

Tec students win second place at NASA space design competition



Students from the **School of Engineering** at the [Tec's Cuernavaca Campus](#) have won **Overall Winner** second place and the **STEM Engagement Award** at NASA's 2021 [Human Exploration Rover Challenge](#).

Taking part in its **ninth year**, the team **came in second out of the top three places in the competition** for the university division, in a [virtual ceremony](#) held on April 16.

This prize is awarded to the **top three teams**, based on an overall evaluation for the 9 categories of the competition, which include: **design and manufacture of the vehicle (rover), educational initiatives, safety, and successful excursion**, among others.

"This year, the team decided that the pandemic wouldn't stop us, and it was the best time to get to being among the top three teams in the competition," shares engineer *David García*, team mentor and engineering professor at the *Tec's Cuernavaca campus*.

Since **2013**, the **Tec's Cuernavaca Campus** has taken part in this **international competition**, organized by **NASA**, which consists of **designing and manufacturing a vehicle (rover)** that **simulates transportation on future missions** to other planets, asteroids, and moons.

<https://www.facebook.com/TECCampusCVA/photos/a.377764792250483/5159390460754535/>

They also obtained the **STEM Engagement award** for their participation in the **dissemination of science and technology (STEM)** to children from **Mexico, the Philippines, and Malaysia**.

“Receiving this award meant a lot to us. We all contributed something from each of our areas, and our passion managed to inspire many children to continue getting involved in STEM areas,” the team shares with CONECTA.

*“We **faced many obstacles**, but the team’s effort and commitment overcame all of them, and we managed to cause an impact on so many people,”* shares Abraham Vega, a student and team member.

This award is presented to the team that **carried out several activities** in front of different audiences, **reached a lot of people**, and **managed to inspire children from their community in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**.

“The pandemic offered multiple opportunities to be able to reach places, communities, and institutions that we wouldn’t have been able to before,” explains Javier Montiel, project mentor and Tec graduate.

The challenge to encourage research

[NASA’s Human Exploration Rover Challenge](#) is one of **seven [Artemis Student Challenges](#)** and the space agency’s **only competition to accept international teams**.

It aims to **encourage research and development of new technology** for planning **future crewed space missions to other planets**.

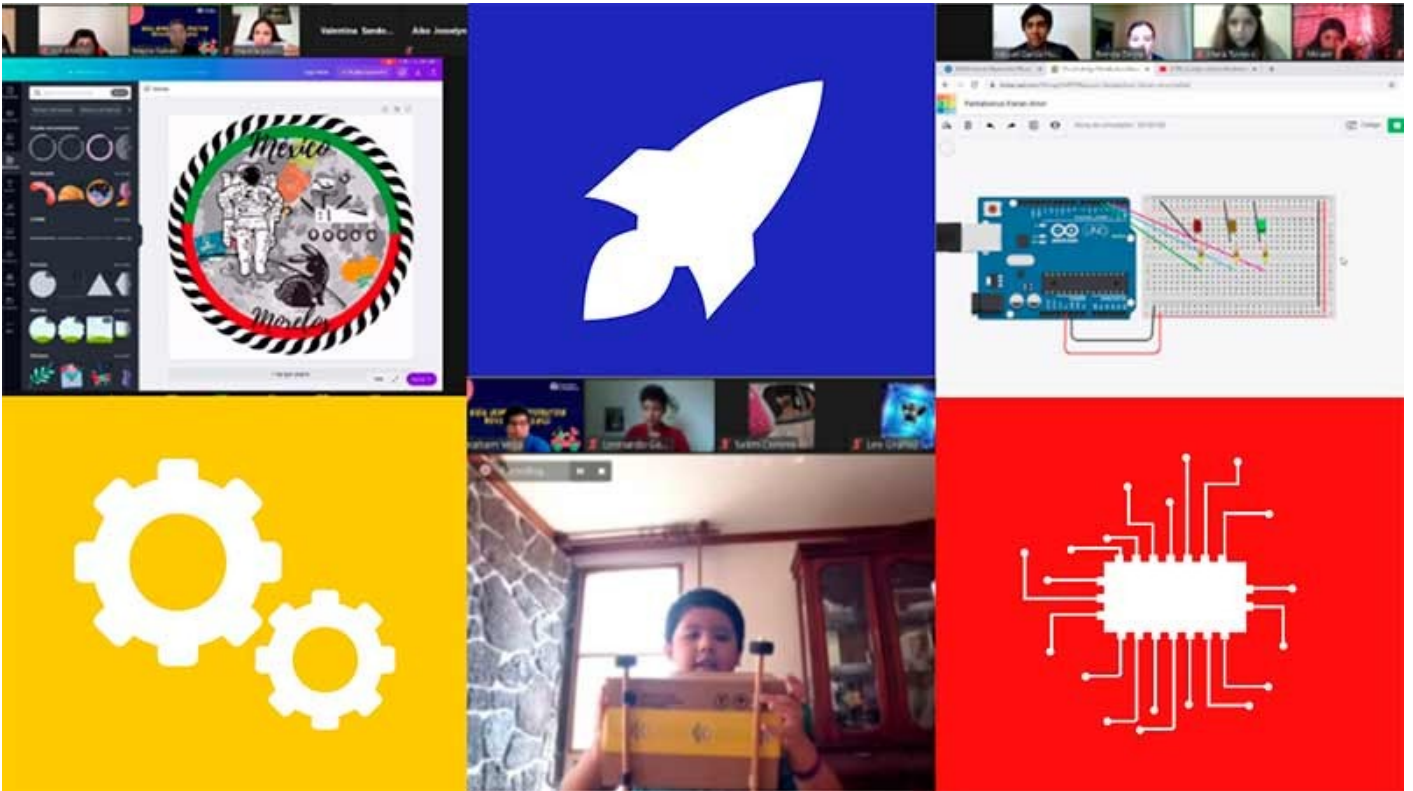
The **challenge** is to get the **rover to negotiate an obstacle course and accomplish the mission of collecting** liquid and solid **samples** from extraterrestrial terrain.

Participation by the **Tec’s Cuernavaca Campus** in the competition has been outstanding in recent years, and it’s positioned itself as one of **the top international teams**.

Since 2020, the event has been held virtually because of the **Covid-19 pandemic**, owing to the **cancellation of on-site activities** at **[NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center](#)** in Huntsville, Alabama.

*“**These awards are the product of the passion and effort of each team member,**”* shared team leader Brenda Zárate with CONECTA.

“We all put our hearts and souls into this journey, and we managed to cross virtual borders, inspiring communities throughout our country and around the world,” she added.



width="800" loading="lazy"> **Further recognition for the Tec's Cuernavaca Campus**

Participation from the Tec's Cuernavaca Campus has become an **uninterrupted tradition since 2013.**

Over 9 years, they've obtained the following awards:

- Overall Winner (2nd place) (2021)
- STEM Engagement Award (2021)
- AIAA Telemetry/Electronics Award (2014, 2016, and 2020)
- "Jesco von Puttkamer International Team Award" ([2016](#), 2017, and 2019)
- "Frank Joe Sexton Memorial Pit Crew Award" (2017)
- "Team Spirit Award" (2018)

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