

### Meeting with Chile's Minister of Education Strengthens LACCEI 2026's Projection

As part of the preparations for the LACCEI 2026 Multiconference, the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI), together with the Corporation of Engineering Faculties in Chile (CONDEFI), held a strategic meeting in Santiago, Chile, with high-ranking officials from the country's education sector.

The meeting included the participation of Chile's Minister of Education, **Dr. María Paz Arzola**, and the Undersecretary of Higher Education, **Dr. Fernanda Valdés**, and its main purpose was to highlight Chile's best practices in engineering education, as well as to explore mechanisms for its promotion and integration with the international academic community.

During the meeting, the LACCEI and CONDEFI delegation extended a formal invitation to the Minister to participate in the LACCEI 2026 Multiconference, which will be held in Chile starting July 15. The Minister thanked them for the invitation and expressed her willingness to move forward on a joint collaboration agenda that strengthens the development of engineering education in the region.



### Strategic Visit of LACCEI and CONDEFI to ECLAC

As part of their efforts to strengthen the connection between academia, the productive sector, and public policy in Latin America, LACCEI, in conjunction with CONDEFI, paid a strategic visit to Dr. Marco Llinás, Director of the Productive and Business Development Division of the **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**.

This meeting provided a high-level forum for dialogue and the development of synergies aimed at enhancing the role of higher education institutions in the region's productive development. During the meeting, key issues were addressed related to the need to align the educational, scientific, and technological capacities of universities with emerging public policy priorities, particularly in areas such as innovation, digital transformation, sustainability, and the strengthening of entrepreneurial ecosystems.



The meeting also included the participation of prominent academic authorities, among them **Dr. Angélica Urrutia**, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Finis Terrae University and member of the CONDEFI board; **Dr. Fernando Rojas**, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Universidad del Desarrollo; **Dr. Jorge Monsalve**, Executive Secretary of CONDEFI; and **Dr. María Isabel Valdivieso**, curriculum advisor at the Faculty of Engineering and Sciences of Universidad de La Frontera (UFRO).

Representing LACCEI were President **Dr. Cuauhtémoc Godoy** and Executive Subdirector **Dr. José Daniel Texier**, who reiterated the importance of the LACCEI 2026 Multiconference as an international forum that will bring together academics, researchers, and leaders in the fields of engineering, education, and technology from various countries.

This meeting reaffirms the commitment of LACCEI and its strategic partners to continue promoting the strengthening of engineering education in Latin America and the Caribbean, through the exchange of experiences, institutional cooperation and the promotion of initiatives with regional impact.



Furthermore, opportunities for collaboration were explored to more effectively link the knowledge generated in universities with the needs of the productive sector, promoting greater technology transfer, the development of relevant talent, and the advancement of joint applied research initiatives.

As a result of this approach, progress was made in conceptualizing and organizing the panel entitled *“Engineering, Universities, and Productive Capacities in Latin America: From Policy to Implementation”*, which will take place within the framework of the LACCEI 2026 Multiconference in Santiago, Chile. This forum will bring together representatives from international organizations, academic leaders, and stakeholders from the productive sector to reflect on concrete mechanisms for translating public policies into effective actions that strengthen the region's productive capacities.

With initiatives like this, LACCEI reaffirms its commitment to act as a bridge between academia and the various actors in regional development, promoting international collaboration, the exchange of good practices and the generation of innovative solutions that contribute to the sustainable and inclusive growth of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Among the program's fundamental objectives are the generation of relevant knowledge, the promotion of mentoring activities, the fostering of collaborative research, and the dissemination of academic results, contributing significantly to the ongoing development of education, professional practice, and innovation in engineering and technology.

With this initiative, LACCEI reaffirms its role as a platform for coordinating academic efforts in the region, promoting collaborative spaces that enhance talent, innovation, and sustainable development in the field of engineering.

### Boosting the Regional Semiconductor Ecosystem

LACCEI is leading an initiative to identify leaders, capabilities, and collaboration opportunities in the semiconductor sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthening the link between academia, industry, and the public sector to enhance the region's technological development.

In this context, the academic, scientific, and business communities are invited to complete the attached form, which will allow us to map existing talent, recognize ongoing projects and initiatives, and identify local challenges that can be addressed through multinational collaboration.

Furthermore, we seek to explore the possibility of establishing inter-American working groups to jointly promote innovative solutions.

The information gathered will be key to designing effective collaboration strategies and building bridges between ecosystem stakeholders. Your participation is essential to consolidating this initiative and positioning Latin America and the Caribbean as a leader in semiconductor development.

Form link:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=pj5axnwPCoCJNFptwXBWRWbYZkR8qoZFIDfMaFMOi6hUNVBFSURXM1JOWlhFTTlyR1RNNU45WINMMi4u&origin=IprLink&route=shorturl>

### LACCEI Announces the Creation of the Visiting Researchers Program

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening engineering education, research, and innovation in the Americas, the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions (LACCEI) announces the official approval of the **Visiting Researchers Program**, a new initiative endorsed by its Board of Directors.

This program emerges as a strategic mechanism aimed at supporting and energizing the academic activities developed by LACCEI's divisions, standing committees, and institutional initiatives, fully aligning with its mission to promote academic collaboration and the advancement of knowledge in engineering and technology.

The **LACCEI Visiting Researchers Program** is conceived as a voluntary, honorary, and unpaid academic initiative that seeks to foster the participation of high-level researchers and academics in international collaborative processes. Through this program, knowledge exchange, the generation of new lines of research, and the strengthening of academic networks throughout the region are promoted.

The Visiting Researcher role will be developed within the framework of academic stays that may take virtual, in-person, or hybrid forms, thus offering flexibility and adaptability to the current dynamics of international cooperation. The main purpose of these stays is to strengthen the consortium's collective capacities and expand its regional and international reach.

### EVENTS CALENDAR

- **April 2026:** IEEE EDUCON 2026
- **June 2026:** EUR-ACE Connect
- **June 2026:** ASEE Annual Conference 2026
- **LACCEI Multiconference 2026:** July 15-17, 2026 | Santiago, Chile (InterContinental Hotel)
- **September 2026:** SEFI Annual Conference
- **September 2026:** COBENGE: Brazilian Congress on Engineering Education
- **September 2026:** WEEF 2026: World Engineering Education Forum (IFEES and GEDC)
- **LEIRD Conference:** December 1-2, 2026 | San Juan, Puerto Rico (Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, PUPR)
- **LACCEI Training:** March 8-10, 2027 | Boca Raton, USA (Florida Atlantic University, FAU)