

MEETING OF CONDEFI AND LACCEI WITH THE UNDERSECRETARY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION OF CHILE



A delegation from the **Chilean Corporation of Engineering Faculties (CONDEFI)**, along with representatives from the **Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI)**, met this Monday, April 7, with the **Undersecretary of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation**, Cristián Cuevas. The meeting, held at the Ministry of Science, aimed to establish connections and reflect on the main challenges facing engineering faculties in the country.

Undersecretary Cuevas, a Civil Industrial Engineer, expressed his passion for engineering, given his experience leading multidisciplinary teams in different areas such as Engineering 2030 and OTL (Consolidation and Innovation in Higher Education in R&D), which seek to strengthen this ecosystem through technology transfer and the creation of science-technology-based companies (SBCs).

During the conversation, the official highlighted the importance of collaboration between institutions, consolidating the summit as a space for knowledge exchange and the development of engineering in the region. He also emphasized the need to move toward a transdisciplinary approach to engineering training and practice. "Engineering in itself will not solve any problems, because problems are not technological, they are socio-technological," he stated.

The CONDEFI delegation was led by its president and dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Sciences at the University of La Frontera, Dr. Jorge Farías, and comprised of the first vice president and dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the Universidad Finis Terrae, Dr. Angélica Urrutia; the second vice president and dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the Universidad Santo Tomás, Dr. Juan José Negroni; and the executive secretary, Jorge Monsalve. LACCEI's executive director, Dr. María Larrondo Petrie, and the assistant director, Dr. José Daniel Texier, participated on behalf of LACCEI.



DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2025, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY Maria Larrondo-Petrie, Ph.D



Florida Atlantic University President Adam Hasner and Interim Chancellor Russell Ivy hosted the **56th Annual Honors Convocation** on April 9 at the University Theatre in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters on the Boca Raton campus. The annual ceremony recognizes the University's most outstanding students and faculty.

Awards and recognitions included eight University Scholars; the Distinguished Student Award; the University Club Merit Award; the Phi Kappa Phi Hersker, Shaw, and Gosser Honor Society Scholarship Award; the Stan and Renee Wimberly Scholarship Award; the Undergraduate Researcher Awards; the Student-Athlete of the Year Awards; and the Fraternity and Sorority Scholarship Awards.

Faculty honors include the FAU Alumni Association's Degree of Difference Award; the Researcher and Scholar of the Year awards; the FAU Online Faculty Award; the Teaching and Mentoring awards; as well as the Distinguished Mentor of the Year in Undergraduate Research and the President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Distinguished Professor of the Year award is determined by FAU students. **This year's recipient is Dr. María Mercedes Larrondo-Petrie, Ph.D.**, full professor of Computer Engineering. Dr. Larrondo-Petrie serves as **executive director** of the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions and is director of the Organization of American States' Center of Engineering Excellence for the Americas. Her research publications have received more than 2,000 citations, and she has received more than \$3 million in grants throughout her career.

