

DIEGO ONTANEDA BENAVIDES

Latin American Leadership Academy

Co-Founded with David Baptista

Funded with support from the Jerome L. Greene Foundation

2018 Global Fellow



BIG BOLD IDEA

Promote sustainable economic development and strengthen democratic governance in Latin America by training and connecting a new generation of principled and socially innovative leaders.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Latin American Leadership Academy (LALA) is building a new generation of leaders to drive sustainable development and strengthen democratic governance across Latin America and the Caribbean. LALA identifies high-potential, purpose-driven young people—ages 14 to 20, many from historically marginalized communities—and equips them with skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, social innovation, critical thinking, and socio-emotional intelligence.

These emerging leaders, known as LALíderes, gain access to a lifelong ecosystem of support: mentors, universities, scholarships, dream jobs, venture funding, and a world of curated opportunities to accelerate their growth.

By cultivating a diverse and collaborative community of changemakers and partner institutions, LALA is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and prosperous future for the region.

PERSONAL BIO

Diego Ontaneda Benavides is co-founder and CEO of the Latin American Leadership Academy (LALA). Diego's passion for social and economic development took him from McKinsey & Company to the African Leadership Academy (ALA) in Johannesburg. At ALA, he was inspired by the vast potential he saw in empowering the region's most promising young leaders to solve their own communities' problems. After running two pilots in Latin America with co-founder David Baptista, he and David founded LALA in 2018. Diego graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in political economy from Williams College. He is an IDIF Fellow at Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he is MBA Class of 2018.

Organization/Fellow Location

Medellin, Colombia

Impact Location

South America

Colombia

Organization Structure

Nonprofit

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