

Inspiring Women! 2024 Mujer Tec Award ceremony



Outstanding **women** in various fields such as leadership, innovation, and social impact were recognized with the **2024 Mujer Tec Award** in a ceremony held in the **Main Hall of the Rector's Building**.

In this edition, **18 awards were presented in 11 categories**, and a **tribute** was paid to **Lumi Velázquez**, the founder of this award together with her students, who passed away last year.

Inés Sáenz, the Tec's **Vice President for Inclusion, Social Impact, and Sustainability**, recognized the winners of this award, now in its 12th year.

*"This edition's winners are **remarkable women**. I've had the good fortune to talk with some of them. Their energy is contagious, and their projects confirm **Lumi Velázquez's wisdom in creating this space**.*

*"Those of us who are part of this community know that things happen here that change us and ultimately transform our environment. **Visibility is a necessary action to ensure conditions of equality**," she explained.*



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The legacy of its founder

[David Garza](#), Rector and Executive President of the Tec, spoke about the legacy left by **Mujer Tec Award's** creator, Lumi Velázquez.

*“This act of recognition, in which we give **visibility to the trajectory and talent of women**, is the legacy of Lumi (Velázquez).*

*“We see this award as something that **opens spaces for dialogue and reflection** and calls for action for more inclusive environments.”*

*“This act of recognition, in which we give **visibility to the trajectory and talent of women**, is the legacy of Lumi (Velázquez).” - David Garza.*

The following are excerpts from the comments given by the winners upon receiving their awards:

Special Lumi Velázquez pioneer category

- Irma de la Torre Lozano, first female General Director of the Querétaro campus

This chemical engineer was the **first female General Director** of the Querétaro campus from 2001 to 2007, the **first woman in this management position**.

*“I break molds. 23 years ago, I was the first female campus director at Tec de Monterrey. Believe in your ideas, in your power, in the value of **empowered women**.”*



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#She4She category - Natalia Rodríguez Payan, promoter of gender equality in surgery

For two consecutive years, she chaired the student group *Women Interested in Surgical Education (WISE)*, where she organized and coordinated talks, training sessions, research, and mentoring to **promote gender equality** in the field of **medical surgery**.

“We’ve historically faced stereotypes that question our capabilities, and medicine hasn’t been exempt from this. I decided to actively become engaged, find answers, and strengthen networks.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECMx/status/1767631793333633090>

- Team Pink Hawks 6606, empowering with robotics

It is the **first robotics team of Mexican girls**, from the **Tecmilenio Toluca high school**, in the international **FIRST Robotics Competition**.

This **global robotics tournament**, with regional phases in more than 30 countries, is aimed at students between 14 and 18 years of age.

*"We're the first and only 100 percent female Mexican team to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition, and we're working to close the gender gap in **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).*

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767632550887866606>

- María Yolanda Burgos, STEM mentoring for women

The Director of the Innovation and Development Engineering Program at Tec de Monterrey has **designed and implemented mentoring programs** in collaboration with companies such as **Pepsico, Corning, and Sintec**, and soon with **Schlumberger**.

*"The mentoring programs I participate in are a space conducive to **sharing knowledge and experiences** and creating bridges for more girls to get to know the STEM world."*

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767633062399971388>

Art and Cultural Management category - Xi Chen, promotion of Mexican and Latin American art

The [EGADE Business School](#) student at the Santa Fe campus has created the portfolio *That's How I Talk to Myself*, with **paintings that immortalize Mexican and Latin American art** in two languages: **Chinese and Spanish**.

"My aspiration is to be an intermediary to communicate culture. I published my art book in Spanish and Chinese, in which I tell the story of a woman's career growth in a man's world."

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767633662365851868>

- Janeth Aguirre Elizondo, promoting women's participation in the film industry

She has produced and managed several **film projects** supported by the Nuevo León Council for Culture and the Arts (**CONARTE**) and the Mexican Institute of Cinematography (**IMCINE**).

“My constant work revolves around transformation until parity in Mexican cinema becomes the norm.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767633948572516770>

Citizenship with a gender perspective category - Dorely Medina Leal, empowering indigenous women

Her initiative, Infancia con raíces (Childhood with roots), seeks to **empower indigenous communities** and defend women’s rights.

“This award isn’t only for me; it’s for my mother, my grandmother, my great-grandmother, and my ancestors, powerful women who dared to make history. I’m a woman, and it’s my duty to continue the fight to show that women are brave, capable, and valuable.”



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- Karina González Carrillo, providing tools and knowledge to women

She organizes forums and fairs that offer **tools for empowerment and raising awareness on gender violence**.

"I feel inspired and committed to the girls and women who represent more than half of the people with disabilities in Mexico. Without women and girls, our society doesn't work."



