Tec and University of Cantabria open collaboration hub in Spain

Tecnológico de Monterrey and the **University of Cantabria** in Spain have announced the creation of **Hub Comillas**, a space for both institutions to work on joint **innovation** and **research** projects.

The **space** will be on the **Comillas Campus** of the **Spanish university**, where both universities will seek to set up **educational innovation** and **entrepreneurship projects** above all, as well as in other areas.

*"This **space** will allow us to forge a **connection** with the community in **Europe** around **research, innovation**, and **entrepreneurship**. It aims to bring about recovery of the **economy** and **social development** after the pandemic,"* says José Escamilla, Director of **Educational Innovation** at the Tec.

A **hub** is a shared space for developing projects that encourages **collaborative work** and **learning** to find solutions to common problems.

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Objective of Hub Comillas: Mexico-Europe connection for educational innovation

José Escamillas says that the **main objective** of Hub Comillas will be to forge a **connection** between **Mexico** and **Europe** in areas of **educational innovation**.

*"To attract **talent**, researchers who are conducting **investigations** with mainly **European partners** , but also with the [**Institute for the Future of Education**](#) (IFE) at the Tec,"* adds Escamilla.

This director says that the **hub** could also provide the **IFE** with the opportunity to access **funding** it is not currently eligible for.

The site of Hub Comillas will be the **Comillas castle** at the **Comillas Foundation University Center,** located 30 kilometers from **Santander**, the capital of Cantabria.

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Hub opening in first quarter of 2022

This hub will commence **operations** during the **first quarter** of **2022,** with projects that include researcher from both universities.

Escamilla says that the University of Cantabria and Tec de Monterrey have a **long-term relationship** in the area of **entrepreneurship**.

*"The University of Cantabria has a **doctorate** on **entrepreneurship** topics that people from the Tec have studied,"* he says.

This project forms part of a **European Union initiative** that assigns **funding** for **economic recovery** in areas such as **sustainability** and **digital transformation.**

*"They invited us, the **Institute for the Future of Education,** with the aim of **developing digital education.***

*"There's a lot of work to be done in **education** and in using more **active teaching** and **learning** methods that are student-centered and use **technology**,"* adds Escamilla.

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Areas of work: AI-Data Science, neuroeducation, and Lifelong Learning

There are **3 main areas** of work for **HUB Comillas**: **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Data Science** applied to adaptive learning, **Neuroeducation**, and **Lifelong Learning**.

Escamilla says that **interdisciplinary research groups** have been created within the **projects**.

One of these focuses on the study of **Complex Thinking**, which includes critical thinking and creative thinking. This is formed of **16 professors** from the **6 schools** at **Tec de Monterrey.**

These schools are Architecture, Art, and Design; Social Sciences and Government; Humanities and Education; Engineering and Sciences; Medicine and Health Sciences; and Business.

*"This group wants to develop **tools** for **professors** and **students** so that they can aspire to this **macro-competency** of **complex thinking**,"* he says.

Similarly, another group also consisting of **16 professors** from the **6 schools** at the Tec wants to study **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) development, especially for **women**, as well as including awareness of **planetary education** and education for the **planet's future** and **environment**, among other topics.

"This hub will allow us to forge a connection with the community in Europe around research, innovation, and entrepreneurship."

He also says that the area of **Artificial Intelligence** and **Data Science in education** will make it possible to **understand** students better and predictively **analyze** the risks of them missing a semester or school year.

In this way, professors could teach certain content in a **personalized manner** to have a greater **educational impact**.

Escamilla says that the **Neuroscience** area is looking to apply **knowledge** about **cognitive neuroscience** to education.

*"To understand better **how the brain works** and **how people learn**. This is a **joint effort** with researchers from Cantabria. For them, it's important to learn more about the topic of **technology development** in **teaching**,"* the director said.

He also mentioned that they will be inviting **professors** and **researchers** from both **Tec de Monterrey** and the **University of Cantabria** to join this project so as to further **educational innovation** in both countries.

This one of the **7 initiatives** from the **2025 Strategic Plan** at **Tec de Monterrey, which is called Global Tec.**

*"We have to become a more international institution, not only because of student mobility, but also due to the **Tec's positioning in different global arenas**,"* said **David Garza,** Rector and Executive President of the Tec, when this plan was presented.

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