VOLUME 62
25 MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES





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50,000 Colombian Professors Received Training in Digital Skills.



Argentina's La Rioja University maintains more than 100 agreements with Colombian universities.

On Wednesday, the International University of La Rioja (UNIR) revealed that more than 50,000 Colombian university professors have received training in digital skills, artificial intelligence, and leadership.

Manuel Herrera, UNIR's Academic Director of Institutional Relations, announced the news during the opening of "The Futures of Higher Education" event at the University of Los Llanos in Villavicencio.

The seminar brought together university presidents, administrators, and representatives of higher education associations from Colombia and Ecuador, creating a forum for reflection on inclusion, employability, and technological transformation in the universities of the future.

Herrera highlighted that UNIR maintains more than 100 agreements with Colombian universities and has championed academic cooperation as a key tool for addressing the challenges facing higher education in Latin America.

Charles Arosa, president of the University of Los Llanos, emphasized that inclusion requires partnerships that expand opportunities in remote regions and strengthen access for historically marginalized areas.

Lorenzo Portocarrero, executive director of the Colombian Association of Higher Education Institutions (ACIET), pointed out that universities are facing profound transformations driven by social, economic, and technological changes, especially the advancement of artificial intelligence.

In the first session, moderated by Rafael Puyol, president of UNIR, the challenge of employability was discussed, emphasizing the need to reduce the gap between student skills and labor market demands.

Meanwhile, Eva Asensio, director of Academic Innovation at UNIR, advocated for educational models based on solving real-world problems, critical thinking, and the ethical use of artificial intelligence.

Mexico to Present Tourist Exhibit Amid the 2026 World Cup.



It will remain open to the public from May 21 to February 14, 2027.

On Thursday, the National Museum of Art (MUNAL) in Mexico City inaugurated the exhibition “Mexico: Route and Destination,” featuring 380 works that portray the country’s tourism imagery during the 20th century.

Among the highlights is the restoration of a large-scale map created by Miguel Covarrubias, a Mexican artist considered a leading figure in cultural cartography and the visual promotion of national destinations.

Curator Claudia Garay explained that the exhibition invites reflection on how a country’s image is constructed, from highways and destinations to works by artists such as Jorge Gonzalez Camarena and Gerardo Murillo.

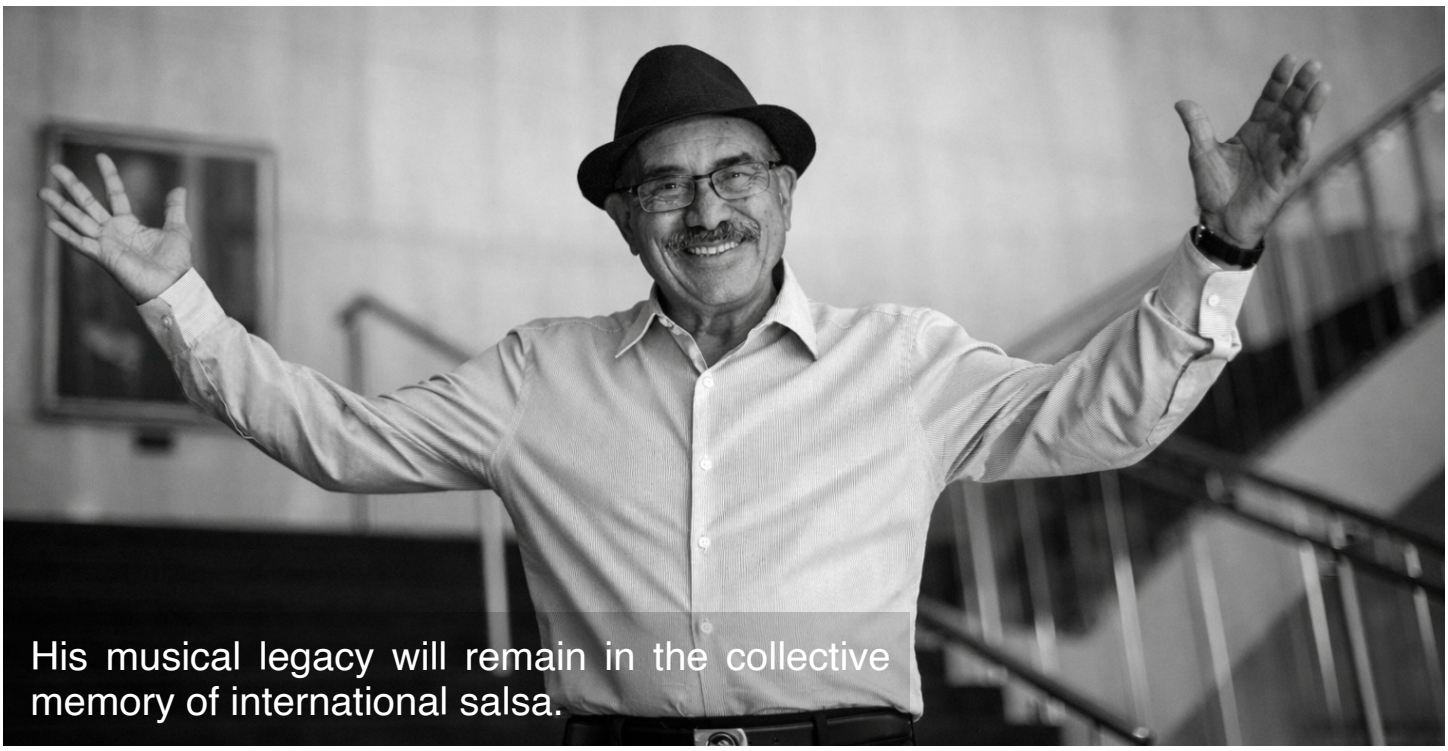
Culture Secretary Claudia Curiel de Icaza noted that the exhibition complements the collections promoted during the World Cup, which begins on June 11 in Mexico City.

