



# ReVision

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again vision (vizh'ən) *n.* 1. the manner in which one sees or conceives of something

## Latin America Leading the Way

Who could have envisioned the pivotal role clergy would play in giving YES education a global reach? Who could have foreseen that Latin America would emerge as a role model for sourcing solutions to divisiveness and conflict around gender and orientation?

In April, YES Institute traveled to Bogotá, Colombia, and opened an unprecedented conversation on gender and orientation with religious leaders. Twenty-two Episcopal leaders from throughout Latin America participated in an intensive 3-day training series. They traveled from even the most rural communities, some enduring all-day bus trips to attend.



Reporters from a Colombian newspaper (right) interviewing Bishop Francisco Duque-Gómez and Eva Leivas-Andino in Bogotá.

This groundbreaking opportunity was sourced by Bishop James Ottley, whose vision of a unified Latin America inspired Bishop Francisco Duque-Gómez, Presiding Bishop of Colombia, to invite YES Institute to partner with his priests.

On the first day, participants revealed just how high the stakes are for them. Poverty, homelessness, displacement, and violence plague their communities. Those who stand out by doing or saying the "wrong" thing are at constant risk of "disappearing." Twenty-two



Priests from all over Colombia participating in Principios de Orientación, facilitated by Eva Leivas-Andino.

transgender leaders have been murdered over the past 2 years. People who identify as gay live tormented by fear of alienation and assault.

**“For so long I have remained silent for fear of rejection and scorn. Now I am eager to take initiatives and make my community safer.”**

- Rev. Sergio Leon Alvarez




Bishop Francisco Duque-Gómez, in appreciation, presenting Rachel Sottile with a replica of the national icon "Balsa Muisca." To read about this treasured gift, made of 24-carat gold, visit: [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/El\\_Dorado](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Dorado)

Rev. Antonís de J. Calvo spoke of a mission in his church that serves 450 transgender people. He said, "Speaking openly about this, I feel strengthened and empowered. Finally there is hope of ending the violence and warfare, and not being stopped by our fears."

Bishop Julio Murray, Presiding Bishop of Panamá, declared, "I feel that YES Institute gives us the tools to reach out to each other without fear and really look for effective solutions to the crisis we are experiencing."

See Colombia, page 2

"Thank you for the great opportunity to participate in your trainings! This education is going to make a huge difference in my life, and hopefully in my country. I am already planning a meeting with all the Venezuelan clergy to discuss the courses with them. I look forward to further collaboration and many successes in the future."



Coromoto de Salazar,  
Coordinator of Episcopal Women in  
Venezuela

**“Communication is key to living together in this country peacefully. Thank you for starting us on this path to finding solutions.”**

-Rev. Germán A. Giraldo



Rev. Juan Carlos Restrepo, Rachel Sottile, and Bishop James Ottley at Principios de Orientación y Comunicación in Bogotá, Colombia.

These programs are made possible by your generosity. To participate in keeping all youth safe, visit [www.yesinstitute.org](http://www.yesinstitute.org) and learn more.

Receiving two **ReVision** newsletters?  
Please contact: [tim@yesinstitute.org](mailto:tim@yesinstitute.org) or  
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Bishop James Ottley and Bishop Francisco Duque-Gómez in Bogotá.

Murray is president of the Conferencia Latino Americana de Iglesias (CLAI), and wants to introduce the work of YES to this ecumenical body of Christian Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. See a video interview with Bishop Murray at: [www.yesinstitute.org/video](http://www.yesinstitute.org/video)

Several guests stopped by, including the Bishop of Ecuador and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Bogotá.

**“I thought I was an expert in communication, but now I can really work to address the issues dividing our country.”** -Rev. Juan Carlos Restrepo

Bishop Duque-Gómez, as president of Province 9 of the Episcopal Church, asked if YES could make an educational presentation at their Regional Conference in July 2009. This province includes 7 countries in South and

**“I leave with renewed inspiration to fulfill my ministry. It’s like I’m seeing clearly for the first time without a smoke screen of biases and agendas.”** -Rev. Jorge Martinez



Rev. Germán A. Giraldo and Rev. Antonis de J. Calvo in Communication Solutions™.

Central America and the Caribbean. Rev. Juan Carlos Restrepo, Assistant Principal of an elite private school in Bogotá, initiated a strategy session about how to bring YES education to the school systems in Colombia and Panamá. Opportunities to expand our work in Latin America continue to develop. The leadership of Bishop James Ottley has set a plan in motion to bring YES education to the very top of the Episcopal Church’s hierarchy. We are thrilled to be engaged in this historic effort impacting communities worldwide!

