

Tec students recognized at global social impact competition



[Tec de Monterrey](#) students have been recognized at the [Universitas 21](#) consortium's **RISE (Real Impact on Society and Environment)** awards for their project to tackle the **education gap** caused by the pandemic in **middle schools and high schools**.

The **ADUX initiative**, with its **Vamos Alto (Let's Aim High)** project, received the award for the **initiative with Most Impact**, one of the competition's categories. This is the **second year** students from the institution have won this award.

The **core team** is made up of three students from the [Leaders of Tomorrow](#) program, which consists of young people who have received full scholarships to study at the Tec due to their **academic talent and social leadership**.

"It's a *youth-to-youth mentoring model*," said Eréndira Rodríguez, general coordinator of the initiative.

For its **400 current students**, the project combines education with a **personalized assistance program** in which mentors and collaborators work together, explained **Andrea Ortiz**, Quality Management coordinator.

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The aim of Vamos Alto: closing the education gap.

The initiative, with **cognitive and socio-emotional approaches**, is a hybrid program for students from the **third year of middle school** to the **sixth semester of high school**.

Tutoring is given in **English, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology**, and **support** is provided through emotional intelligence **workshops**, training sessions, and motivation and organization strategies.

The team explained that **there are designated hours from Monday to Friday to provide tutoring and guidance** to students. **On Saturdays**, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **they attend specific activities** related to what they've seen in class during the week.

The **core team** is made up of **three Leaders of Tomorrow students**:

- *Eréndira Rodríguez,*
- *Andrea Mercedes Ortiz, and*
- *Pedro Pablo Ortiz.*

Assisting the team is Luis Ángel Cárdenas, who **is part of the Zaber Foundation**, an initiative providing **full scholarships for higher education at the institution**.

*"In addition to the project **providing academic assistance**, we also seek to provide personal **assistance**,"* Ortiz explained.

Talleres educativos del proyecto Vamos Alto width="900" loading="lazy">

*"Our **goal is to make a connection between the private, public, and social sectors**,"* added the general coordinator.

The **initiative**, whose planning began in July 2021, **was implemented in the municipality of Apodaca, Nuevo León**, in October of that same year.

The municipal mayor's office provides operational support with transportation for Tec students from outside the area who make up part of the group of volunteers and with facilities for in-person classes.

Support model and digital platforms for learning

The project's basic program **is divided into two groups: mentors and collaborators**. The team members explain that each person carries out specific actions for student development.

Collaborators are in charge of **conducting field studies** to generate **strategies** for strengthening student-mentor relationships, Ortiz explained.

“They support us a great deal in helping us with this personal side that isn’t seen in educational institutions because we generally only see the academic side,” added the Quality Management coordinator.

For their part, mentors are responsible for **teaching the designated subject, checking student attendance, and assigning tasks**, explained Luis Ángel Cárdenas, Talent coordinator.

“We try to ensure that the contents match, and we create the content per grade level.”

*“We check **specific profiles for proactivity, a helpful attitude, and that our mentors have full scholarships at the Tec,**”* added the general coordinator.

As part of the **learning strategies**, they match up the curriculum from the **Ministry of Public Education** with content on platforms such as [Khan Academy](#) and **Curso de Inglés** (English Course).

“We try to ensure that the contents match, and we create the content per grade level,” explained Pedro Ortiz, academic coordinator.

In order to **apply what students have learned** in the area of science, they do **experiments, activities on Kahoot!, and rallies**, added the Talent coordinator. **English content is based on the Cambridge program** and covers a basic level of the language.

*“During the week, students work independently on these **digital platforms**, according to the topics seen and the tasks assigned,”* said Cárdenas.

Equipo Vamos Alto width="900" loading="lazy">

RISE award for social projects

RISE is an **international competition from Universitas 21** that is **designed to accelerate the scale and impact** of student-led projects with the **aim of connecting them** with experts from **academia and industry**.

The **university has to nominate a project** in order for it to take part in the competition. A maximum of four projects are chosen, explained Rodríguez.

What’s more, the team explained that **the prize includes promotion** for the social initiative **through the resources** of companies or academics.

*“They provide you this **support within their network of universities** and you, as a project, **are responsible for maintaining the connection,**”* explained the general coordinator of the project.

The prize includes a **2,000-dollar cash incentive**, which will be used to **develop a digital platform** for **Vamos Alto**.

*“We want to develop a **free-access, intuitive platform** where we can store all the content,”* concluded Rodríguez.

U21 is a global network of **28 leading universities** from 18 countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Africa that feature **intensive research, educational innovation, and student mobility**.

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