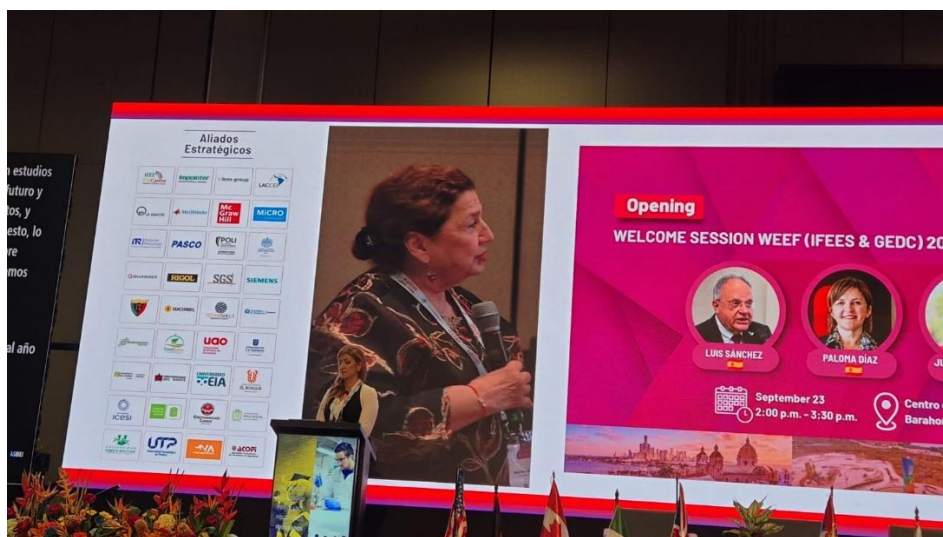


LACCEI AT WEEF 2026



LACCEI played an active role in the World Engineering Education Forum (WEEF 2026), opening the event with an outstanding workshop titled "Transforming Engineering Universities: Productive Capabilities for Economic Development." This session was led by **Dr. Fernando Zorto**—a research professor at UNAH (Honduras) and VP of Initiatives at LACCEI—and **Dr. Homero Murzi** of Texas A&M University, who also delivered a keynote presentation on the K-12 initiative he leads at LACCEI.

The International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES), the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC), and the Colombian Association of Engineering Faculties (ACOFI) organized the World Engineering Education Forum (WEEF 2026) from September 22 to 25, 2026. Held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, the event focused on the central theme: "Engineering Education That Transforms."

It is an international event that brought together academic leaders, representatives from the productive sector, government officials, professional associations, educators, students, and organizations from various regions of the world.

The academic program for WEEF (IFEES & GEDC) 2026 featured panels, expert dialogues, workshops, technical sessions, and keynote speeches focused on emerging trends, innovative educational strategies, and the role of engineering in social and economic development.

LAURA ROMERO ROBLES, 2026 DUNCAN FRASER AWARD

In a special ceremony held on Thursday, September 24, in the city of Cartagena, the Duncan Fraser Award 2026 Committee presented this significant honor to **Dr. Laura Eugenia Romero Robles** during WEEF 2026.

Dr. Romero Robles—a former president of LACCEI, a division director at the EIC, a full professor at the Tecnológico de Monterrey's School of Engineering and Sciences, and the national leader of Ingenia—was honored with the **Duncan Fraser International Award 2026**, one of the most prestigious global accolades in the field of engineering education.

This award, presented by the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES) and the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC), recognizes individuals whose careers have made a significant and lasting impact on the education of engineers, fostering innovation, academic excellence, and inclusion.



LACCEI AT COBENG 2026, Brazil



Dr. Luis Fernando Martínez Arconada, VP of Finance, and Dr. José Texier, Deputy Director of LACCEI, participated in **COBENG 2026**—the **54th Brazilian Congress on Engineering Education** and the most important forum for discussing engineering education and professional practice in Brazil.

This major forum took place from September 14 to 17, 2026, at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais (PUC-Minas) in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, and was organized by the **Brazilian Association for Engineering Education (ABENG)**.

The central theme—"The Future of Engineering: Comprehensive Training for Adaptable and Innovative Professionals"—brought together professors, researchers, students, and executives to discuss new technologies and artificial intelligence.



CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AND STUDENT COMPETITION

The **25th LACCEI International Multi-Conference on Engineering, Technology, and Education (LACCEI 2027)**—taking place from July 21 to 23, 2027, at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, USA—invites the academic, scientific, and student communities to participate in its global call for scientific papers and to register for the International Student Competition.

This event of global significance will bring together experts, researchers, students, and professionals from various fields of engineering and technology to exchange innovative ideas, share scientific advancements, and foster the development of new solutions to global challenges. Participants will have the opportunity to present their research in a high-level global forum.

Call for Scientific Papers

This internationally renowned event serves as a unique platform for disseminating innovative research and technological advancements across various fields of engineering, technology, and education.

We invite the scientific community to submit original papers, which will undergo rigorous evaluation by an international committee of experts. Accepted full papers will be presented at the conference and will have the opportunity to be published in high-impact, Scopus-indexed journals.

Topics for submissions and general information can be found on the LACCEI 2027 website: <https://laccei.org/laccei2027/>

This is an exceptional opportunity to showcase cutting-edge research and receive feedback from the global academic and professional community.

International Student Competition

Likewise, students from around the world are invited to participate in the International Student Competition, where they can showcase their technical and entrepreneurial skills. The most innovative projects will receive cash prizes and international recognition, representing an invaluable opportunity for young talent.

LACCEI ACADEMY

¡Registration is now open at LACCEI Academy!

Engage in certified learning experiences led by international experts. Each course is hosted on our Moodle campus to ensure proper tracking, assessments, and verifiable accreditation.

