



## Mexican climate activist and Tec professor rewarded for her work

Professor **Odile Cortés**, operational director and founder of **IntegraRSE** and professor at [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#), has received **The Climate Reality Project's Green Ring Award** from American politician, economist, and philanthropist Al Gore, a distinction given for her career in sustainability and the environment.

According to the professor, **the award was presented at The Climate Reality Project's Virtual Latin America Training**, an online event for activists to learn about the environmental crisis and how they can help build an inclusive and equitable movement for climate action.

Odile shared that **this initiative came about when Vice President Al Gore lost the election** and made the film, *'An Inconvenient Truth'*, which talks precisely about climate change and the impact it has, and above all about what humans generate.

*"After that, this movement, which is an organization, was born. In 2013, I decided to train in Chicago, with the aim of going out and raising awareness about the importance of combating climate change and the actions we can take,"* she said.



This award was created five years ago to recognize the work of leaders who've been trained and who **are doing things to support sustainability.**

***"I was very surprised to receive the award. I've been a mentor for several years, accompanying leaders in their training to help them put together a united front against climate change. This year, I had the honor of being selected.***

***"The award means a lot to me, because it's not one of those things you apply for and win a prize, but rather they're recognizing what I'm doing, because obviously I've remained active and close to the movement. We're constantly seeing that we can grow together,"*** she said.

## **Her career at the Tec**

**When she began her career at the Tec, Odile started on the training program. From then on, she's observed the evolution of the topic within her subject areas, from**

mainstreaming to talking about sustainability, social responsibility, and climate change throughout all courses.

*“The Tec has always kept me very up-to-date, not only because they train us in many topics related to the issue of sustainability, **but also due to having contact with young people.***

*“In the end, young people are the ones who’ve changed their mindset on taking care of the environment because they’re more aware of it. **It’s really helped me to be able to convey this to other generations, companies, and the other areas I work in,**” she said.*



## **Making individual changes that have a collective impact**

For Odile, this recognition is focused on her day-to-day work.

*“I already said it when I received the award, I work on an individual level, because sometimes I think we lose focus of the fact that it’s **not only large companies that should change their policies, but individuals should be more demanding.***

*“The Tec gives me the opportunity to create conscientious citizens, and that’s part of the recognition, **the ability to make changes in individuals who have an impact on the collective,**” she said.*



Finally, the award-winning professor shared that she’ll start giving a **class solely on climate change** and its aspects for the new Tec21 model.

*“I think we’re already beginning to understand that **it’s not an additional topic, it’s a vital and central issue** on which every other course should be built,” she concluded.*

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