Engage in Puerto Rico's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiatives, Business Development Opportunities and Economic Resiliency Efforts
This document was produced under the direction and guidance of Dr. Barrett Haga, Senior Administrator for Economic Engagement at the Economic Development Administration, and Adriana Bonilla, ACE Program Coordinator of the Organization at the American States as RIAC Technical Secretariat. Special thanks to Cristina Narváez, Consultant at the OAS, Sally Waley, Senior Specialist at the Economic Development Administration, Leslie Wilson, Mexican Desk Officer at the International Trade Administration, Dakshina Voetsch, Argentina Desk Officer at the International Trade Administration, and Eileen Walsh, Intern at the Pan American Development Foundation, for their contributions to its preparation. Juan Sebastián Fonseca, RIAC’s Consultant at the OAS, was responsible for the design of this document.
Welcome to Puerto Rico!

We are very proud of the fact that Puerto Rico has a rapidly emerging innovation system, consisting of a research-intensive public university system; accomplished public and private research centers and institutions; business incubators/accelerators; a strong cluster of high-technology industries; and financial and government institutions supporting science, technology, and innovation development. We look forward to your visiting these institutions and sharing experiences with the operators of these showcase initiatives, as you travel throughout our beautiful island.

The 11th Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) will allow us to demonstrate how we can leverage our political relationship with the U.S., coupled with our business innovation ecosystem, to form win-win collaborative relationships with ACE participants, particularly in our high-technology industry clusters such as life sciences, aerospace, and other tech industry sectors.

We will also share with you our efforts and past experiences in growing innovation-driven entrepreneurship that has helped create successful, locally established knowledge-intensive enterprises in emerging industry sectors, such as the sharing/collaborative economy, agro-bio, and creative industries, among others.

Significant efforts will be made to stimulate the sharing of innovation and entrepreneurship-related ideas, initiatives, experiences, as well as export/import, investment and joint venture/strategic alliance opportunities, among all participants, throughout the week.

Puerto Rico’s unique experiences will be openly shared with ACE participants, with the expectation that you will benefit from our past, current and planned economic development-related actions, and that all of us will benefit by actively promoting and stimulating collaborative, win-win R&D, commercial among other relationships with you which will result in significant and sustainable economic growth for all parties and the region.

We look forward to working with all of you!

Ricardo Rosselló Nevares
Governor of Puerto Rico
Welcome to Puerto Rico! ¡Bienvenidos a Puerto Rico!

Leaders from the Americas and beyond,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Eleventh Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) and applaud the Government of Puerto Rico for the extraordinary agenda that they have prepared. They have opened a number of facilities for us and we’re excited to learn about some of the strategies they’ve implemented that have created jobs and increased trade and investment for the island.

The ACE Committee is comprised of the Organization of American States (OAS) Technical Secretariat of the Inter American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), the U.S. Department of Commerce (the International Trade Administration – ITA, and the Economic Development Administration – EDA), and the U.S. Department of State (Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS). Together, we have designed the ACE program to share best practices, connect talent and networks, and generate opportunities to expand the links between the economies of the Americas and beyond. The ACE program plays a critical role in strengthening regional and global ties by building on ideas and models that work to create jobs.

As you prepare to participate in this unique, high-level program, we want to ensure that you have all relevant information at hand. This Trip Book has been designed to provide you with general information on the ACE 11 program in Puerto Rico, tips for your participation, and the contact information of fellow participants, Puerto Rico organizers, and ACE Committee Members.

We encourage you to use the Trip Book to identify the individuals with whom you want to collaborate and partner, but in order to benefit from the opportunities presented throughout this program you must put your ideas into action! Follow-up is critical to your success and ensures that this program can continue to grow, so we encourage you to continue to think about how the connections you make during this program can help advance your work long after you’ve returned home.

Please feel free to contact us at riac@oas.org to share updates or to request introductions to fellow ACE participants and site hosts.

Stay up-to-date with the ACE program at www.riacevents.org/ace or through our social media channels using the hashtag #ACXchange.

Thank you in advance for your valuable contributions to the program,

The ACE Committee
The Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) was created in 2014 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of State and the Organization of American States (OAS) to showcase first-hand successful examples of entrepreneurship, innovation, strategic investments and public-private partnerships from a specific region/country within the Western Hemisphere that contribute to economic development at the local, regional, and national levels.

