LACCEI TRAINING: INNOVATION & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Innovation and Artificial Intelligence for the Transformation of Engineering Education

From **March 9-12**, LACCEI will hold the **LACCEI Training: Innovation & Artificial Intelligence**, an exclusive training program **for active member institutions**, at **the College of Engineering of Florida Atlantic University (FAU), USA.**

The event will bring together **university authorities, academic leaders, innovation directors, institutional representatives, industry partners, and public policy** stakeholders committed to strengthening innovation capabilities and transforming engineering education in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

This training program has been designed as a **strategic space for capacity building, collaborative learning, and institutional reflection**, focused on how universities can adapt, create, and transfer knowledge and technology in constantly evolving economic and technological contexts.

The program places special emphasis on institutional **transformation driven by innovation, the strategic and responsible use of artificial intelligence, and the strengthening of sustainable collaboration mechanisms** among academia, industry, development organizations, and policymakers.

The academic program combines **keynote lectures, practical workshops, networking opportunities, and experiences in innovation ecosystems.**

Highlights include **global models of innovation and academic transformation**, the application of **artificial intelligence in higher education**, and a participatory **workshop on Artificial Intelligence versus Human Intelligence**, developed using **Design Thinking methodologies**, aimed at fostering critical reflection on the role of technology in decision-making and academic leadership.

The program also includes activities focused on **university-industry collaboration**, with visits to the **Florida Innovation Ecosystem**, including the **FAU Research Park**, as well as a **practical Seed Projects workshop**, led by Harvard **University's Growth Lab**, which will apply **PDIA and Lean Startup methodologies** to strengthen institutional capacities and generate impact initiatives.

The training will also include the **application of the LACCEI Capabilities Model**, aimed at evaluating and strengthening the institutional maturity of engineering universities, as well as a **workshop on prospective and future studies and a strategic reflection session** on the future of LACCEI, which will culminate with the presentation of the **LACCEI 2032 Strategic Plan**.

With the **LACCEI Training: Innovation & Artificial Intelligence program**, LACCEI reaffirms its commitment to **strengthening the institutional capacity of its member universities**, promoting a strategic vision based on innovation, artificial intelligence, and international cooperation as pillars for **sustainable development and economic growth in the region** through higher education and engineering.

More information at: https://laccei.org/march-2026/

LACCEI K-12 COMPETITION

LACCEI K-12: Engineering Challenge for the Americas is an international competition that recognizes innovative educational initiatives aimed at pre-university students (K-12), with the goal of fostering early interest in engineering. The program brings together projects that strengthen student interest, promote hands-on learning, and reduce the gap between early education and academic and professional opportunities in engineering throughout the Americas.

The competition is open to primary and secondary schools, high schools, universities with K-12 outreach programs, teachers, researchers, and academic clubs that develop engineering education activities. Participating initiatives must demonstrate their impact on student motivation, creativity, problem-solving, and early exposure to real-world engineering concepts and challenges, as well as their ability to strengthen ties between schools and universities.

The selected teams can participate in person or virtually and compete for prizes recognizing the best proposals in both formats. In addition to the financial incentive, the finalist projects will gain international visibility at the **LACCEI 2026 Multiconference in Chile.**

More information about requirements, dates, and the application process is available on the event's official website: https://laccei.org/laccei2026/k-12/

LACCEI IN THE RICYT 2025

LACCEI participated in the **XII Ibero-American Congress on Science and Technology Indicators** (RICYT 2025), held in November in Montevideo, Uruguay, under the theme *"Measuring the Contribution of Science to a Sustainable World".*

The congress brought together experts from the region to reflect on sustainability, innovation, the social perception of science, digital tools, open science, and the contribution of higher education to global challenges.

In the Higher Education track, the presentation *"Consultation for the Definition of Education Indicators in Engineering, Science, and Technology"* was given by Dr. Marcos Moya Navarro, PhD, and Dr. María Ileana Ruiz Cantisani, PhD, representatives of LACCEI.

The initiative aims to promote the development of regional indicators that strengthen decision-making in higher education institutions, with a special emphasis on linking engineering programs to the socioeconomic context and on the participation of women in STEM fields.

During the presentation, the project's progress, structured in four phases, was outlined, highlighting the current data collection stage and the plan to disseminate preliminary results at the **LACCEI 2026 Multiconference**. A future collaboration with RICYT was also proposed to integrate data that will enrich regional indicators, and the *Matilda Latin American Open Chair and Women in Engineering* was emphasized as a key space for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in STEM.

Participation in RICYT 2025 also allowed LACCEI to showcase its strategic priorities, committees, alliances, and regional impact.

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