

## **SIGNIS ALC strengthens its work with young communicators**

The formation and training of young communicators of SIGNIS national partners in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the priorities in the management of the current Board of Directors of SIGNIS ALC. During this period, two projects with a duration of more than one year, have been implemented and have had an important impact on all the associates.

The first of these is the SIGNIS ALC Youth program, whose main objective was to train young people in the vision and mission of SIGNIS and prepare them for the elaboration of projects that could be put into practice in the associates or countries where they come from. At the same time, they were trained with a leadership profile with the purpose of becoming coordinators who could motivate other young people to incorporate new members into their associates, in order to reinforce them.

The training was virtual and given through the training platform of SIGNIS ALC, in addition to the face-to-face program, with two meetings in Panama, which allowed creating a continental spirit of regional cohesion. Through this experience of cultural and professional diversity, a spirit of interest and awareness was achieved with respect to the common realities experienced by Latin American brothers.

The project also helped to establish a close relationship with young people from countries in which they do not yet have a SIGNIS partner, but which in a near future this management believes will be possible. All this process was evaluated by competent professionals and accompanied by the active participation of the entire board of SIGNIS ALC. The results highlight the importance and necessity of keeping over time the active and permanent presence of young people in the organization, constantly offering them opportunities for orientation and participation in continental projects that may affect their own members. In this way, a joint equity derived from a program that favors all the associates according to their own needs.

Fortunately, there are examples of countries that after the implementation of this mentioned project formed large groups of young people who already act integrated to their associates, and, even in some cases, already forming part of the directive.

There was also a rich combination of the experience and professional career of the Senior members, with the energy of the dynamics provided by the youth culture, characterized by passion, initiatives and the natural perspective of creativity, faith and hope.

In this line of priority work with young people, the Youth SIGNIS ALC program was added with a professional training, the Commlab (Communication Laboratory), a proposal of the SIGNIS world-wide, which allowed the training reinforcement and the increase in the number of young people in the SIGNIS ALC Youth Program, where it was possible to observe the spiritual sensitivity, the commitment of faith and the professional expertise reflected in the coexistence and the results of their audio-visual productions with SIGNIS identity.

All this was evaluated by the experts in charge of the program. For what has been said up to this point, in the last meeting of the Board of Directors, as recorded in the minutes of: [http://signisalc.org/2017/userfiles/ckeditor/acta\\_jd\\_presencial\\_2019\\_quito\\_6t.pdf](http://signisalc.org/2017/userfiles/ckeditor/acta_jd_presencial_2019_quito_6t.pdf), the decision was made to consolidate this proposal for young people as a priority within the organization, under the name Youth SIGNIS ALC, and not just as a training program.

The objective of this space is to continue strengthening and promoting work with young people from SIGNIS ALC and also from the associates themselves, taking advantage of the structure already formed in each Youth area, integrated by a coordinator and members. This incorporation will be permanent, transcending the current management, so that the incorporation and follow-up of Latin American and Caribbean youth trained professionally in the SIGNIS spirit can be permanently given in the different communicative areas that all associates need, especially in the audio-visual language from the perspective of digital culture.

At present, Youth SIGNIS ALC is not just about a network, but the result of a solid construction of SIGNIS objectives, based on the needs of the region.

Over time, this decision will strengthen the Associates. It should also be noted that this idea was taken from the orientation indicated in the following points of the institutional mandate in its items:

2) "..., and incorporating young people, adolescents, girls and boys in the activities of our national partners and in the media. " Strengthen especially the Youth SIGNIS ALC Network"

7) "Give priority in the management to the role of the national partners and that the actions and projects that we develop maintain the criteria of equity in their concretion, taking into account the different geographical regions. "

In accordance with this last point, the national Associates receive from SIGNIS ALC, through Youth SIGNIS ALC, the growth component for the realization of their own objectives. This proposal will be added to others that are in the folder, which transcend Youth SIGNIS ALC. We encourage the presidents and board of directors of the associates to support the activities and projects promoted by the members of SIGNIS Youth of their countries in order to continue creating a space to provide an opportunity for more Latin American communicators to find a space to make a different communication, from a more human and solidary point of view.

Carlos A Ferraro

President - SIGNIS ALC