The ACE has become a flagship hemispheric initiative for the promotion of better innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in the Americas. It is one of the main initiatives of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), in which the OAS serves as Technical Secretariat.

ACE activities are selected to further advance commerce, trade and investment between participating economies, accelerate business opportunities, and promote collaboration among stakeholders.

11 ACE Editions since 2014

ACE I: Georgia, North and South Carolina USA
ACE II: Mexico City, Aguascalientes and Guadalajara Mexico
ACE III: Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois USA
ACE IV: Province of Cordoba Argentina
ACE V: Arizona and California USA
ACE VI: Province of Ontario Canada
ACE VII: Central Texas USA
ACE VIII: Florida USA
ACE IX: Germany - Israel
ACE X: California USA
ACE XI: Puerto Rico USA
Global impact programs and initiatives have emerged as a result of the ACE program, such as:

- Creation of compatible cluster maps in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to better inform regional policymaking
- Development of a strategic plan of the Logistics Sector of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico, with the collaboration of Georgia Tech
- Creation of a Business Services Center in Ecuador after visiting Packard Place in North Carolina
- Creation of a $10M program to support innovation ventures between Brazil and Israel
- Creation of The Ithaka Center of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Catholic University of Uruguay (UCU), modeled after U.S. innovation centers
- The “Seed Capital for Biotechnological Entrepreneurs” project of the National Agency for Research and Innovation of Uruguay implemented based on the U.S. models and Economic Development Administration programs
- Launch of Haiti’s first Incubator Center for Technological Innovation (ALPHA Haiti) modeled after U.S. and Mexico incubators and with the support of ACE leaders
- Founding of Bogota’s ICT Incubator & Accelerator of the ProBogota Region in Colombia (BICTIA) inspired by Cordoba’s Argentina innovation hubs
- Replication of the Tallahassee-based SciGirls program in Belize to create the “SciGirl Saturday” program, which encourages girls to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Establishment of training exchanges for medical doctors between the Government of Tucumán Argentina and Israel
- Expansion of the Creative Business Cup Innovation Competition in Guatemala and Haiti led by Paraguay
- Establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between Argentina and Germany for joint funding of research and development projects of SMEs
- Joining of EMBRAPPII Brazil with the CORNET German Network to advance collective research projects
- Opening of a textile center in Hidalgo Mexico after support received by the Manufacturing Solution Center from Conover, North Carolina, United States

420+ Participants from the Americas and other regions

920+ Best practices shared

1,340+ New connections generated

4,000+ New collaboration opportunities registered

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1,340+ New connections generated

4,000+ New collaboration opportunities registered
Puerto Rico: General Overview

The government of Puerto Rico has sought to revitalize the Island’s economy and accelerate recovery efforts by implementing solutions that are cost-effective, forward-looking, and harness innovative thinking and best practices to foster economic resiliency and competitiveness.

This outreach has been spearheaded by the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC) the governmental entity responsible for implementing and supervising the execution of Puerto Rico’s public policy on economic development in the various entrepreneurial sectors of manufacture, commerce, tourism, and services. In addition, the Department is responsible for promoting a stable and sustainable private sector that considers the globalization of today’s economy. The Department is committed to the implementation of strategies that foster investment, create jobs and improve the quality of life on the island.

Some of Puerto Rico’s competitive advantages are rooted in the fact that it is part of the United States, which means that the ground rules for doing business in Puerto Rico provide the same level of operational security, stability, and protections. Puerto Rico benefits from the same currency and banking regulations, federal legal framework –such as intellectual property– and goods manufacturing standards as the mainland United States. Puerto Rico also has a productive workforce, which is fluent in English and Spanish, culturally diverse, and highly trained in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Puerto Rico’s economic development strategy leverages its rapidly emerging innovation ecosystem which includes:

- Research intensive public university system
- Numerous higher learning institutions
- Several accomplished public and private research centers and institutions
- Business incubators/accelerators
- Strong cluster of high-technology industries
- Financial and government institutions supporting science, technology and innovation development.

