This conference, hosted by the Organization of American States, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, and the Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, will mark the official launch of the Learning Community of Higher Education Associations and Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean. The central theme: How can universities in the Americas advance the democratic mission of higher education with a particular focus on local community engagement. The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, and education representatives from across the region to share best practices and serve as a gateway to strengthen global cooperation.