

HACU Executive Leadership Seminar

Program Agenda



San José, Costa Rica - Costa Rica Marriott Hacienda Belén

June 8-11, 2025

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HACU Executive Leadership Seminar

Sunday, June 8, 2025

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Welcome Dinner

Monday, June 9, 2025

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.
Introduction

Tito Guerrero, Ed.D.
Director, La Academia de Liderazgo, HACU

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
A Small Country with a Big Vision: Preventive Medicine

Presenter:
Rafael E. Lamas Alfonso, M.D.
Director of Medical Specialties and Hospital Management and
Specialist in Family and Community Medicine, Universidad de
Iberoamérica, UNIBE, Costa Rica

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.
**Institutional Alliances in Research: Building Knowledge for
Global Impact**

Presenters:
Andrés Cairol Barquero, M.D.
Researcher, Faculty of Medicine, Universidad de Iberoamérica,
UNIBE, Costa Rica

Luis Felipe Loaiza Sáenz, M.D.
Researcher, Faculty of Medicine, Universidad de Iberoamérica,
UNIBE, Costa Rica

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.
Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Departure from Marriott Costa Rica Hacienda Belén Hotel to
Universidad de Iberoamérica, Faculties Building

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Welcome to UNIBE

3:15 – 3:45 p.m.
UNIBE: A Learning Ecosystem Transforming Education

Presenters:
Krissia Leiva Calderón
Executive Director, Universidad de Iberoamérica, UNIBE, Costa
Rica

Mtro. Nelson Rojas
Director of International Affairs Department, Universidad de
Iberoamérica, UNIBE, Costa Rica

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.
**Experiences and Opportunities for International Students:
Breaking Barriers and Building Global Future**

Presenters:
UNIBE staff and international students

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Costa Rica Welcomes You: Pura Vida Celebration

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Departure from UNIBE Faculties Building to the farewell venue

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Farewell dinner

7:30 – 8:15 p.m.
Departure to Marriott Costa Rica Hacienda Belén Hotel

Tuesday, June 10

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Internationalization and Community: University Hispanoamericana's Approach

Presenters:

Marco Urbina Soto

General Director, Universidad Hispanoamericana, UH, Costa Rica

Lic. María Belén Jiménez Porras

International and Study Abroad Programs Coordinator,
Universidad Hispanoamericana, UH, Costa Rica

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

CIELO: Transforming Health Education to Prevent Childhood Obesity and Promote Mental Health

Presenters:

Joshua Santana Segura, M.D.

Subdirector, Universidad Hispanoamericana
School of Medicine, UH, Costa Rica

Ing. Marianela Salazar Ramos

Professional Development Coordinator
Universidad Hispanoamericana, UH, Costa Rica

12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Departure from Marriott Costa Rica Hacienda Belén Hotel to the UH Health Science Building

2:20 – 2:30 p.m.

Arrival at the UH Health Science Building

2:30 – 4:20 p.m.

UH Academic Experience:

Live simulation scenarios in internationally accredited simulation hospital

Unique experience in anatomy and basic sciences labs.

(For participants who do not want this experience, there will be an academic activity such as Virtual and Augmented reality, Nutrition lab experience and more.)

4:20 – 4:30 p.m.

Meet at entrance and depart to UH Sports Campus

5:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Arrival at UH Sports Campus

5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Experience Costa Rican culture and gastronomy

Sustainability in Higher Education in Costa Rica

Giovani Jiménez

Professor of the School of Tourism, Universidad Hispanoamericana,
Health Sciences Simulation Experience, UH, Costa Rica

Dinner with UH administrators

7:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Departure from the UH Campus to the Marriott Costa Rica Hacienda Belén Hotel



Wednesday, June 11

8:30 – 9:10 a.m.

Social Change through Internationalization

Presenters:

Lester Sandres Rápalo, Ed.D.

Ambassador and Global Advisor on Sustainable Education, The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development, OPAD, USA

Mtra. Elizabeth Rodríguez Vargas

Director of Study Abroad, Office for International Affairs, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.

Harnessing AI for Student Success: Innovation, Equity and the Future of Higher Ed

Presenter:

Guillermo Díaz, Jr.

Founder and CEO, Conectado, Inc., USA

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:15 – 10:55 a.m.

University of Experience in Human Development and Hearts of Gold Program: A Cultural Immersion Program for the Care and Support of the Older Adult Population

Presenter:

Rocío Valverde Gallegos, Ph.D.

President, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

Mtra. Elizabeth Rodríguez Vargas

Director of Study Abroad, Office for International Affairs, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Building Bridges in Global Education: Strengthening Costa Rica Partnerships

Moderator:

Lester Sandres Rápalo, Ed.D.

Ambassador and Global Advisor on Sustainable Education, The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development, OPAD, USA

Presenters:

Stephanie Garita

University Extension Manager, Universidad Fidélitas, UF, Costa Rica

Mónica Chinchilla

President, Universidad Internacional de las Américas, UIA, Costa Rica

Lic. Diana Ruiz

International Affairs Manager, Universidad de Ciencias Médicas, UCM, Costa Rica

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Departure from Marriott Costa Rica Hacienda Belén Hotel to Universidad Santa Paula

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome Remarks

Rocío Valverde Gallegos, Ph.D.

President, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Presentation about USP

Erika Cyrus, Ph.D.

Director of Physical Therapy School, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Global Context of Micro-Credentials

Moderator:

Lester Sandres Rápalo, Ed.D.

Ambassador and Global Advisor on Sustainable Education, The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development, OPAD, USA

Presenters:

Jonnathan González Rodríguez, Ph.D.

Teaching Director, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

Britt Rios-Ellis, Ph.D.

President, California State University, Stanislaus, USA

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Context of Biomedical Research in Costa Rica

Presenters:

Adriana Benavides Lara, M.D.

Research Director, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

Jonnathan González Rodríguez, Ph.D.

Teaching Director, Universidad Santa Paula, USP, Costa Rica

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Dinner and Cultural Presentation

7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Farewell and departure to Marriott Costa Rica Hacienda Belén Hotel

Thursday, June 12

ALL DAY

HACU International Symposium

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Dinner and La Academia Graduation Ceremony