Based on its unique competitive advantages and growing innovation ecosystem, Puerto Rico has asserted its global competitiveness by developing a highly skilled workforce with a vast knowledge of U.S. and global regulations and high-tech clusters across industries, such as Biotechnology, Medical Device, Pharmaceutical, Ag-bio, Aerospace, Knowledge Services Outsourcing, Electronics, IT, Engineering and Construction, and Apparel Manufacturing.

Puerto Rico is a strategic port of entry to the U.S. market
Public policies, development programs, and the stability of operating in a U.S. jurisdiction that promote business innovation and tech transfer makes the Island the ideal soft-landing destination.

Puerto Rico has a vibrant and dynamic entrepreneurial culture
Entrepreneurs receive ample support from several institutions and projects, such as the Science, Technology, and Research Trust, a tech transfer catalyzer; Parallel 18, a global technology accelerator; Colmena 66, a resource network to support business development; Engine 4, the largest co-working space in Puerto Rico; Piloto 151, a one-stop shop for business needs; among others.

The Bio Island and the Pharma Hotspot
Puerto Rico has a vast number of experts and companies that work in the Ag & Bio Tech sector. Key institutions include the Ag Tech Innovation Center of University of Puerto Rico, the R&D Center of Ponce Health Sciences University, Medtronic, Amgen, etc.

A Magnet for the Aerospace Industry
Some of the world’s leading aerospace institutions are located in Puerto Rico, such as Lufthansa, Honeywell’s Aerospace high-tech lab, and the Arecibo Observatory -one of the largest radio telescopes worldwide.

Puerto Rico is an unparalleled example of recovery and resiliency
The disaster recovery model leverages cross-industry innovation to diversify stabilize, and modernize the economy.
Take Note

- Bring enough business cards, a notepad or tablet to take notes, a small umbrella, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, and a hat (optional).

- The dress code ranges from “Business” to “Casual” so versatile outfits are key! Comfortable shoes are highly recommended for Friday’s short hike at El Yunque National Forest.

- Although warm weather is forecasted, a jacket/sweater is recommended as indoor sites may have strong AC.

- The bus will have Wi-Fi but consider securing an international data plan if you require stable internet connection.

- Note that while most meals are provided, you may be required to pay for some meals and some small incidentals. Please let your credit card company know that you will be traveling.

Pre-Program Preparation

- Set short and long term goals for your participation in the ACE program and develop a strategy to achieve them.

- Review the Trip Book and identify which sites, projects, speakers, participants, and organizers you are most interested in connecting with throughout the trip.

During the Program

- Prepare your elevator pitch and be ready to interact with local authorities, experts, fellow participants, and organizers. Please consider recording it to share with the group!

- Keep your passport (or U.S. ID) and the ACE name badge with you at all times due to security.

- Be PUNCTUAL! The group and program must stay on track to cover all the planned activities.

- Most sites will have refreshments but if you are a snack person, consider carrying additional snacks with you throughout the program.

- Due to Puerto Rico’s weather, it is highly recommended that you stay hydrated at all times.

- The ACE program is always under performance review, so please help the organizers by filling out the ACE pre-survey during registration and the final survey during the closing ceremony.

- On the bus, be mindful of others and lower your voice when fellow participants want to rest.

- Avoid using your cellphone during host presentations.

- On the ACE 11 WhatsApp Group, share information relevant for all group members, use English, and avoid 1-1 conversations.

After the program

- During your first week back home, save at least a half-day to immediately follow up with contacts and participants on possible opportunities for collaboration.

