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Native American Expert Visits Bolivia for Talks on Tourism Industry

Waylon Honga, a member of the Hualapai Tribal Council in Arizona, will arrive in La Paz next weekend to conduct a series of talks on the development of sustainable tourism businesses that are based on indigenous cultural sites and heritage.

His first conference will take place on Sunday, March 17 at Unifranz University for tourism and business administration students. On Monday, he will travel to Curahuara de Carangas to talk with community members about creative and sustainable ways to promote tourism in the region, which has more than fifty colonial chapels, some of which were recently restored thanks to the U.S. Department of State's Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

On Tuesday, Honga will give two conferences for Universidad Mayor de San Andres (UMSA) tourism and international law students. On Wednesday, he will offer another conference for faculty and students of the Catholic University Rural Academic Unit in Tiwanaku.

The community-managed tourism expert will also travel to Santa Cruz to give talks at the *Cámara de Industria, Comercio, Servicios y Turismo (CAINCO)*, Domingo Savio University, and also the town of Samaipata where he will address a group of tourist guides and hoteliers.

The Hualapai have lived in and around the Grand Canyon for centuries. They have a large reservation in northwestern Arizona.

Waylon Honga received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University in May 1994. In June 1994, Waylon was elected as a Council Member for the Hualapai Tribe. He was also elected by his fellow members in 2002 and in 2010.

For 18 years Waylon served in various management positions for the Grand Canyon Resort Corporation. The Grand Canyon Resort Corporation (GCRC) is the Hualapai Tribe's business management and economic development arm. GCRC manages a hotel/restaurant, a river rafting operation and tours along the rim of the Grand Canyon.

Honga believes that coupling entrepreneurship with cultural revitalization could help America's native people gain a sense of pride, purpose and overall wellness.