

2nd day of CIIE 2023: Partnerships, new technologies, and social perspective will be key to the education of the future in a changing world

- ***Growth mindset, skill set, and tool set are essential elements for tackling the new “abnormal” in education and work: Gary Bolles.***
- ***Universities must undergo revolutionary transformation due to the new normal of exponential change: Ignacio de la Vega, in the panel “Do Universities Need to Change?”***

Monterrey, Nuevo León, on January 17, 2023.- On the second day of the **International Conference on Educational Innovation (CIIE) 2023, organized by the Institute for the Future of Education at Tecnológico de Monterrey**, essential topics were discussed for the present and future of education, such as the exponential change present in the new normal, how universities must transform themselves to adapt to this alteration, and how collaboration and new technologies have benefited higher education institutions to support students and society at large.

The first speaker, **Gary Bolles**, author of *The Next Rules of Work*, Chair of the Future of Work at Singularity University, and Partner at Charrette LLC, gave the **keynote speech “The Future of Learning at Work in an Exponential Tomorrow.”** He explained that the new “abnormal” created by the pandemic means we need to see learning and employment through fresh eyes, with a new mindset of growth. Acquiring this new mindset requires constant learning that is unwavering.

We also need to acquire new soft skills, including being problem solvers, adaptive, creative, and empathic. These are complemented by tools consisting of techniques and technologies (virtual reality and augmented reality). As transformers of education, universities have a mission to seek new paths to develop this mindset, skill set, and tool set in students so that they can deal with exponential change, and extend their scope to everyone to make a greater impact and become catalysts for change.

Next, the **keynote panel “The Role of Universities in the New Economy: Do Universities Need to Change?”** included Cheryl Regehr, Provost and Vice-President for the University of Toronto; Vincent J. Del Cansino, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at San José State University; and was moderated by Ignacio de la Vega, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Faculty and Internationalization at Tecnológico de Monterrey.

The speakers agreed that exponential change is the new normal and that universities have to undergo revolutionary transformation to deal with this changing world. According to Regehr, “we have to go back to our initial responsibilities, which are to serve society, support our students, and be a place that promotes debate and allows freedom of expression.” Del Cansino said that the challenge universities face lies in responding to exponential change and

finding students where they are, instructing teachers and society at large in digital literacy, being more inclusive, and constantly investing in new projects.

They highlighted the role of universities from a social perspective, supporting communities they have an impact on by helping local businesses and services such as housing and vaccination. Finally, both provosts presented their vision of an accessible university that is integrated into its community.

After that came the **keynote speech “Before and After: Innovating alongside Research Universities for Success Before and After Graduation,”** from **Kim A. Wilcox, Chancellor of the University of California, Riverside**, who explained the concept of “Lost Einsteins” as those people who could have been brilliant scientists but did not get there because they had no access to education. He stressed the need to commit to a culture of diversity, proposed the challenge to higher education of having students and faculty from diverse origins at universities, and listed the partnerships that his university has forged in order to broaden enrollment of Hispanic students and teachers.

In the **fireside chat “Sharing a Vision for Online Internationalization,”** **Rhonda L. Lenton, President and Vice-Chancellor of York University**, and **José Escamilla, Associate Director of the Institute for the Future of Education at Tec de Monterrey**, discussed two main themes: the advantages of online education and how this favors internationalization. Lenton said that in the case of her university, the online format had provided access to education for more people in remote places, such as refugees in Kenya. Now, the challenge lies in improving this type of learning.

She added that virtual internationalization maximizes impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it favors diversity, equity, and inclusion and encourages collaborating and co-designing projects. To do so, it is necessary to motivate faculty with investment in research projects, as well as forge partnerships between universities. Online internationalization and collaboration help to break down cultural barriers and create new ways of understanding, concluded the speakers.

The **keynote panel “Transforming Higher Education Systems to make them Relevant, Flexible, and Sustainable”** included Francesc Pedró, from UNESCO; Elena Arias, from the Inter-American Development Bank; Gonzalo Baroni Boces, from the Uruguay Ministry of Education and Culture; and was moderated by Michael Fung, Executive Director of the Institute for the Future of Education at Tec de Monterrey.

These speakers agreed that it is essential to train faculty and improve their capacities for utilizing technology and lifelong learning. It is also important to tackle the challenges facing higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean, which consist of making it accessible and egalitarian, improving hybrid education models, and promoting certifications and micro-credentials.

In addition to the talks mentioned, many other activities continued in parallel tracks during **CIIE 2023**, where knowledge and experiences were shared to forge the education of the future.

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About Tecnológico de Monterrey

Tecnológico de Monterrey (<http://www.tec.mx>) is a private, not-for-profit multi-campus university system. Since it was founded in 1943, it has stood out for its academic excellence, educational innovation, entrepreneurship, and global vision, as well as its outreach with industry and employers, and its proven track record. It has campuses in 28 Mexican cities; 67,000 undergraduate and graduate students and almost 7,000 professors; as well as more than 26,000 high school students and 2,500 professors at that level. The institution has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) since 1950. According to the QS World University Rankings (2023), it holds 170th place, ranked number 30 among the world's private universities; and number 1 in Latin America and 26th in the world in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings (2022). In the Times Higher Education Latin America University Rankings (2022), it holds first place in Mexico and fifth in Latin America; as well as being the only university outside the U.S. in the Top Schools for Entrepreneurship Ranking (2022) from Princeton Review and Entrepreneur, occupying 4th place in entrepreneurship programs at undergraduate level. It belongs to several networks with international prestige, such as the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), Universitas 21 (U21), and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).