

# These 3 projects will support educational innovation in Latin America



Three proposals were selected at the **second Novus Tríada open call** for their work in **educational innovation**.

This open call offers grant funds from the 3 universities of **La Tríada**: [Tec de Monterrey](#), the [Pontifical Catholic University of Chile](#), and the [University of Los Andes in Colombia](#) to promote a culture of educational innovation and collaboration between these institutions.

**Luis Omar Peña**, leader of Experimentation and Impact Measurement at Tec de Monterrey's **Institute for the Future of Education**, highlighted the way in which this year's call **reaffirms** the great interest teachers have in **transforming education**.

*"Their research initiatives, while **responding to private education contexts**, have the potential to **generate substantial changes in the teaching and learning process**,"* he said.

**Augmented reality in medical teaching**, **online tutoring**, and **wellness gamification** were the projects carried out by professors from these 3 universities that were selected. Learn more about these projects:



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## 1. Augmented reality for vaginal delivery teaching and care

This project is about the use of a **simulation system for the teaching of vaginal delivery care** based on **Augmented Reality**.

Its objective is to create, implement, and evaluate an **online asynchronous simulation system** for **medical and obstetrics students**.

The **leading professors of the project** are Fernando Ayala Aguilera, from Tec de Monterrey; Jorge Andrés Carvajal Cabrera, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile; and Luis Carlos Franco Ayala, from the University of Los Andes.

This project can be used to **evaluate 862 medical and obstetrics students**.

*“The project **opens the door to new applications for teaching procedures in our specialty**, such as cervical cytology, endometrial biopsy, etc., which will be part of our new tasks,” professor Carvajal said.*

*“For our team, **having been selected demonstrates the importance of our proposal as a new teaching technology**; it means recognizing the importance of the topic and the novelty and promise of our project,” he added.*



width="900" loading="lazy"> **2. Online student peer tutoring platform**

This project is about the development of an **innovative platform** for the **training of student peer tutors**.

Its objective is to create an **online inter-university collaboration and training platform** for institutional mentoring and skills training of tutors in Latin America.

The leading professors of the project are Eliud Quintero Rodríguez, from Tec de Monterrey; Gonzalo Nicolás Gallardo Chaparro, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile; and César Galindo Martínez, from the University of Los Andes.

It is planned to have an **impact on the student tutoring skills** of around **one thousand students**.

*“All of us who took part are very happy and excited to carry out this project and **develop resources that can be useful for different institutions in the region, aspiring toward support and collaboration between Latin American universities,**”* Gallardo said.

*“**In Latin America, we share the challenge of supporting the development of a diverse student body, transforming academic contexts into areas that are available and designed for the learning of everyone,**”* reflected the professor.



### width="900" loading="lazy"> 3. Wellness technology and gamification

This project is about the promotion of health and wellness through **interactive and experiential learning** supported by **technological tools**.

Its objective is to implement an **intervention to promote the health and wellness of university students on** campuses in Chile, Mexico, and Colombia, mediated by a technological application.

The leading professors of the project are Alejandro Chávez López, from Tec de Monterrey; Verónica Iribarra Pastenes, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile; and Carolyn Finck Barboza, from the University of Los Andes.

Its impact is the development of transversal competencies, through **challenges and memorable experiences**, in which **150 students** learn and implement health guidelines through social interaction and gamification.

*“It’s a **great opportunity** for students to implement **healthy behaviors in their lifestyles** and have the opportunity to **explore their inner world** through the latest techniques and strategies **based on scientific evidence**,”* Chávez explained.

*“I’m pleased to have found **people committed** to the **promotion and implementation of health campaigns**, which is a great source of inspiration and motivation to continue with the project,”* he added.

*“We’re very excited about the potential of the selected projects.” - Luis Omar Peña, leader at the Institute for the Future of Education.*

## Challenges of the open call during a pandemic

The **most recurring problems** this year were:

- **Digital transformation during the COVID-19 pandemic** hand-in-hand with digital teaching and scalable strategies for the development of the teaching and learning process.
- **Difficulty in developing skills.**
- **Relevance of the profession and the link** between acquired knowledge and one's profession or environment.

*“One of the objectives of the open call is to **promote these ideas through collaboration** with colleagues from Uniandes and the UC, expanding the scope not only to our countries but also into the region,” Peña said.*

The **2020** call was open from December 1, 2020 to May 15, 2021 and a total of **17 proposals** were presented in the areas of: medicine, psychology, engineering, education, and law, among others.

Each proposal **was studied and evaluated** in an evaluation period from **May 20 to June 3**.

The **evaluating committee** was composed of members of the three universities, dedicated to **research, pedagogy, innovation, and teacher development**.

Based on these evaluations, **interdisciplinary working teams were developed that will work together to solve an educational challenge** and measure its impact.

The evaluations considered the **proposed impact, methodological underpinning, and feasibility**.

The projects will have a **grant of \$30,000 dollars**, distributed between the professors responsible from each university.

*“We’re very excited about **the potential of the selected projects**. We also recognize all the participants and invite them to stay tuned for the next call,” Peña said.*

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