The exhibition is organized into three sections: Tourist Imaginaries, Routes and Destinations, and Tourist Bodies. The first section displays visual records of landscapes and pre-Columbian remains created by travelers from the Americas.

The pieces highlight Acapulco’s beaches, Cuernavaca’s landscapes, the cultural diversity of Mexico City, and picturesque towns, demonstrating how Mexico’s national and international tourist image was constructed in the last century.

“Mexico: Route and Destination” will remain open to the public from May 21 to February 14, 2027, in the temporary exhibition halls of the MUNAL, thereby consolidating its cultural value.

Puerto Rican Salsa Singer Sammy Marrero Dies at 84.



His musical legacy will remain in the collective memory of international salsa.

On Sunday, Puerto Rican singer Sammy Marrero, who was the lead singer of salsa orchestra “La Selecta” for 44 consecutive years, passed away at age 84.

Born and raised in Cuamo, Marrero began his career in amateur programs and collaborated with artists such as Jesus Sanchez, known as “Chuito, el de Bayamon.”

He performed with groups like Trio Los Tempest, Conjunto Los Muchos, and the band of Andras, Anibal, and Coco, solidifying his career before joining La Selecta in 1971.

The group, led by Raphy Leavitt, is considered one of the most influential in Puerto Rican salsa. After Leavitt died in 2015, Marrero continued singing with various groups, and in 2016, he launched his solo career with songs such as “I Am Sammy Marrero” by Richie Viera.

For five years, he was prohibited from performing Raphy Leavitt songs “Clown” and “The Good Shepherd” due to legal disputes, although his renditions of classics like “Jibaro soy” and “Soldier” remain as a legacy.

Jenniffer Gonzalez, governor of Puerto Rico, said she “deeply lamented” his passing and highlighted his talent as a sonero and trovador. She extended condolences on behalf of the Puerto Rican people to his family and fans.

The mayor of Coamo, Juan Carlos Garcia, emphasized that the city has lost “one of its most distinguished sons.” The National Foundation for Popular Culture described him as a simple, humble, and loyal man, whose musical legacy will remain in the collective memory of international salsa.

Colombian Singer Toto la Momposina Dies At 85.



She received the Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013 for preserving folk music.

On Sunday, Colombian singer Toto la Momposina, whose voice and drums carried the ancestral music of the Caribbean to international stages for six decades, passed away at the age of 85.

Colombian Writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez chose her to showcase the sound of the Caribbean to the world in 1982, when she accompanied the Nobel laureate to Stockholm and solidified her role as a cultural ambassador for Colombia.

Toto championed Afro-Indigenous and peasant oral traditions, rejecting urban genres like reggaeton. Artists recognized that her lucid style reflected authenticity and a deep commitment to the musical heritage of her people.

She recorded iconic albums such as La Candela Viva, Pacanto, and La Bodega, featuring songs like El Pescador, Yo Me Llamo Cumbia, and Aguacero de Mayo, which became popular anthems of national identity.

Toto la Momposina danced, improvised, and radiated vitality even in old age. In 2018, at 78 years old, she captivated audiences in Mompox with her infectious energy and humor.

Heir to a musical family tradition, Toto learned from her singing mother, her percussionist father, and her bandleader grandfather. She traveled to riverside villages with anthropologist Gloria Triana to preserve traditional knowledge.

She studied dance and choreography at the Sorbonne in Paris and collaborated with artists such as Carlos Vives, Gilberto Gil, and Calle 13, creating the iconic song “Latinoamerica.”

Toto received the Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, which recognized her contribution to preserving folk music. She never abandoned her mission to support Colombian and Latin American folklore.

Her farewell performance took place in 2022 at the Cordillera Festival in Bogota. On May 27, her remains will be honored at the National Capitol Building, celebrating her life and work.



L’Oreal-UNESCO Awards Argentine Scientist Raquel Lia Chan.

She identified biological mechanisms that enable the development of drought-resistant crops.

On Tuesday, Argentine scientist Raquel Lia Chan was recognized as one of the five winners of the 2026 L’Oreal-UNESCO International Awards for Women in Science, representing Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chan, a leading figure in agricultural biotechnology, was honored for identifying genes and biological mechanisms that enable the development of drought-resistant crops, applied to wheat, corn, rice, and soybeans.

South African Liesl Zühlke, representing Africa and the Arab States, was recognized for advances in the treatment of childhood heart disease linked to poverty and health inequalities that affect vulnerable communities.

Australian Felice Jacka, representing Asia and the Pacific, received the award for founding nutritional psychiatry and emonstrating the relationship between diet and mental health in diverse populations. British Sarah A. Teichmann, representing Europe, was recognized for her research in single-cell biology and contributions to precision medicine, which have opened new perspectives on personalized treatments.

American Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, representing North America, received the award for advances in tissue engineering and the development of biological models applied to regenerative medicine.

UNESCO and the L’Oréal Foundation highlighted the global impact of the five laureates in key areas such as health, biotechnology, tissue engineering, and food security. UNESCO Director-General Khaled Al-Anani stated that science is essential and that half of humanity’s talent cannot be neglected.

L’Oréal Foundation President Jean-Paul Agon celebrated the milestone of supporting 5,000 female researchers and the renewal of the partnership with


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