

Tec wins 3 QS Reimagine Education awards, the “Oscars” of Education



Tec de Monterrey projects won **gold**, **silver**, and **bronze** in different categories at the **QS Reimagine Education Awards**, also known as the “Oscars” of education worldwide.

An **education 4.0 platform** promoting employability, a **project promoting entrepreneurship**, and an **ecosystem of virtual and remote laboratories** were the award-winning projects at the 2021 awards.

“Globally, these awards are known as the ‘Oscars of Education’,” said **Patricia Aldape**, Director of Learning Experience Innovation at the Tec, to **CONNECTA** in 2020.

The prize is organized by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, producer of the **QS World University Rankings**, with awards given in **16 different categories**, such as E-learning, Sustainability Education, and Artificial Intelligence.

<https://twitter.com/ReimagineHEdu/status/1471071953222053893>

Gold for Education 4.0 Platform

Arturo Molina and **Jhonatthan Miranda** headed the “*Education 4.0 Platform to Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship for All*” project, which won **first place** in the “**Nurturing Employability**” category.

Molina is Vice-Rector for Research and Technology Transfer at Tec de Monterrey’s Mexico City Region, and Miranda is a postdoctoral researcher in Mexico City.

*“It’s a category that promotes **employability**. We participated with an **initiative** developed by research professors from 2 groups.*

*“The project is a **portfolio of programs** in different formats: hybrid, face-to-face, and distance,” explains Miranda.*

This **teaching and learning program** seeks to be a **guide to promoting entrepreneurship and innovation** through education, using technology such as **hologram professors, immersive classrooms, and virtual and augmented reality**.

Miranda explains that the platform is based on **3 pillars**: the first being the **methodology for designing educational products** such as courses or learning programs.

The **second** is a **portfolio** of the **courses** they’ve launched, such as **massive open online courses (MOOCs)** on Coursera, **distance learning classes, bootcamps, and workshops**.

The **third pillar** is that of **collaboration**, in which **agencies, companies, government, and universities** are invited to participate in order to enrich the process and adapt it to each area and region.

*“If we learn those **skills**, if we know what these trends are and we can **provide environments**, then we can propose **courses** where **students** receive **excellent experiences**.”*

*“We start from the idea that we’re providing **methodology** and **tools** that everyone can **apply to their own needs**,” said Miranda.*

<https://twitter.com/jhon4ttan/status/1469749842721320962>

Silver for remote, cyber-physical, and virtual laboratories project

Manuel Macías García headed the “*Remote, Cyber-Physical and Virtual Platforms for Engineering Training*” project in the **E-learning** category.

Macías, an Engineering professor at the **Monterrey campus**, explains that his project contemplates work carried out over **15 years** in the field of **virtual, remote, and cyber-physical laboratories**.

*“We put **3 technologies** into the project. **Remote laboratories** have physical equipment residing in one place which isn’t **accessed** in person, but **via the Internet**,” says Macías.*

On the other hand, he explains that **virtual labs** are **comprehensive simulations** of laboratories which include controls, equipment, and other aspects usually found in physical labs.

The **third type of laboratory**, Macías says, is a **mixture** of both. They contain elements of **physical laboratories** that students can manipulate and **virtual aspects** that would be impossible to have physically, such as elevators.

*“Elevators don’t fit, they’d be expensive. Before, we used to tell students to imagine the process, but now, we simulate an elevator on the computer. Part of the real and **virtual components** are mixed,”* says Macías.

These **laboratories** have been deployed at [Tec de Monterrey](#) and [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#) on various campuses through an initiative called **Lab@Home**, as a result of the pandemic and temporary suspension of activities.

*“It was **hugely satisfying**. We’d received a certain amount of recognition. This **global recognition** from **QS** is very **important** and is the icing on the cake,”* adds the professor.



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Bronze for an immersive entrepreneurial ecosystem

Professors [Ján Rehák](#) and [Romain Pouzou](#), from the Querétaro campus, headed the *“Transversal Entrepreneurship through Comprehensive and Immersive Experiences”* project, which

won them **bronze** in the **Management Education** category.

This project seeks to move from traditional **entrepreneurship class experiences** to **immersive experiences** based on **challenges** with **external partners** and **specialized mentors** in various **spaces** (bootcamps and hackathons).

*“We realized that **entrepreneurship classes** are often **generalized**. There’s a lack of **technical experts** in fields students want to start out in, and in class, they follow a **linear process** that in **actual fact isn’t like that** at times,” says Pouzou.*

Their project encompasses **4 immersive challenge-based experiences**: **“DigiEduHack”**, involving **53 universities** from **33 countries**, and **“ActInSpace”**, involving **6 universities** in Mexico.

There’s also **“Global Entrepreneurship Summer School”**, with **45 universities** from around the world, and a **Social Entrepreneurship Bootcamp** held internally that has impacted more than **2,200 students**.

*“Our **portfolio** includes these **immersive experiences**. It’s been interesting to see in some of the **projects**, where we measure the **percentage of entrepreneurship**, more than **80%** (of students) **continue to be entrepreneurs**.”*

*“The **first win** is when you’re selected as a **finalist**. We were extremely satisfied with that, but we’ve been very **pleased** because it’s important and it’s a national **validation** for (the Tec’s) **Business School**,” says Reháč.*



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The 2021 QS Reimagine Education Awards

This **recognition** is awarded by international ranking organization **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, in charge of publishing the **QS World University Rankings**, one of the lists of the best universities in the world.

The most **outstanding educational projects** at an international level were recognized by the **2021 awards**, which were held at the end of the year.

These awards are given to projects that achieve **outstanding standards of innovation, scalability, efficiency, and originality**.

This year, projects participated in one of **16 categories** organized **thematically**, as well as in **global** and **regional categories** and by **subject area**.

The 3 **Tec projects** to obtain **gold, silver, and bronze** were chosen from a list of **finalists** in their categories, to later be ranked in the **first 3 places**, respectively.

1,472 educational projects from **72 countries** participated in the 2021 awards, with the winners of the global award receiving funding of **50,000 dollars**.

*“The value (of the award) is the **prestige**. For the institution to receive an **award** from **QS at an international level** is especially valuable, I think.*

*“It also **motivates** us a lot as **teachers** and tells us we’re on the **right track**,” said Jhonattan Miranda.*



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