- Nearly 500 people are already part of the ACE Community. Stay engaged with the program, sites, and participants by joining additional events, answering follow-up consultations, and informing us of any changes in your position so this program can continue to grow and succeed!
**SAN JUAN**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Meet in Hotel Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Dinner on your own at “La Casita de Rones” - optional activity</td>
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**SAN JUAN**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast on your own at the hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration at the Sheraton Old San Juan Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Meet in Hotel Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Walking Tour of Old San Juan - optional activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Andy Rivera</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Founder and President Puerto Rico Historic Building Drawings Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Lunch on your own. Options: Princesa Gastrobar, Casa Cortés, Barrachina</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td>Meet in Hotel Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>VIP Tour of San Cristobal Fortress led by the U.S. National Park Service - optional activity - (Starts at hotel lobby)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Load bus – transfer to Bacardi Distillery</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15 pm</td>
<td>Bacardí Distillery Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Wesley Cullen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bacardí Distillery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Dana Montenegro</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Co-founder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Seriously Creative</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner and Reception at Bacardí Distillery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Dr. Barrett Haga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Administrator</td>
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<td>U.S. Economic Development Administration</td>
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**SAN JUAN**  
**MONDAY, May 20**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast on your own at the hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Meet in the Hotel Lobby for a Guided Walk to the Puerto Rico Government Reception Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>ACE 11 Official Opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>The Honorable Ricardo Rosselló Nevares</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Governor of Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>The Honorable Kim Osborne</td>
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<td>Executive Secretary for Integral Development Organization of American States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>The Honorable Manuel Laboy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Puerto Rico’s Department of Economic Development and Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Rodrick T. Miller</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Invest Puerto Rico (InvestPR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Brad Dean</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Puerto Rico Destination Marketing Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Glorimar Ripoll Balet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chief Innovation Officer</td>
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<td>The Government of Puerto Rico &amp; Executive Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service</td>
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<td>10:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Puerto Rico Convention Center - Panel with Puerto Rico’s experts who support local entrepreneurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Sofía Stolberg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-founder and CEO</td>
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<td>Piloto 15</td>
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Laura Cantero  
Executive Director  
Grupo Guayacán  

Allison Kern  
Partner  
Advent-Morro Equity Partners - Puerto Rico’s leading private equity investment firm  

Francisco Montalvo  
Coordinator  
Puerto Rico Private Sector Coalition  

12:00 pm: Lunch at the Convention Center  
   Speaker  
   Federico Stubbe  
   Chairman  
   PRISA Group - family-owned developer, builder and owner of green real estate projects  

1:45 pm: Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust  
   Speakers  
   Lucy Crespo  
   Chief Executive Officer  
   Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust  
   Eric Smith  
   Senior Policy Advisor Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
   U.S. Economic Development Administration  

4:00 pm: Foundation for Puerto Rico  
   Speakers  
   Annie Mayol  
   President and Chief Operating Officer  
   Foundation for Puerto Rico  
   Migdalia Rosado  
   Executive Director  
   Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension  
   Erika Medina  
   Managing Director  
   Endeavor Puerto Rico  

6:00 pm: “Innovators Dinner” at Parallel 18  
   Speakers  
   Sebastián Vidal  
   Executive Director  
   Parallel18  
   Denisse Rodríguez  
   Executive Director  
   Colmena 66  

Bayamón - Arecibo - Aguadilla  
Tuesday, May 21  

6:30 am: Breakfast on your own & check-out from the Sheraton Hotel  

8:00 am: Load bus – transfer to Engine 4  

9:00 am: Engine 4 - Puerto Rico’s largest community of start-ups  
   Speakers  
   The Honorable Ramón L. Rivera  
   Mayor of Bayamón  
   Luis Torres  
   Founder and President  
   Engine 4  

12:00 pm: The Arecibo Observatory Lunch and tour  
   Speaker  
   Francisco Cordova  
   Director  
   Arecibo Observatory  

4:00 pm: U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen - Private VIP Tour  

6:15 pm: Honeywell Aerospace Labs – tour and panel: Growth and Expansion of the Aerospace Cluster in Puerto Rico  
   Speakers  
   Brian Lenihan  
   Executive Director  
   SelectUSA  
   U.S. Department of Commerce  
   Ivelice Cardona  
   Executive Director  
   Aeronautical and Aerospace Institute of Puerto Rico  
   Pat Foley  
   CEO  
   Lufthansa Technik Puerto Rico  
   Luis Ramos  
   Engineering & Technological Director  
   Honeywell Aerospace, High-Tech Lab  
   Gilberto Montes  
   General Manager  
   United Technologies Corporation  

7:15 pm: Dinner sponsored by Honeywell Aerospace  

8:15 pm: Hotel Check-in at the Courtyard by Marriott Aguadilla
MAYAGUEZ - PONCE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