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Sports and Sports Management category - Arely Montserrat Pérez García, pioneering American Football coach in Mexico

She is the **first Mexican coach** to be part of the American Football Coaches Association (A.F.C.A.), as well as a speaker for the empowerment of women in sports.

"I'm a Tec woman dedicated in mind, spirit, and soul to my greatest passion: American football. I'm stepping into a field that wasn't designed for women and girls to step into."

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767636246560485863>

- Laura Patricia Garza Rendón, aquatic rehabilitation with a social approach

She is the founder of the Aquatic Training Center, where she organizes the Worldwide Aquathon Day event: an **aquatic marathon dedicated to supporting social causes**.

“Our initiative embraces all women. It’s a space where the past gives way to the power of the present, where pain becomes possibility. We’ve impacted more than a thousand people with this program.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767636502685659610>

Entrepreneurship category - Gabriela Angelina Bernal Ibáñez, sustainable construction

She is the founder of Gama Construction, a world-leading startup in **sustainable transition and innovation in construction**.

*“I’m one of those women who dares to **challenge the status quo**. Everything has been possible with the support of friends, teachers, family, and my parents.”*

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767637070699196910>

- Rocío Garza Gutiérrez, education and inclusion of the deaf in Mexico

She is the co-founder and Director of **Dilo en señas** (Say It in Sign), a Civil Association founded in 2015 with the purpose of facilitating the education and comprehensive inclusion of deaf people in Mexico.

“Having experienced work inclusion, I realized that deaf people experience exclusion, so we created innovative solutions and fun and inclusive educational experiences.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767637397611630945>

Environment category

- Juana Isabel Méndez Garduño, research and promotion of sustainable practices

She won first place in the *Doctoral Research Pitch* at the 2023 Tec Science Summit for her work in **reducing the carbon footprint** and promoting sustainable practices. She is also a pioneer in promoting Smart Cities and smart communities.

*“Only 25% of employees in the energy sector are women. We need to try to increase that percentage and **close the gap**. I hope to generate solutions through education.”*

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767637976073244758>

- Fabiola Doracely Yépez Rincón, climate change mitigation and adaptation

She is a distinguished leader in EOTEC DevNet COP America, where **she promotes products that help countries address climate change**.

“Climate change is the biggest challenge we face. The disasters it causes are a problem that we need to address with technology to generate the knowledge needed to help governments find solutions.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767638400444625334>

Science category

- Marilena Antunes Ricardo, research in biotechnology

She stands out for her work as a researcher in the area of biotechnology. She has published more than **70 scientific articles in top high impact factor journals** such as *Scopus* Q1/Q2.

“There’s still a long way to go. In the area of science, only 38 percent of students are women. If we’re looking for equity, the way to that is to take leadership roles.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767638996950175918>

Wellness and Health category - Rosalinda Ballesteros Valdés, promoting wellness and happiness

She is the **Director of Tecmilenio’s Institute of Wellbeing and Happiness Sciences** and Wellbeing 360, an event recognized as the most important worldwide in the field of wellbeing.

*“Through this **award**, I would like to recognize all women who despite the biases, the gender gap, and the extra burden are forging a career and generating impact not only for other women but for the world at large.”*

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767639952756486598>

Transforming Power category

- Gabriela Gerón Piñón, one of the 100 most influential women leaders in the world

She stands out for her **creation of virtual mobility programs and** research opportunities in the Hemispheric University Consortium (HUC), benefiting more than 7,000 students.

“I would like this to be an inspiration for other institutions. I work on projects in which I support women entrepreneurs so they have more opportunities in STEM.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767640461357756863>

Special Lifetime Achievement category

- María Belén Mendé Fernández, creation of educational companies

She is distinguished for more than 20 years of **creating and developing institutions and** companies in the field of education.

“We can’t conceive of a world without equity. There’s no democracy, economy, life, or humanity without women, hence our sense of urgency.”

<https://twitter.com/ConectaTECmx/status/1767641412055568557>

The Mujer Tec Award

The Mujer Tec Award was created **12 years ago** by professor **Luz María Velázquez** as an **academic project** at the Monterrey campus.

The professor of Ethics and Gender Equity at the **School of Humanities and Education** started this initiative as an **exercise in self and collective recognition** of the **actions of women** within the **university community**.

The award ceremony was held on **March 12, 2024** in the Main Hall of the Rector’s Building on the **Monterrey campus** as part of **International Women’s Day**.

The winning women received the *Muliere Amet* (Latin for “Defiant Woman”) award, inspired by the sculpture *Fearless Girl*, which reminds us of the importance of gender equality, by artist Kristen

Visbal.

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