## Military Might

North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) is 1 of 6 senior military colleges in the nation. The Army ROTC Corps of Cadets comprises about 13% of the student population. Twenty students, faculty, administrators, and community members recently participated in YES’ Essentials of Orientation™ course via videoconference.

**“Really opened my eyes! It’s great to begin this conversation with the military community here.”**

-NGCSU student and member of the Cadet Corps

An NGCSU administrator commented, “I see how much I stop myself from speaking because I don’t want to say the ‘wrong’ thing when I see harassment at school. We need more effective ways to engage in dialogue to enhance understanding around these topics.” Will the military pursue education to re-examine notions of gender and orientation? We think they might.



Videoconference with North Georgia College & State University.

## A New View in Old New York



Assistant Principal Ellen Freeman, parent Ilene Rosenthal, and faculty member Katherine Sanderlin practicing new communication skills at Ethical Culture School.

YES’ educational partnership with Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York continues to grow, and has evolved to reach both campuses. How can parents empower teachers without imposing an agenda for their child? How can administrators and faculty move beyond the limits of political correctness to powerfully address issues of class and race? How do gender and orientation impact Fieldston students? These inquiries reflect a community-wide commitment to create a truly extraordinary learning environment.

**“This is the most thought-provoking course I have ever been in. You opened my eyes to so many things I didn’t even know I didn’t know!”**

-8th grade student, Fieldston School

On our most recent visit to Fieldston Middle School, students participated in YES’ Gender Continuum course. They spoke openly about their experience of harassment.

A seventh grader commented, “I hear verbal slurs everyday at school, but I never thought about it until today. Now whenever I see someone being bullied or called names like ‘faggot,’ I’ll step in and say something.” An eighth grader said, “I see how gender limits what we allow ourselves and others to do. I have a totally new perspective! I will share what I learned with people who were not lucky enough to have this experience.”

**“Relating authentically with each other is our access to breaking free from the debris of evidence. This course is a gift to our entire school community.”**

-Ilene Rosenthal, school parent

In Communication Solutions™, parents and teachers from the Ethical Culture School in Manhattan expressed their eagerness to unify diverse voices. One parent shared, “I have felt excluded from real ‘community’ at Ethical, and this course gave me the experience of belonging to a great group.”

“This course opened the door for genuine dialogue to exist among parents and faculty. I stopped participating in committees after my second year because open-hearted communication was so often covered with the mask of political correctness. I see how much I have isolated myself based on my deep commitment to being ‘right,’ and my unwillingness to be vulnerable. I now have more space in my communications with my parents, siblings, business associates, and children—especially my 18-year-old son. I am grateful to be able to celebrate his last few precious months at home, and to explore our relationship from a different paradigm.”

- Pamela Carter, school parent



Fieldston students in YES’ Gender Continuum course.

# Kiaora Society Membership

Jonathan Lewis generously renewed his philanthropic support of YES Institute. We are grateful for his dedication to ensuring the sustainability and continued expansion of YES' groundbreaking educational programs.

Thomas Blount increased his contribution to the Visionary Level to bring YES education to Spanish-speaking communities in the U.S. and Latin America. His support will give many youth and families an opportunity to have conversations on gender and orientation for the very first time.

Longtime YES supporters and dear friends Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez renewed and increased their contribution as Kiaora Visionaries. We thank them for their unwavering commitment to our work. We also appreciate the continued support of Commissioner Katy Sorenson as a Kiaora Visionary.

Dennis Edwards & Mark Steinberg, Larry Luig & Dario Espinosa, Howard Perry Rothberg II &

Paul A. Scolieri-Rothberg, Janice & Howard Scholl, José Alonso, Barbara Gray, Lane Park, Gordon Rhodes, Juan Carlos Sagrera, Lee Schragger, Gary Stross, and Russell Wagner renewed their membership as Kiaora Mentors.



Thomas Blount, Jacob Carrasco, Rachel Sottile, Isabella Carrasco.

We welcome new Kiaora Mentors Cybelle & Gustavo Marinello, John & Ann Sottile, and Fred Steiner. For information about joining our Kiaora Society, or to structure your contribution, please contact Eva at 786-301-3940 or email [eva@yesinstitute.org](mailto:eva@yesinstitute.org).