6:30 am: Breakfast on your own and Check-out from the Courtyard Hotel

8:00 am: Load bus – transfer to University of Puerto Rico

9:30 am: University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus - Food Science Lab Tour and Panel on collaborative R&D, innovation, and entrepreneurship development projects

   Speakers
   Dr. Ubaldo Córdova
   Vice-President
   University of Puerto Rico
   Hector Carlo
   Incubation and Training Manager
   Puerto Rico Techno-Economic Corridor
   Miriam Laracuente
   Ready-to-Work Grant Director
   Puerto Rico Techno-Economic Corridor
   Ignacio Pino
   Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer
   CDI Laboratories

1:00 pm: Lunch at the Café Lucero: Talk about the Island’s Agricultural Economy

   Speakers
   Lucemy Velázquez
   Owner and President
   Lucero Agricultural, Corp.
   Javier Rivera Aquino
   Deputy Secretary
   Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce
   Sol Rosado
   President
   Puerto Rico Agricultural Biotechnology Industry Association (PRABIA)

3:15 pm: Hotel Check-in at the Ponce Hilton and mid-week personal time

5:00 pm: Load bus - transfer to Serrallés Castle Museum

5:45 pm: Serrallés Castle Museum - Tour, panel, and dinner. Panel: Collaborative Research & Development Efforts Between Universities and the Health Industry

   Speakers
   Dr. David Lenihan
   President of the Ponce Health University

   Emma Fernández
   Executive Director
   Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities
   UPR Medical Sciences
   Amarilis Silva
   Executive Director
   Puerto Rico Consortium of Clinical Investigation (PRCCI)

CAGUAS - GURABO - CEIBA - NAGUABO - HUMACAO
THURSDAY, MAY 23

7:00am: Breakfast on your own and check-out from the Ponce Hilton Hotel

8:00 am: Load bus – transfer to INTECO

10:00 am: Tour and Presentation at the Iniciativa Tecnológica Centro-Oriental (INTECO)

   Speaker
   Oscar Jimenez
   Executive Director

12:00 pm: Medtronic in Juncos: Lunch, tour, and panel on technology manufacturing

   Speakers
   Rolando Vázquez Ortiz
   Senior Manufacturing Director
   Medtronic
   Aixa Caballer
   Corporate Affairs and Senior Manager
   Amgen
   Iván Lugo
   Executive Director
   Industry University Research Center - INDUNIV

4:15 pm: La Finca – Presentation of a Story of Entrepreneur Resiliency

   Speakers
   Oki Carrión
   General Manager
   La Finca Restaurant
   Allen Rodríguez
   General Manager
   Combre Products

4:30 pm: Panel: Transformation and Innovation in the Wake of Devastation

   Speakers
   The Honorable Manuel A. Laboy
   Secretary
   Puerto Rico’s Department of Economic Development and Commerce
Omar Marrero
Executive Director Puerto Rico P3’s Authorities Central Office of Recovery and Conventions District Authority

Juan Bauza
Economic Development Representative - Puerto Rico
U.S. Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

5:00 pm: Case Study: Roosevelt Roads-A former naval base
Speakers
Nilda Marchan
Project Manager
Roosevelt Roads
Jorge Arosemena
Founder
City of Knowledge, Panama

6:30: Dinner at La Finca Restaurant

LUQUILLO - SAN JUAN
FRIDAY, MAY 24

7:00 am: Hotel Check-out

7:30 am: Breakfast provided by the hotel

8:15 am: Presentation of Research Projects - El Yunque National Forest at the Candelero Hotel
Speaker
Dr. Jess Zimmerman
Professor of Ecology
University of Puerto Rico

8:30 am: Load bus – transfer to El Yunque National Forest

10:15 am: Visit to El Yunque Rainforest

12:45 pm: Polytechnic University - Lunch
Speaker
David Langdon
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce

1:50 pm: Interactive tour and Presentation of Students’ Research Projects
Speaker
Ernesto Vázquez
President
Polytechnic University

4:00 pm: Molecular Sciences Research Center - Facility tour and Research Project Presentations
Speakers
Dr. Ana Guadalupe
Director
Molecular Sciences Research Center
Guillermo Rospigliosi
Executive Vice President of Product Marketing and Innovation
Evertec
Jason Borschow
CEO
Abarca Health
Alberto Cordero
President
Puerto Rico Information Technology Cluster