LACCEI Academy is launching its academic program. Enroll in our inaugural Diploma Program—comprising four courses—designed to strengthen education and professional development within our community. ¡Inscripciones abiertas en Academia LACCEI!

Course registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevPvW2fzfkQHMvoc64TqD4pKlumIGsBUghb2QMkjRXNSZMOW/viewform>

More information on the official LACCEI Academy website: <https://academy.laccei.org/>



EQUIPO DOCENTE DE LACCEI ACADEMY



Dr. Homero Murzi
Equipo Docente LACCEI Academy



Dra. Jusmeidy Zambrano
Equipo Docente LACCEI Academy



Psic. Esp. Jorgelina Carignano
Equipo Docente LACCEI Academy

WORKSHOP: TRANSFORMING ENGINEERING UNIVERSITIES

Dr. Fernando Zorto—a research professor at UNAH (Honduras), Director of the Institute for Applied Science and Technology Research (IICAT) at the Faculty of Engineering, and VP of Initiatives for LACCEI—participated in the World Engineering Education Forum (WEEF) and the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC) Conference. Held from September 22 to 25 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, the event featured an excellent workshop where he shared experiences and proposals with academics and officials from higher education institutions around the world.

In this international setting, Dr. Zorto, together with Dr. María Larrondo Petrie (Executive Director of LACCEI) and Dr. José Texier (Deputy Executive Director of LACCEI), conducted the workshop **“Transforming Engineering Universities: Productive Capabilities for Economic Development,”** aimed at analyzing how universities can become engines of economic development through greater integration with the productive sector.

The event brought together more than 80 deans of engineering faculties from 16 countries to address strategies for transforming university institutions, strengthening their capabilities, and fostering new professional competencies that meet the demands of a society shaped by technological and industrial changes.



"We discussed how to seek collaboration and strengthen human resources within universities, with the aim of enriching academic thought and orienting it toward the development of new competencies in engineers," Dr. Zorto explained during the meeting.

Dr. Zorto also highlighted that one of the main challenges facing universities is ensuring that their core functions—teaching, research, and outreach—operate in a coordinated manner and are clearly aligned with development needs.



A global perspective on engineering education

As Cartagena brings together representatives from higher education institutions, researchers, and engineering leaders, the forum also serves as a venue to explore the trends redefining the training of future professionals.

In this context, Dr. Zorto explained that his participation has allowed him to learn about new educational methodologies and trends emerging in different regions of the world, as well as insights into how universities and companies can create new training opportunities.

"We are looking at the new educational trends and methodologies being developed in different parts of the world," stated the UNAH academic, adding that they are also analyzing alternatives to build new student capabilities and address specific issues related to the transformation of education and engineering.

LACCEI K-12 WORKSHOP AT WEEF 2026

LACCEI fosters interest in engineering from the early stages of education.

As part of WEEF 2026, held in Cartagena, Colombia, **Dr. Homero Murzi** of Texas A&M University—Director of LACCEI's K-12 initiative—along with Dr. María Larrondo Petrie and Dr. José Texier (LACCEI's Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, respectively), conducted the workshop **“Inspiring the Next Generation of Engineers.”** This event served as a gathering point for participants interested in fostering greater engagement with engineering among children and young people.

Building on the initiatives presented at the LACCEI K-12 competition, the workshop fostered reflection on the factors influencing students' decisions to consider engineering as a career path.

Discussions addressed the role of those who guide and inspire students during the early stages of their education, the barriers that may limit their participation, and strategies for evaluating the reach and outcomes of these programs.



During the event, international figures leading initiatives to promote engineering in the United States, Europe, and Africa presented their work.

Additionally, the key findings of a thematic analysis regarding the 30 initiatives participating in the LACCEI K-12 competition—held in Santiago, Chile, in July 2026—were shared.

This analysis identified various courses of action that help spark interest in engineering, including inclusion and equity, experiential learning, exploration of different engineering disciplines, the development of community groups, robotics and coding programs, and projects focused on sustainability and the environment.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of the various individuals who support students and influence their decisions. Primary and secondary school teachers, parents and guardians, friends, peers, and community members play a significant role in shaping students' aspirations and the confidence with which they envision their academic futures.



Participation was extensive, and the discussion was enriched by the programs, experiences, and perspectives shared by the attendees.

The gathering also generated clear interest in maintaining involvement with K-12 initiatives and strengthening efforts to inspire the next generation of engineers.

Through its K-12 initiative, LACCEI continues to foster opportunities for collaboration, exchange, and learning that connect new generations with engineering and its many possibilities; we are convinced that **universities need these young people just as much as they need to discover the opportunities engineering can offer them.**

LEIRD 2026, PUERTO RICO



LEIRD 2026: a gathering where ideas move the world!

LACCEI invites researchers, faculty, students, entrepreneurs, professionals, and representatives from the business sector to participate in the **LACCEI International Multiconference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (LEIRD 2026)**, which will be held in a hybrid format from December 1 to 3, 2026, at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Under the theme *“Capability-Based Entrepreneurship: Artificial Intelligence and Innovation for Scaling into the New Global Economy,”* this multi-conference will serve as a forum for sharing knowledge, presenting research, exchanging experiences, and exploring new opportunities for collaboration in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation, and regional development.

LEIRD 2026 will bring together representatives from academia, industry, and the entrepreneurial ecosystem, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and the creation of innovative solutions to the challenges of the new global economy.

Join us for this gathering where ideas move the world!

Participate in LEIRD 2026 and become part of an international community that connects knowledge, drives innovation, and transforms ideas into opportunities for development.

Learn more about the event, activities, and opportunities to participate at: <https://laccei.org/leird2026/>

