Tec and University of Texas at San Antonio agree to boost cooperation

Tecnológico de Monterrey has received a visit from the **University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)** in order to seek further collaboration in areas such as cybersecurity and international mobility.

The **delegation** from **UTSA** met with Tec executives headed by **David Garza**, Rector and Executive President of the institution, as well as initiative directors, vice presidents, and deans from the different schools.

These meetings were held in order to learn about the work that both **universities** have been doing in the areas of **data science**, health, innovation, research, and **mobility**, to name but a few, as well as to seek further **partnerships** in these sectors.

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"We're looking to extend previous agreements in the areas of cybersecurity and student mobility, as well as additional agreements that broaden our existing collaboration on energy, artificial intelligence, and data science," said **Carlos Lugo**, **International Relations Manager** at the Tec.

"We've now added health and logistics, as well as innovation district development," he added.

According to Lugo, the **leadership** of **Tec de Monterrey** and **work** on core issues by **UTSA** have paved the way for consolidating a **regional partnership** between both universities.

"For the Tec, an association with UTSA means stronger connections with their more extensive academic and research ecosystem in San Antonio." - Carlos Lugo

Committed to innovation synergy

During the meetings, each university learned about the main **areas of innovation** the other is working on.

"Just as you're building an innovation district here in Monterrey, we're doing the same in San Antonio," said **Jaclyn Shaw**, Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development at UTSA.

"You might be a little further along in planning, but I think we have a lot of the same aspirations and ambitions," she added.

The **UTSA delegation** said that their regional *"TX-STARS"* technological innovation **consortium** seems to fit with the innovation **initiatives** of the **Tec** and the **DistritoTec** program, an urban regeneration initiative.

According to **Lugo**, the Tec is interested in **collaborating** with **UTSA** in the areas of **data science** and **cybersecurity**.

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In the areas of artificial intelligence (AI) and data science, they are looking to connect the Tec's **School of Engineering and Sciences** and its **Artificial Intelligence Hub** with UTSA's *"MATRIX AI Consortium."*

According to Lugo, the aim is to jointly seek **scientific excellence** in AI **research** and develop holistic **solutions** that foster **human wellbeing**.

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What's more, he mentioned the **efforts** that both **universities** could make in other areas of **innovation**.

"We can build synergies in artificial intelligence, data science and analysis, genetics, obesity and diabetes, immunology, precision therapies, energy, and other such areas of importance for the future of North America," he added.

Other **agreements** that were **prioritized** were:

- Working on **mitigating climate change**, especially in water sustainability
- Collaborating on **technological innovation** for markets, entrepreneurship, and supply chains
- Working on **advanced manufacturing**: designing safety into algorithms and energy efficiency in all sectors.
- Seeking **tools for responding to pandemics**
- Signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for exchanging information

Seeking academic collaboration

Both universities agreed that **collaboration** could help them reach higher **levels** of **faculty** and student **mobility**.

According to **Lugo**, consolidating the **academic** component is essential to their partnership as a key factor for stronger and more productive **bonds**.

"For the Tec, an association with UTSA means stronger connections with their more extensive academic and research ecosystem in San Antonio, as we forge bonds together with the Southwest Research Institute and the Texas Biomedical Research Institute," he said.

The main **agreements** they reached on **academic topics** included identifying **training partners** in Texas and UTSA for students on the **[Tec21](#)** program, as well as **extending** agreements on **student mobility**.

The **Tec21 Educational Model** is based on challenge-based learning with flexibility, inspiring professors, and a memorable student experience.

/> width="900" loading="lazy">   **About UTSA**

The **University of Texas at San Antonio** is focused on the **success** of its **students** and excellence in its **research**.

UTSA has set up four **transdisciplinary consortiums** and **institutes** that reflect its priority niches so that they can be of international importance, these being:

- *Artificial intelligence and information technology*
- *Cybersecurity and energy*
- *Public health*
- *Health sciences*

UTSA is also executing a **2018-28 strategic plan** with **three pillars**: applied research; innovation excellence; and social mobility and inclusion.

The university includes the National Security Collaboration Center, the School of Data Science, and the Cybersecurity Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

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