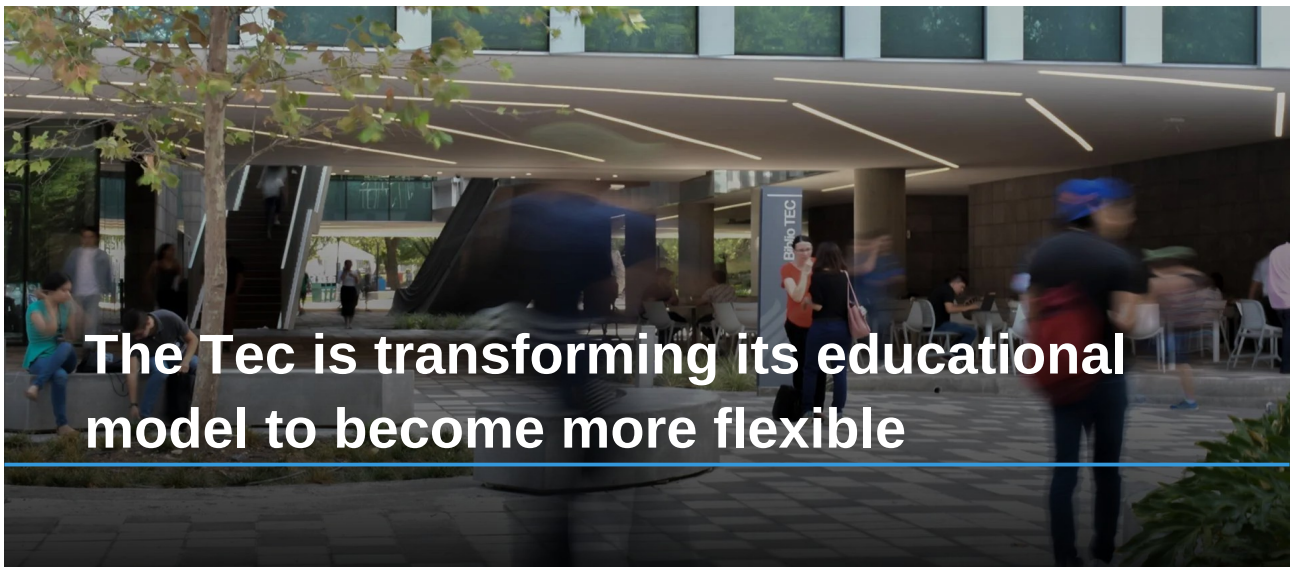

The Tec is transforming its educational model to become more flexible

In one of the **most significant changes since it was founded 75 years ago, Tec de Monterrey is almost completely transforming its teaching model.**

As of the 2019-2020 academic year, it will begin to **fully implement the so-called TEC21 Educational Model.**

This includes **challenge-based learning, flexibility** in the manner of learning, encouraging a **memorable university experience**, and **inspiring teachers.**

A NEW TEACHING MODEL

“We realized that 21st-century students were coming to universities [...] with centuries-old models,” explained **Rector David Garza** to CONECTA.

Among other things, **this refers to** a model in which **students mainly just sat down and listened to their professor**.

The **new educational model**, by contrast, **pushes for learning with more practical challenges, which combines theory with the development of skills**.

It will commence in all degree programs and semesters in 2019, although it has already been partially implemented **over the past four years.**

“We realized that 21st-century students were coming to universities [...] with centuries-old models.”

“What’s interesting about the new model is that more than 50 percent of student learning occurs outside the classroom with challenges,” said Garza.

He added that it’s a **flexible model** which allows students **to explore areas** and take **different kinds of classes and specialization routes.**

What’s more, it strives to maintain **expert and inspiring professors**, together with an **integrated and memorable university experience for students.**

"More than 50 percent of student learning occurs outside the classroom with challenges." David Garza

TEACHING WITH REAL CHALLENGES

One of the goals of the new **TEC21 Educational Model** is for **young people to liberate and develop their potential to a greater extent so as to transform their environment** in the face of **21st-century challenges.**

*"Our current students are going to graduate in 4 or 5 years and may work in companies or organizations that don't yet exist***,"** said Garza.

With **challenge-based learning,** we want **students to acquire** much **more experience** with tests like those **they'll face outside the university.**

"The challenges that have been designed by professors are problems linked to an organization or a problem in the community, in which students put their knowledge into practice or develop new solutions," explained Garza.

"Our current students are going to graduate in 4 or 5 years and they're going to... solve problems that we haven't yet identified as such."

Currently, **the model is already on courses,** with **exercises such as the iSemester** (optional) **or iWeek** (one per semester), in which students solve challenges.

Challenges are taken under the guidance of professors and in **coordination with a training partner**, which could be an **NGO, company, government agency,** etc.

Román Martínez, Vice Rector for Educational Transformation, explained that the model's gradual implementation has been a success and **it is now ready to be applied at all campuses and in all semesters.**

"There are already exercises (surveys) telling us that the kids who take part in iSemesters learn more or better than those in a normal semester," he told **CONECTA.**

A FLEXIBLE MODEL

In the **new educational model, flexibility is also a crucial element.**

TEC21 reinforces options for **taking classes at different locations in the country or abroad** and in different **face-to-face and distance contexts.**

What's more, **changing from one degree program to another** in the same area and **exploring the knowledge and challenges from other degree programs** has become **more natural.**

"There are few entrances and many exits," said Rector **Garza.** *"There's one doorway for Business, another one for Engineering, and another for Humanities...*

"You enter through that doorway and you'll be able to explore from the first semesters...

"Then, you can decide and take the rest of your degree program, as challenge-based learning experiences, and also specialize in that way."

AN INTEGRATED AND MEMORABLE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Besides the academic element, **the model contemplates** the **encouragement of integrated learning and a memorable university experience.**

An essential part of this element is the LiFE (Student Leadership and Education) program, which is designed to contribute to the development of **multidisciplinary skills** for all students.

Integrated learning with **LiFE** considers the **development** of students in **physical activity and sports, artistic, and leadership** areas, as well as their **nutritional, psychological, and emotional wellbeing.**

Life

PROFESSORS AND MENTORS

“The role of professors in the Tec21 Educational Model is essential to the performance of different functions aimed at accompanying students in the learning process and in skills development,” said the Tec in a presentation document.

Specialized professors, such as those the Tec has always been renowned for, who **adapt well to technology and state-of-the-art teaching methods** are key to this.

What’s more, the **model provides professors with a range of options** with new roles such as: **advisor, evaluator, mentor, challenge designer, and lecturer.**