5:15 pm: Transfer to Sheraton Old San Juan Hotel

7:15 pm: Load bus – transfer to Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music

8:00 pm: ACE 11th Closing Ceremony: Celebrating Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities, Award Ceremony, and Handoff to Chile for ACE 12
Speakers
Dr. Barrett Haga
Senior Administrator
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Hon. Manuel Laboy
Secretary of Puerto Rico’s Department of Economic Development and Commerce
Alexis Ludwig
Deputy Permanent Representative
U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS
Department of State
Dr. Maryse Robert
Director of Economic Development Organization of American States
Francisca Cruzat Grand
Director of International Affairs
Corporation for the Promotion of Production Ministry of Economy
Sergio Hernández
Research and Ph.D. Vice Chancellor
Development University

SAN JUAN
SATURDAY, MAY 25

All day: Hotel Check-out and Departures
La Casita de Rones is a charming venue housing two bars, a restaurant and shop, located in the heart of Old San Juan. A true gateway to world-class rum cocktails and island-flavored gourmet dining, it is inspired by the storied Puerto Rican rum distilleries.  
**Website:** [https://lacasitarums.com/](https://lacasitarums.com/)  
**Twitter:** @lacasitarumshop

San Cristobal Fortress is part of a fortification system that protected Puerto Rico, San Juan harbor, and much of Spain’s interests in the “New World” from pirates and foreign invasion. These massive masonry defenses, which were begun in the 16th century, exist today as the oldest European-style fortifications within the territory of the United States. Now one of the most beautiful spots in Puerto Rico, the battlements illustrate the remarkable work of Spanish military engineers and recall more than 400 years of history in the Americas. The San Juan National Historic Site, as it is now called, represents the past so well that the United Nations has designated it as a World Heritage Site because of its “outstanding, universal” cultural value.

**Casa BACARDÍ**

Casa BACARDÍ is the world’s largest premium rum distillery. In 1862, Facundo Bacardi revolutionized how rum was made. Bacardi has persevered and innovated for 156 years to become the world’s largest family-owned spirits company. Casa BACARDÍ offers rum tastings, cocktail classes, visits to the distillery, and access to world-class manufacturing, sustainability, and spirits-creating talent.  
**Website:** [casabacardi.com](https://casabacardi.com)

The Governor’s Reception Center was originally a building where Old San Juan social elite gathered. Construction started in 1910 and the building opened its doors in 1913.  
**Puerto Rico Convention Center**

The Puerto Rico Convention Center (PRCC) captures the vibrancy of the Caribbean and is the largest facility in the region with functional spaces for events between 10,000 to 15,000 people. In the heart of San Juan, PRCC is just a few steps away from a rich array of cultural attractions, historic treasures, and architectural masterpieces from Puerto Rico’s 500 year old Spanish heritage. The telecommunications and internet services are exclusive with PSAV, and can be tailored to meet specific event organizer and exhibitor needs. The facility provides broadband and wireless Internet connectivity at high speeds (T-1), video conferencing, and simultaneous language translations, among others.

**Website:** prconvention.com

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**Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust**

The mission of PR Science, Technology & Research Trust is to invest, facilitate and build capacity to continually advance Puerto Rico’s economy and its citizens’ well-being through innovation-driven enterprises, science and technology and its industrial base.

**Website:** prscienctrust.org
**Twitter:** @PRScienceTrust

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**Foundation for Puerto Rico**

Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) is a 501c (3) public charity founded in 2011 that seeks to unleash the island’s full potential as an active participant in the world’s economy, by maximizing Puerto Rico’s talent, creativity, tenacity, culture, and the passion of its people. FPR believes that aligning Puerto Rico’s recovery efforts, after the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, to the growth potential presented by the ‘Visitors Economy’ is a key strategy for the island’s economic development. The Foundation has decided to focus its economic efforts in promoting the island as a destination for the world by boosting the expansion of the visitor economy due to its short-term economic impact.

