

## LACCEI 2025, MEXICO CITY



The 23rd edition of the International Multiconference on Engineering, Technology, and Education, organized by the **Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI)**, was successfully held in Mexico City. The event gathered a broad and diverse academic community, including researchers, faculty, students, deans, university presidents, and international leaders across the field of engineering.

This year's conference showcased a rigorous academic program and a strong commitment to the advancement of engineering as a catalyst for sustainable development, innovation, and international cooperation. A total of **1,154 scientific papers** were presented, selected through a meticulous peer-review process involving **5,993 reviews** and resulting in an acceptance rate of **50.9%**.

LACCEI 2025 welcomed **1,115 registered participants** from **29 countries** and **147 academic institutions**, reinforcing its global and inclusive nature. The event also featured **29 student poster presentations**, highlighting the emerging talent and early-stage research from the next generation of engineering innovators.

The program included high-level plenary sessions on topics such as Artificial Intelligence applied to engineering, the growth of the semiconductor industry in Latin America, global accreditation strategies, and humanitarian engineering. Notably, leadership panels with rectors, deans, and global education leaders addressed the transformation of STEM education and strategic vision for the future.

One of the highlights of the event was the Student Project Awards, which recognized outstanding academic contributions and solutions to real-world challenges through innovation. The conference also served as a platform for inter-institutional meetings, cooperation agreements, and valuable **networking** opportunities across sectors.



Thanks to the generous support of **11 sponsors**, the conference experience was further enriched, bridging academia, industry, and multilateral organizations to promote knowledge exchange and collaborative projects.

With a hybrid format—featuring in-person sessions at the Barceló Reforma Hotel and online activities via the Agora Meetings platform—LACCEI 2025 demonstrated once again its capacity for

adaptation, innovation, and leadership as an International Academic Network.

This successful edition leaves behind a lasting impact and momentum for collaboration and excellence. It also marks the beginning of the journey toward **LACCEI 2026**, to be held **July 15–17 in Santiago, Chile**, with a renewed agenda and bold challenges to continue strengthening engineering for the Americas and beyond.

## LACCEI ACADEMIC MERIT MEDAL 2025



Each year, the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI) pays tribute to those who have made a lasting impact in the field of engineering education and research.

**The Academic Merit Medal** is the highest institutional recognition granted to leaders whose professional trajectory has made an exceptional contribution to the advancement of academia, innovation, leadership, and international cooperation in the engineering field.

In its 2025 edition, LACCEI had the honor of presenting this distinction to an outstanding engineer, **Dr. Cecilia Paredes**, Rector of ESPOL in Ecuador, whose transformative vision, unwavering commitment to educational excellence, and steadfast promotion of scientific and technological development have inspired generations and paved the way toward a more inclusive, sustainable, and socially impactful engineering.

This recognition celebrates not only her individual achievements but also her collective legacy in support of high-quality higher education across Latin America, the Caribbean, and the world.

Dr. Cecilia Paredes holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from ESPOL, and earned her Master's and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Rutgers University. She has served as a professor and researcher at ESPOL since 2001.





## LACCEI 2025 ELECTIONS

During the recent LACCEI 2025 International Multiconference, the Consortium's General Assembly was held with broad participation, including the in-person attendance of the majority of its member institutions.

As part of the established agenda, the scheduled election process was conducted to renew positions on the Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 term.

In accordance with the institutional bylaws, new representatives were officially elected for the positions of **President, Vice President for Initiatives, and Member at Large**. This process reinforces LACCEI's democratic and participatory commitment to its member institutions, ensuring a solid and representative governance structure that supports the Consortium's strategic growth in engineering education, innovation, and international collaboration.

Elected officers:

### PRESIDENT 2026 – Dr. Cuauhtémoc Godoy



**Dr. Cuauhtémoc Godoy** is a Professor and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Geomatic Sciences at the **Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico**. He holds a Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) with a concentration in Higher Education Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University. His academic and professional trajectory includes 39 years of continuous service at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Godoy has served as Executive Director and Administrator of CASEM2, a consulting firm specializing in Industrial Engineering and Industrial Management, providing services to local industries since 1999. From 1987 to 1999, he also led technical training programs in Statistical Process Control (SPC) and Statistical Data Analysis for the industrial sector.

His election marks a new stage of leadership for LACCEI, furthering the institutional mission of promoting engineering education, innovation, and international collaboration for the benefit of its member institutions.

### VICE PRESIDENT FOR INITIATIVES – Dr. Fernando Zorto A.



**Dr. Fernando José Zorto Aguilera** holds a Ph.D. in Design, Manufacturing, and Management of Industrial Projects from the **Polytechnic University of Valencia**. He is a specialist in Biomass and Biofuels in the Tropics from the **University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan**, holds a Master's degree in Project Management from the **Central American Technological University**, and a degree in Mechanical Industrial Engineering from the **National Autonomous University** of Honduras. He has also pursued specialized studies in Small Hydropower Plant Development at the **International Hydropower Center** in Norway and Biogas Systems in the Tropics at the **Renewable Energy Academy in Berlin, Germany**.

Dr. Zorto is a member of the Honduran College of Mechanical, Electrical, and Chemical Engineers, the Pan American Confederation of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (COPIME), and the World Academy of Sciences.

He is a university professor with strong experience in both the public and private sectors in Honduras, with over 12 years of leadership in the design, evaluation, and implementation of programs and projects. His expertise lies in biomass, biofuels, thermochemical conversion, and technological innovation with a focus on research, development, and innovation in public universities.

### MEMBER AT LARGE – Dr. Jeny Basantes Ávalos



**Dr. Jenny Lilian Basantes Ávalos** is a distinguished Ecuadorian academic with more than three decades of experience in teaching, university administration, research, and community engagement. She holds a degree in Business Engineering from the Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH), complemented by extensive postgraduate education including a Master's in University Teaching, a Specialization in Educational Informatics, a Master's in Business Management, and a Ph.D. in Administrative Sciences from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Her career has been marked by a consistent commitment to academic excellence and innovation in higher education. Since 1993, she has been a professor in the Faculty of Business Administration at ESPOCH, teaching key subjects such as auditing, quality, human talent management, and strategic planning.

She has also held prominent leadership roles, including President of the Faculty Pension Fund, Director of Outreach, Dean of the Faculty, and currently serves as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at ESPOCH.

