

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

## **Partners of the Americas (Partners) to develop leadership training curriculum to empower community leaders across the Americas**

Washington, DC – Partners of the Americas is developing an integrated leadership training curriculum that will expand the leadership capacity and technical skills of emerging leaders and prepare them to tackle the most serious challenges faced by communities across the Americas.

The project is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., which in the 1980s and 1990s supported an earlier leadership program with Partners of the Americas. That program brought together 400 emerging leaders from across the hemisphere in groups of 40 leaders - 20 from the United States and 20 from Latin America and the Caribbean- in seminars, community based development projects and other learning experiences over a two and a half year period per class, producing an effective network of multi-talented leaders dedicated to changing lives wherever they live and work.

“Partners hopes to replicate and expand the success of the earlier program, combining key lessons learned with modern leadership-building techniques and activities,” says Partners President and CEO Steve Vetter. “The communities of the Western Hemisphere are hungry for real leadership to solve real problems and Partners is committed to empowering emerging leaders to create lasting change, whether they are grassroots volunteers or trained development professionals.”

The training curriculum will focus on imparting practical skills and on developing adaptive, open and action-based leadership for social good. As part of this grant, Partners will complete the first stage of producing the training curriculum, which involves working with consultants and an international working group to draft the curriculum’s content. In future stages, Partners will use the content from stage one to create professional training handbooks for participants, facilitators and training-of-trainers, as well as begin making the training widely available through partnerships with existing leadership training centers and Partners international events.

“Our goal,” says Vetter, “is to inspire the kind of transformational, adaptive and action-based leadership that will mobilize community leaders and activists, empowering them to move from being victims of their circumstances to becoming empowered leaders who create lasting change.”

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### **About Partners of the Americas**

Inspired by President Kennedy and founded in 1964 under the Alliance for Progress, Partners of the Americas is a 501(c) 3 non-profit, non-partisan organization with international offices in Washington, DC. *By connecting local organizations to broader funding opportunities and empowering citizens to become agents of change, Partners develops lasting solutions to our hemisphere’s toughest challenges. For more information, visit [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net).*

### **About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

*The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).*