Hi everyone,

YES is incredibly excited to see our work expanding throughout the U.S. and now in South America!

We invite you to support these groundbreaking opportunities. Here are a few options:

- Join our Kiaora Society with a yearly contribution of \$1,000 or more (\$84/month).
- Become a Sustaining Member with a yearly donation of \$100-\$999.
- Designate YES Institute as the recipient of your United Way contribution through your employer.
- Remember YES in your Planned Giving.
- And many more!

Your contributions ensure that our education reaches all the places it is needed most. Ninety-two percent of every dollar directly supports YES programs.

- Eva Leivas-Andino, CFO

## Welcome Brittney!

We welcome Brittney Hoffman as the new Program Coordinator for YES Institute. She is an experienced educator, and formerly worked with GenderPAC in Washington, DC. She is happy to be back in her hometown of Miami, where she lives with her partner of 9 years, Kara McCabe. Brittney's contagious enthusiasm and skills as a course leader, researcher, and writer are making a big contribution to YES Institute.



Brittney Hoffman.

## Featured Exemplar Video

Rev. Marta Weeks continues to champion a safer world for all youth. Her powerful stand for inclusiveness within religious communities and beyond makes her an unrivaled leader in our community.



Rev. Marta Weeks.

See the video now:  
[www.yesinstitute.org/video](http://www.yesinstitute.org/video)

## In Loving Remembrance



Bob Cole at Kiaora party.

We regret the passing of our beloved friend Bob Cole. Bob was a loyal supporter of YES Institute from our earliest

days, and one of the first donors to join our Kiaora Society. His generous spirit and tireless commitment to making a difference in the community will be remembered by all the staff, board, and volunteers at YES Institute. His impact and inspiration will endure long into the future.

## Kiaora Society

Kiaora Society members donate \$1,000 or more to YES Institute annually.

### Philanthropist \$150,000 or more

Jonathan Lewis  
Rev. Marta S. Weeks

### Luminary \$25,000 or more

Adrienne Arsht

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**Clergy Conquer Fears,  
Create Change**

# National Legion of Honor Award



Luke Jude speaking to faculty at Miami Sunset Senior High School.

taken a stand to develop the most cutting-edge education on gender, and his insights are being recognized by leaders around the nation. We are thrilled to have Luke's leadership as our work expands globally.

We are proud to report that our own Luke Jude was awarded the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award. His recognition as Visionary Leader is a tribute to Luke's dedication to advancing a new understanding of gender that will help free the world from the confinement of labels. Luke has



305-663-7195  
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## Vision

A community in which all youth develop as healthy individuals free of suicide, violence, and discrimination.

## Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and all youth by initiating dialogue, providing education, and creating support systems.

## Statistics

- **50%** of elementary & middle school bullying incidents are based on gender and orientation slurs.
- **80%** of high school youth harassed as gay actually identify as heterosexual.
- Youth who identify as gay are more than **2 times** more likely to attempt suicide.
- **32%** of youth who identify as transgender attempt suicide.

## Education Partnerships

Ethical Culture Fieldston School, NY  
North Georgia College & State University  
Episcopal Diocese of Colombia, South America  
Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida  
Phi Delta Epsilon International Medical Fraternity  
Teaching Tolerance - Southern Poverty Law Ctr, AL  
The Alliance for GLBT Youth, FL

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- Rachel Soffile**, MS, Executive Director  
Ext. 1122 rachel@yesinstitute.org
- Martha Fugate**, Founding Director  
Ext. 1111 martha@yesinstitute.org
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Ext. 1112 joseph@yesinstitute.org
- Tim Wagoner**, Technology Services  
Ext. 1113 tim@yesinstitute.org
- Brittney Hoffman**, Program Coordinator  
Ext. 1121 brittney@yesinstitute.org

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# Communication Solutions™

Forty-two people participated in our March Communication Solutions™ course, including families from Los Angeles and New York.

**“ Helped me get over the hurdle of talking to my father. I feel liberated! I don't have to live in fear anymore! ”**  
-Juan Rodriguez, youth

Our youngest participants, 8-year-olds Jacob Carrasco and Ian Degwert shared how being called “gay” and “faggot” impacts them. They quickly grasped the difference they can make as powerful communicators in their third grade class.

**“ Now I have hope that all my relationships can work. I wish I'd had this course 25 years ago! ”**  
-Elaine, high school teacher



Participants in Communication Solutions™.