**Website:** foundationforpuertorico.org
**Twitter:** @Foundation_PR

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**Parallel 18**

Parallel 18 is an economic development initiative that aims to attract and develop high-impact startups that can scale from Puerto Rico to global communities beyond the island, including the Mainland U.S., Latin America, and Europe. Parallel 18 is based in San Juan and is operated by the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust. The program works with the selection of up to 80 companies per year who participate in a 20-week acceleration curriculum. Each startup receives a $40K grant to further develop the company. They also have the chance to apply to Parallel 18 Ventures, a follow-on fund for companies that keep operations in Puerto Rico and raise capital.

**Website:** parallel18.com
**Twitter:** @p18startups
**Engine-4**

Engine-4 is the largest Coworking Space in Puerto Rico with over 24,000 sq. ft. of mixed-used facilities located in Downtown Bayamón. Its privileged location at the convergence of some of the major access routes in the metropolitan area and its list of offerings unlike any other make Engine-4 the most accessible co-working space in Puerto Rico and the most user-friendly space to access, work in, collaborate, network, and grow your business.

**Website:** engine-4.com  
**Twitter:** @engine4cws

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**Arecibo Observatory**

The Arecibo Observatory is a multidisciplinary facility performing innovative research in the areas of radio astronomy, space and atmospheric sciences, and planetary sciences. The Observatory currently plays a vital role in the study of potentially hazardous asteroids, by studying space weather (solar flares) and leading astronomy discoveries that help humanity better understand the universe. It is also a key facility for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, with its Science and Visitor Center hosting over 90,000 visitors every year, and providing informal education programs across the Island. The Observatory is a National Science Foundation facility, managed by the University of Central Florida in collaboration with Universidad Ana G Mendez and Yang Enterprises.

**Website:** areciboobservatory.com  
**Twitter:** @NAICobservatory

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**U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen**

The responsibility for the station complex, formerly part of Ramey Air Force Base and later Naval Station Roosevelt Roads West Annex, was assumed by the Coast Guard on 1 July 1976. The primary mission of Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen is search and rescue. Secondary missions include: law enforcement, aerial support for ATON, and logistic support. To accomplish these missions, the Air Station has four HH-65 helicopters. The Air Station is under the operational control of Commander, Coast Guard Sector San Juan (old GANTSEC), located in Old San Juan. The Sector San Juan area of responsibility extends approximately 1.3 million square miles.

**Source:** https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-7/Units/Air-Station-Borinquen/  
**Website:** www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-7/Units/Air-Station-Borinquen/  
**Twitter:** @USCG

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**Honeywell Aerospace**

Honeywell Aerospace offers a wide range of products and services that solve complex, high-level problems across a range of market categories. Learn more about Honeywell's offerings, news and events in air traffic.
Café Lucero is harvested in the mountains of Ponce. The plantation is located in San Patricio, adjacent to the towns of Adjuntas and Jayuya. This property has 216 acres which include coffee and citric plants. Our farm is about 2,500 feet above sea level, which is an ideal condition to produce coffee of excellent quality. Café Lucero’s process of planting and harvesting is done under the most rigorous standards. We are dedicated to do all the process from the ground preparation through the planting process until the packaging of the final product. The planting is done by hand, with Puerto Rican workers who guarantee the quality of the coffee. Ecologic machines are used to minimize the quantity of water used. Wastewater is reused and helps land conservation. In 2009, Café Lucero received from the National Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture of the United States, the South District Conservationist Farmer of the Year Award.

Website: cafelucero.com
Twitter: @cafelucero

The Business and Economic Development, of the Business School at University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus (UPRM), promotes the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem that mobilizes the multidisciplinary human and technical resources. University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez will showcase the Center of AgroIndustrial Innovation and other facilities, mainly in the area of biotech and pharma, business development and investment, resilience, and aeronautics and aerospace.

Website: www.uprm.edu/portada/
Twitter: @PrensaRUM

The mission of Museo Castillo Serrallés is to strengthen in each visitor the knowledge of Puerto Rican history. Museo Castillo Serrallés is one of the most visited historical places in all of Puerto Rico, inaugurated in 1991 as a museum for the enjoyment of all citizens. Through the history of the Serrallés Family, it is shown how Puerto Rico became an important place in the world market due to the development of the sugarcane industry, and the Ron Don Q distillery on the island. The museum keeps a legacy of history and culture and takes care of the preservation of its structure, gardens, and collection.

