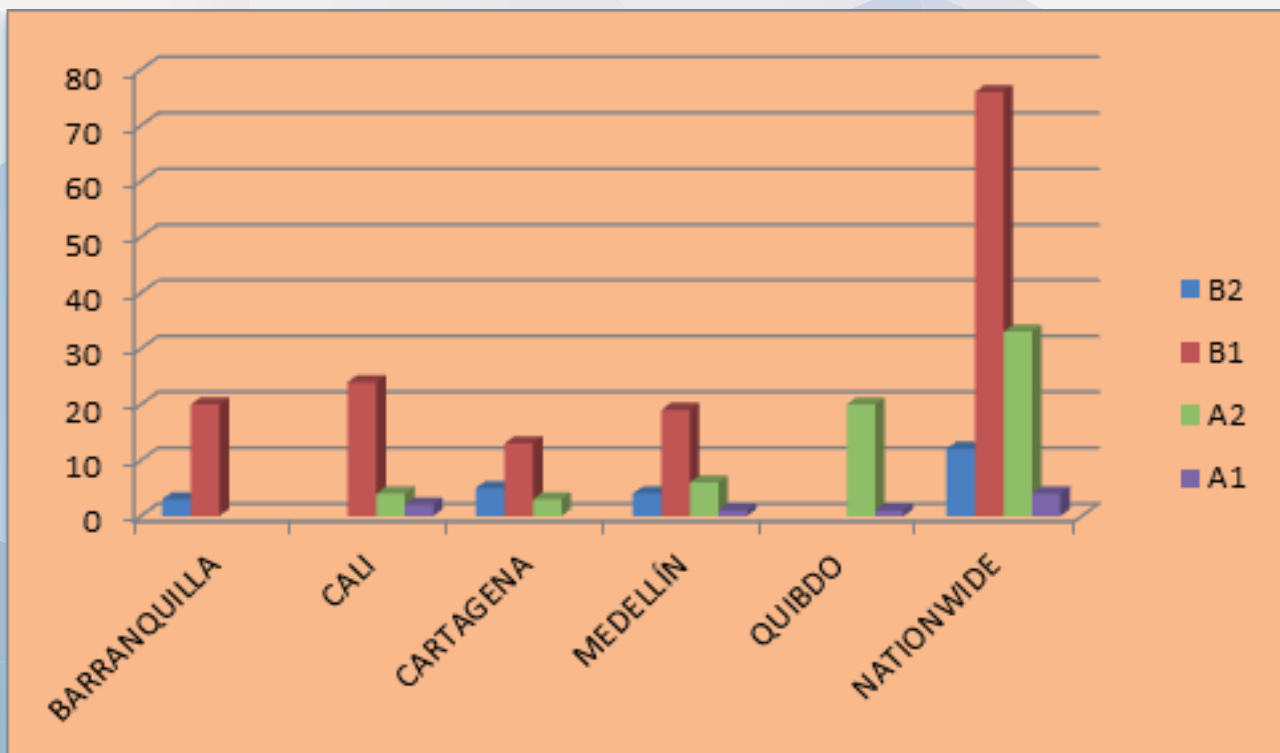
CHOCÓ

▶ CONCLUSIONS

Academic Performance

There are currently 125 MLK fellows that are actively participating in the MLK Program around the country. The academic process at the different BNCs has shown good results and most students have improved their competence in English by moving on to a higher level in the CEF. During the second semester of 2015, 71% of the MLK fellows got a B1 or B2 level, reaching or going beyond the target for that year. 61% of them reached B1 and interestingly, 10% of students could reach a B2 level. 26% of the fellows are still in A2 due to different reasons. Apart from Quibdo students who will soon reach B1, A2-level students in Medellin, Cartagena and Cali have either entered the program later or have had to repeat some courses during the process. Likewise, MLK students who are still in A1 (3%) have had some sort of academic difficulties, except for Medellin where there is one student that started the courses last year in April.

CEF Levels Reached							
	BARRANQUILLA	CALI	CARTAGENA	MEDELLÍN	QUIBDO	NATIONWIDE	% SS PER LEVEL
B2	3		5	4		12	10%
B1	20	24	13	19		76	61%
A2		4	3	6	20	33	26%
A1		2		1	1	4	3%
SS PER CITY	23	30	21	30	21	125	100%



It is also important to highlight that struggling students have been given different opportunities to continue in the process and have been provided all the necessary academic support through tutoring sessions, attendance to conversation clubs, and the possibility to repeat courses. However, in some cases, these measures have not been enough and some fellows have had to be withdrawn from the program: 3 fellows in Barranquilla and 2 fellows in Quibdó.

By and large, fellows around the country continue to be motivated in the process of learning English. Program coordinators and mentors provide continuous support and do an ongoing follow-up of all students. Some strategies used to encourage students to move on include sending periodical excellence certificates or e-cards to best students, keeping constant communication by mail or through social networks, holding conferences with them or arranging meetings to deal with specific topics.

In addition, the different BNCs and the MLK Program Coordinators make constant efforts to engage fellows in different types of institutional activities where they can learn about diverse topics of interest and are also invited to communicate and use what they know. Examples of these events include invitations to talks by local and international speakers, meetings with USAID representatives, and academic fairs like StudyCalifornia.

► LEADERSHIP

The leadership program continues to be implemented as planned in the five cities. A total of 35 leadership activities and 112 hours of leadership instruction were provided nationwide during the second semester of 2015. Renowned local and international speakers were invited to leadership activities. According to reports by the different BNCs, fellows are responding very positively to the work done in the program and have started to put into practice their qualities as leaders through different initiatives.

Students in cities like Barranquilla, Cali and Quibdó have kept a good level of attendance to the leadership workshops. Particularly, Barranquilla students improved their attendance after several measures taken by the Program Coordinator. However, in Medellín and Cartagena attendance to leadership session decreased and measures have already been taken by the Program Coordinators to raise awareness in some fellows about the vital importance of leadership instruction to be part of the MLK Program.

City	No. of activities done	Hours of leadership sessions (TOTAL)	Hours attended (average)	Hours attended (%)
Barranquilla	8	24	16,5	69%
Cali	9	27	23,2	86%
Cartagena	5	15	9,5	63%
Medellín	6	18	11,5	64%
Quibdó	7	28	25,5	91%
TOTAL	35	112	86,2	77%

One of the greatest achievements during the present term is that MLK fellows around the country have started different initiatives to help their communities, thus starting to show the results of all the work done in the leadership component of the MLK Fellowship Program. In Cali, for example, fellows are working to help several indigenous groups and at-risk youth; MLK students in Cartagena ran a charity campaign to give Christmas presents to children from vulnerable populations; in Medellin, students are serving as mentors of College Horizons' kids, ran a campaign last Christmas to collect presents for poor kids, and are currently running another campaign to collect school materials for kids in Chocó together with MLK fellows in Quibdo. The latter have also taken several initiatives to tackle some issues in their city, such as the anti-corruption campaign "Yo no vendo mi voto", ran before last October's regional elections in Quibdo.

Another big accomplishment that took place in 2015-2 is the fact that MLK fellows around the country got in contact through social networks and are now in constant communication. In fact, last October 8, they all ran a national campaign against racism and discrimination in which the fellows from the five cities took an active role. They designed posters, took pictures, wrote posts on Twitter and got many people in their cities to join them. The success of this campaign also becomes evidence of the impact the MLK Program is already having on the students and their communities.



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