



## 13<sup>th</sup> AMERICAS COMPETITIVENESS EXCHANGE (ACE)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Q: What is the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)?**

The Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) is the premier economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurial network of the Americas and is one of the leading High-Level events of the Organization of American States (OAS). The ACE brings together up to 50 senior-level government, business, policy, and economic decision-makers from across the Americas and beyond to experience first-hand the diverse range of projects, strategic investments, public-private partnerships, and best practices from a particular region's economic, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. These top global leaders are selected to participate in the week-long program to engage with innovation hubs, advanced technology centers, leading firms, educational and research institutions; explore local, regional, urban, and rural economic development models; share experiences and knowledge; build networks to enhance competitiveness in the Americas; promote sustainable and inclusive economic development; and increase trade and investment opportunities.

ACE is convened in the context of the RIAC by its Chair Pro Tempore (revolving every two years); the Government of the United States, through the U.S. Department of Commerce [the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in coordination with the International Trade Administration (ITA) ] and the U.S. Department of State; and the General Secretariat of the OAS as the RIAC Technical Secretariat.

#### **Q: When and where is the upcoming ACE program?**

The program will take place from May 17 to 22, 2020, in Colorado, United States, through the County and City of Denver, El Paso County (Including the City of Colorado Springs), and Jefferson County.

#### **Q: What happens if I am selected to participate in ACE Colorado?**

Selected participants will receive an official letter of acceptance to attend the program in Colorado. The 50 selected global and regional leaders will ride on a custom charter bus during a week to visit the different cities and their top innovation hubs, advanced research and technology centers, cutting-edge companies, and leading academic institutions of a particular country or region.

#### **Q: What are the main areas that will be highlighted in the program?**

Bio-economy, Smart Cities, Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, Business Creation and Development, "Experience" Economy, Economic Planning and Stability, and Security Innovation, including Cybersecurity.

#### **Q: Could I have a glance at the ACE 13 Agenda?**

The program will start in Denver on Sunday, May 17, with a VIP tour and welcome reception in [Coors Field](#), the world-class baseball park. On Monday, the group will visit top tech-driven sites, including [Panasonic Peña Station NEXT](#), a Smart City community; [Denver International Airport](#); and the [University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus](#), the largest academic health center in the Rocky Mountain region. On Tuesday, the ACE delegation will explore tech-focused hubs in El Paso County, such as [Commons on Champa](#), a diverse entrepreneurial hub; and the [National Cybersecurity Center \(NCC\)](#), a non-profit think tank for cyber



innovation and awareness. On Wednesday, the ACE will be at the [U.S. Olympic Training Academy](#); and [Milestones for Growth \(MFG\)](#), a coworking space designed to support light manufacturing, among other institutions. On Thursday, the program will continue visiting top-notch centers in Jefferson County, including the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\)](#), and [Colorado School of Mines](#), focusing education on energy and environment. The program will end in Jefferson County on Friday May 22, with visits to leading firms, such as [Pilatus](#), a state of the art aircraft manufacturer; [Terumo BCT](#), a global leader biotech company; and [Lockheed Martin](#), engineering the future of the aerospace industry.

**Q: What language will be used in the program?**

The program will be conducted in English.

**Q: Who is invited to apply?**

Top decision-makers from the [OAS Member States](#) and [Permanent Observers](#) who work on areas related to economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship. Applicants can be from the public, private, or academic sector, including Ministers, Vice Ministers, Chancellors/Vice-Chancellors and Directors of Innovation Centers, CEOs and managers of leading companies, Presidents of institutions, top entrepreneurs, among others. For details, please read the [Application Guide](#).

**Q: If I am selected, what is the cost of participating?**

The organizers offer the ACE program with no registration fee or support fee. The Program Organizers will provide local transportation throughout the program by bus, most meals, and preferential United States Government rates at the ACE selected hotels. Participants will be responsible for booking and paying for their airfare and hotel accommodation at the ACE selected hotels in the different cities, airport-hotel-airport transportation, and other small miscellaneous items. The capacity to cover these incidental costs will be considered in the selection process.

**Q: How can I apply?**

Click [here](#) and fill out the application form in English. The estimated time for completing the application is 20 minutes.

**Q: Where can I find more information?**

At <http://riacevents.org/ACE/colorado2020/>, the [Application Guide](#), and prior ACE Editions [Photo Albums](#) and [Summary Videos](#).

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