Website: museocastilloserralles.com
Twitter: @SerallesCastle
The Eastern-Central Technological Initiative, Inc. (INTECO, according to the Spanish acronym) initiated operations in September 2003 as a not-for-profit corporation with the mission of promoting the economic development of the Eastern Central Region of Puerto Rico through the commercialization of new technologies and innovative products as key components. Throughout its 15 years of existence, INTECO has managed more than $30 million in diverse projects that impact the socio-economic development of the Eastern Central Region. Website: intecopr.com

Medtronic

Medtronic was founded in 1949 as a medical equipment repair shop. A wearable, battery-powered cardiac pacemaker was the foundation for many more Medtronic therapies that use electrical stimulation expertise to improve the lives of millions of people. Over the years, they developed additional core technologies, including implantable mechanical devices, drug and biologic delivery devices, and powered and advanced energy surgical instruments. Today, their technologies are used to treat nearly 40 medical conditions. Medtronic is a multinational organization with world-wide footprint and four locations in Puerto Rico. Source: https://www.medtronic.com/us-en/about/history.html Website: www.medtronic.com Twitter: @Medtronic

La Finca Restaurant

This hacienda was previously dedicated to raising cattle, horses and other animals. Now, these lands have become a place of entertainment for the Puerto Rican people. Luis Mundo started what had been one of his greatest wishes for so long: to open his own restaurant. He began this project employing many families and thus contributing to the economic development of his country. After Hurricane Maria, everything was devastated but the restaurant was able to move quickly and reopen in February 2019. Today, families visit the facility every weekend to enjoy the establishment’s beauty and delicious Puerto Rican dishes and cocktails.
El Yunque National Forest is the only tropical rain forest in the national forest system. At nearly 29,000 acres, it is one of the smallest in size, yet one of the most biologically diverse of the national forests hosting hundreds of animal and plant species, some of which are found only at El Yunque.  
Website: fs.usda.gov/elyunque/  
Twitter: @elyunqueNF

Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, San Juan Campus

Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico (P.U.P.R.) is a private, not-for-profit, coeducational, nonsectarian institution founded in 1966. As an institution of higher education, the mission of the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico is to provide opportunities to individuals from diverse backgrounds and in different locations using multiple methods of delivery to cultivate their potential for leadership, productivity, competitiveness, and critical thinking, through exposure to intellectual, scientific, humanistic and technological advancement, with the purpose of contributing to regional and global sustainability.  
Website: pupr.edu  
Twitter: @pupr_edu

Molecular Sciences Research Center, University of Puerto Rico

The primary goal of the Molecular Sciences Research Center (MSRC) is to significantly increase competitively funded research by scientists at the University of Puerto Rico. The MSRC has generated the UPR System’s first multidisciplinary research and innovation environment, designed to meet the needs of cutting-edge research in Puerto Rico. The research space design features standardization, flexibility, adaptability, systems integration, and ease of sharing research equipment and human resources. By bridging basic research disciplines with clinical researchers, the MSRC fosters translational research and technological innovation. Moreover, the MSRC is developing internationally recognized Research Centers in areas of cutting-edge scientific impact through high levels of intra- and inter-institutional collaborations. The MSRC is enhancing UPR’s intellectual property (IP) portfolio and the commercialization of research inventions, enriching Puerto Rico’s society with an “open research culture” by espousing research activities, new technology, training opportunities, and discoveries.  
Website: cicim.upr.edu

Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music

The Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music is a specialized public university that offers high-level professional programs for undergrad and grad students, in addition to courses for the general public. The Conservatory aims to nurture and train students for the performance, teaching, and research of music.  
Source: https://cmpr.edu/cmpr/mision/  
Website: https://cmpr.edu
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5. Foundation for Puerto Rico
6. Parallel 18
7. Engine 4
8. Arecibo Observatory
9. Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen
10. Honeywell Aerospace
11. University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus
12. Café Lucero
13. Serrallés Castle Museum
14. Iniciativa Tecnológica Centro Oriental (INTECO)
15. Medtronic Juncos
16. La Finca Restaurant
17. Candelero Beach Resort
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