Dear Members,

Please make plans to join us at the 16th International Marketing Conference and 59th Annual Membership Meeting, Feb. 11-13, 2019 focused on our theme - *When Trade Works, The World Wins.*

The meeting will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, a Caribbean hub for container shipping. Colombia is a free trade agreement partner and an important consumer of feed grains that supports a thriving swine and poultry industry, so the venue is a perfect location for this important meeting.

The IMC is your annual chance to meet face-to-face with USGC’s international directors who work tirelessly to develop critical markets, dismantle trade barriers and serve our customers overseas. They are vital, invaluable resources to the grains industry, and we hope all members will take advantage of this opportunity to talk and build relationships with them.

As a member-led organization, we rely on you to provide guidance for the work we do around the world to develop markets, enable trade and improve lives. This meeting will help us develop new opportunities and priorities in a rapidly changing global market, which we will incorporate in the Council’s operational plans for the coming year.

In a more relaxed aspect of the meeting, IMC attendees will get a taste of the country during our Sharing the Colombian Experience, a customer event that will allow attendees to hear firsthand from local officials and global experts in the grain trade from Colombia.

I know you will leave this meeting with new information to share with your colleagues and neighbors and a renewed dedication to the work that needs to be done to keep us expanding grain exports.

I look forward to joining you in Cartagena.

Sincerely,

Jim Stitzlein | Chairman

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### General Session

*Start Monday morning with an official welcome to Cartagena followed by discussion on international trade from our USGC overseas directors.*

### Spouse/Guest Welcome

*Join old friends and make new ones at this welcome for spouses and guests. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required.*

### A-Team Meetings: USGC Advisory Teams (A-Teams), the backbone of the Council, are organized by topic including Asia, ethanol, innovation and sustainability, Middle/East Africa, Western Hemisphere, trade policy and value-added programs. The Council encourages anyone who is not a member of an A-Team to sit in on these sessions to find out more about USGC programs.

### Evening Reception

*Join fellow USGC members and guests at an evening reception - a great opportunity to network with industry colleagues, get*
Planning Guide

Hotel Reservations

All meetings will take place at the:

Hilton Cartagena
Avenida Almirate Brion
Cartagena, Colombia
Phone: 011-57-5-6948000

Make reservations online at the Council’s website, www.grains.org/event/cartagena, or by calling the hotel's reservations department at 011-57-5-6948000 and mention the U.S. Grains Council meeting to receive the discounted rate. Reservations deadline is Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. After this date, the hotel will accept reservations on a space-available basis.

The Council has negotiated a room rate of $192 USD per night, single or double occupancy, plus 19 percent tax. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out time is noon.

Ground Transportation

The Hilton Cartagena is approximately six miles from the Rafael Nunez International Airport (airport code CTG). While taxis and Ubers are available, it is best to pre-arrange transportation to and from the hotel. To arrange transportation, book online at www.grains.org/event/cartagena. A car for one person will cost $19 USD one way.

Attire

Business casual attire is appropriate for all meetings. Casual attire with comfortable shoes is appropriate for tours. In Cartagena, the average high temperature for February is 87 degrees with an average low of 75 degrees.

Passport Information

A valid passport will be required for travel (no visa required). Apply several months in advance for a new passport. Passports should be valid for at least six months before travel.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

MORNING

Sector Meetings: Discuss issues with industry specific colleagues and USGC staff during meetings organized by sector: corn, barley, sorghum, agribusiness or general farm organizations.

General Session: Come back together to hear the latest on international trade agreements.

LATE MORNING/AFTERNOON

Optional Tour: Emerald Museum and Jewelry Making.

A-Team Meetings Continue: The A-Teams will continue their work, setting the direction of USGC programs for next year and beyond.

LATE AFTERNOON

Sharing the Colombian Experience: Join us as we meet and hear from our Colombian customers.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

MORNING

Board of Delegates Meeting: The Council’s business meeting will include presentations to the USGC Board of Delegates on priorities and key takeaways from their breakout sessions.

LATE MORNING/AFTERNOON

Board of Directors Meeting with Advisory Team Leaders

Optional Tour: Agriculture Tour to Maria La Baja

EVENING

Offsite Event: Enjoy the night outside at Club Naval, the private club for the Colombian Navy. This event is free for registered attendees; additional guests can register for $70 each.
Optional Tours & Events

16th International Marketing Conference &
59th Annual Membership Meeting
Cartagena, Colombia  Feb. 11-13, 2019

**Sunday, Feb. 10**

**CARTAGENA PANORAMIC AND WALKING TOUR**

Explore the beautiful city of Cartagena with a guided bus and walking tour. Enjoy a guided visit of San Felipe de Barajas Castle, the most important military fortress built by the Spanish to protect the city from pirate attacks. Enjoy fresh fruit from the “palenqeras” vendors before continuing by foot through the walled city. Explore Bolivar Square, St. Peter’s Square and Santo Domingo Square.

**Cost:** $40 per person
Tour Includes: Roundtrip transportation, guided tour, admission and water.

**Tuesday, Feb. 12**

**EMERALD MUSEUM AND JEWELRY MAKING**

Colombia is widely known as the “emerald capital of the world.” Visit the museum and learn about Colombia’s emeralds while an instructor teaches you how to make your own jewelry. Enjoy lunch at Boka Restaurant.

**Cost:** $65 per person
Tour Includes: Roundtrip transportation, admission, supplies and lunch.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13**

**CLUB NAVAL – OFFSITE EVENT**

Cartagena’s private naval club is the site for our offsite event. Eat outside overlooking Cartagena’s skyline while enjoying local entertainment.

**Cost:** $70 per person for guests; this is free for registered attendees.
Tour Includes: Roundtrip transportation, entertainment and dinner.

**AGRICULTURE TOUR TO MARIA LA BAJA**

View different parts of agriculture as we go an hour outside of Cartagena to Oleoflores. Have lunch and learn about the irrigation and agriculture system in Maria La Baja while meeting farmers. Take a tour of the palm oil extraction mill and then visit the dam that irrigates the land and palm oil tree farms.

**Cost:** $65 per person
Tour Includes: Roundtrip transportation, lunch and guided tour.

*Space is limited. First come/first serve.*