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## Embassy of the United States of America Public Affairs Section

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### **Prominent U.S. Hispanic Leader Visits Bolivia**

The Honorable J. Walter Tejada, member of Arlington County Board since 2003, visited Bolivia last week invited by the U.S. Department of State. Arlington is home to one of the largest Bolivian communities living in the United States. Tejada is an outstanding Hispanic leader who is committed to protecting and enriching the diversity of the Arlington area. He also serves as Vice President of the National Association of Hispanic County Officials.

Walter Tejada gave conferences to students in several Bolivian universities on the experience of immigrants in the U.S. He conveyed the message that “it is possible to achieve the American dream and to serve your neighbor through engaging in politics,” Tejada said to the Bolivian press.

Mr. Tejada moved to the United States at the age of 13. He was elected to the County Board on March 11, 2003, in a Special Election. Mr. Tejada was re-elected on November 4, 2003 and again on November 6, 2007. He served as Chairman of the Board in 2008 and Vice-Chairman in 2007.

Before returning to the U.S. Tejada remarked that traveling to Bolivia had been a great experience and a privilege. “The U.S. Department of State invited me to share my experience with the Bolivian people, to talk about democracy and about how organized people can make their way ahead,” he said. During his conferences, Honorable Tejada met with civil society leaders, community-based organizations, and university students to share his experiences.