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Fall 2003

<http://www.laccei.org>
info@laccei.org

LACCEI

Latin American & Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions

Fall 2003

LACCEI is a non-profit organization of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) institutions that offer academic programs in Engineering and Technology as well as institutions (i.e. universities, colleges, schools and businesses) from other parts of the world that have demonstrated interest and activities with LAC institutions.

The Consortium's Mission:

To be the leading organization of institutions that will bring innovations in engineering education and research and emerge as a major force in this hemisphere to foster partnerships among academia, industry, government and private organizations for the benefit of the society and the nations.

Birth of the Consortium

Ongoing improvement for our society is the goal of all engineers. Communication and a sense of unity among groups who share a common goal is the key to success in the world we live in. It was with a thirst for strong partnership and continuous improvement that the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI) was conceived.



Dr. Joseph Bordogna, deputy director and CEO of the NSF (center) and Dr. Bruce Kramer, director of the Division of Engineering Education and Centers at the NSF (right) meet with Dr. Vish Prasad (left.)

Bordogna, Deputy Director and CEO of the National Science Foundation and NSF Division Director Bruce Kramer. The idea received an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. It was agreed that there was a dire need for an organization to bring together engineering institutions from all over the world that are interested in Latin American and Caribbean countries, to share with each other ideas for growth and the achievement of excellence in engineering education and research. A small Steering Committee was formed to guide the development of the consortium.

Planning

Although a conceptualized LACCEI was well received by the officials of various Latin American and Caribbean institutions, it needed strong planning to build a unique and leading organization of its kind. The Steering Committee was given the task of bringing together interested institutions to discuss goals, plans and the underlying mission of LACCEI including the ways in which it would operate. Dr. Ismael Pagan Trinidad from the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez and Dr. Sushil Gupta from Florida International University co-chaired the Steering Committee. The committee scheduled the first meeting to be held in Puerto Rico and interested institutions were invited to participate in forming the consortium.



Rectors and Deans attending the FIU Engineering Gala, 2002

Meeting in Puerto Rico

The meeting in Puerto Rico was hosted by the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus and the Universidad del Turabo. At this meeting, goals and objectives of the organization were discussed and plans to create a constitution and bylaws were finalized.

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Institutions Represented at LACCEI's First Meeting in Puerto Rico

- Florida International University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida Atlantic University
- Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez
- Universidad Católica Andres Bello
- Universidad Nacional "San Luis Gonzaga"
- Universidad de Puerto Rico - Mayagüez
- Universidad del Turabo - Puerto Rico
- Universidad Sergio Arboleda
- Universidad Tecnológica de Centroamericana
- Universidad Distrital Fco. Jose de Caldas - Colombia
- Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago

Meeting in Dominican Republic

A meeting was hosted by the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA) in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic to work on the scope and details of the first General Conference.

First Conference

January 2003 proved to be paramount to LACCEI. It was during this time that all interested institutions were invited to participate in the first general conference of the consortium. The conference took place in Santiago in the Dominican Republic and was hosted by Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA). In attendance at the conference were over one hundred faculty, administrators and students including many rectors and deans from several universities throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States. The conference laid the groundwork for LACCEI. It was at this conference that the constitution and bylaws as prepared by Dr. Eduardo Sagredo from UTESA and Dr. Sushil Gupta from FIU were approved. The goals and objectives of LACCEI became clear during this conference, but LACCEI couldn't reach its full potential without strong leadership and conference attendees proceeded to form the Executive Board. Florida International University's College of Engineering Dean Vish Prasad made history when he became the first president of the consortium. The founding Board of Directors convened at the end of this conference.

Board Meets in Monterrey

LACCEI held their second board meeting, hosted by the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, on August 7-8 2003, in Monterrey, Mexico. At this meeting, the Vice Presidents reviewed the action plan for each committee and agreed to meet a second time in Bogotá, Colombia. They also discussed fundraising for scholarships and the theme and organization for the second conference. They agreed that awards should be given to outstanding engineering institutions.

In addition the LACCEI Board voted to bestow the first LACCEI Meritorious University medal upon the Universidad Sergio Arboleda in Colombia. This institution was selected for the award for their homologation of courses with an ABET accredited LACCEI institution.

LACCEI Now

LACCEI, a non-profit organization, incorporated in the state of Florida, U.S.A., is well on its way to being the premier organization for engineering institutions to collaborate and improve in the areas of curriculum, research, and institutional services by sharing concepts and adapting them at their individual levels. Together, the institutions that form LACCEI are achieving excellence by benchmarking fellow member institutions. Thus far, 18 institutions from all over the world including the United States, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Honduras, the West Indies and Colombia have become part of LACCEI.

The Future of LACCEI

LACCEI prides itself on the level of equality at which it operates. It finds strength in diversity and is the combined effort of educational institutions worldwide. LACCEI looks to grow at a manageable level, with a message of goodwill and with an action-

Member Institutions of LACCEI

- Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, Chihuahua Campus - Mexico
- Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey Campus - Mexico
- Florida Atlantic University - USA
- Florida International University - USA
- Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico - Puerto Rico
- Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra - Dominican Republic
- Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez - Puerto Rico
- Universidad APEC- Dominican Republic
- Universidad de Puerto Rico - Mayagüez
- Universidad del Caribe - Dominican Republic
- Universidad del Turabo - Puerto Rico
- Universidad Dominicana O&M - Dominican Republic
- Universidad Interamericana - Puerto Rico
- University of Florida - USA
- University of South Florida - USA
- University of the West Indies - Jamaica
- Universidad Distrital Fco. José de Caldas - Colombia
- Universidad Sergio Arboleda - Colombia
- Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago - Dominican Republic
- Universidad Tecnológica de Centroamericana - Honduras
- Universidad Valle del Bravo - México

oriented spirit. It is evident that LACCEI's future is bright and full of possibilities. There is a level of expected distinction and definitely a mission of continuous improvement.

The Second Latin American and Caribbean Conference for Engineering and Technology is scheduled for June 2-4, 2004 in Miami, Florida, USA.

By joining LACCEI, members become an integral part of making a difference in the quality of life offered in Latin American and Caribbean regions by improving the education and technology needed to succeed in the 21st century.



The LACCEI Executive Board at the second board meeting in Monterrey, Mexico

For information about individual or institutional membership in LACCEI, please contact:

LACCEI
 College of Engineering
 Florida International University
 10555 West Flagler Street, EC 2460
 Miami, FL 33174
 Tel: 305-348-2522
 or visit our website at www.laccei.org
 email: info@laccei.org



Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions

Activities of LACCEI

- Faculty and student exchange
- New and/or higher level academic programs
- Dual/joint degree and certificate programs
- Distance, continuing and e-education
- Laboratory development and sharing of resources
- Outreach programs and activities
- Curriculum development, course equivalency and accreditation support
- Faculty development including higher degrees
- Industry internship, cooperative programs and career development
- Joint training and research programs, and solicitation of funds
- Development, commercialization and transfer of technology
- Dissemination of scholarly achievements and other accomplishments by member institutions