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Studied at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws with a major in Philosophy.

Between 1968 and 1973 he continued his Studies at Université Catholique de Louvain, thanks to a scholarship granted to him by the Ministry for Culture of Belgium. He graduated Licencié en Philosophie (1970) and Docteur en Philosophie (PhD) (1973). Between 1976-1978 he was visiting researcher at the University of Cologne, in Germany, after being granted a scholarship by the Stipendienwerk Lateinamerika-Deutschland.

From 1984 to 2004 he was part of the PUCP Council and The General University Assembly.

Dr. Lerner Febres has been Rector of the PUCP for two periods, (1994-1999 and 1999-2004), after which he was awarded with the honour of Rector Emeritus. Previously, he had been Vice Rector (1989-1994) and Director of The School of Academia and Research in Humanities (1979-1982) and Dean of General Studies and Letters (1975-1976).

He is currently president of the Institute of democracy and Human Rights, and was president of the Committee for Truth and Reconciliation of Peru between 2001 and 2003, for which he received the honorary medal on behalf of the Peruvian Congress.

He is a member of the American Philosophical Association, Associate and Honorary member of diverse and leading educational institutions across Peru and has been distinguished by several foreign governments, including Chile, Spain, Poland, Germany and France.

In November 2004, he was named president of the Honorary Advisory Council of the Union of Latin American Universities in La Habana, Cuba.

He has participated and given talks on the role and nature of universities, culture, ethics and research in tertiary education. He has also presented several papers and made countless presentations at various seminars and conferences about his work on the Committee for truth and reconciliation.