

A NEW ERA BEGINS

NEWSLETTER #1 – DEC 1 2020



HI! WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Transforming Higher Education is a project that arises in response to the need to graduate professionals as agents of change, prepared to contribute to the challenges of the 21st century.

These challenges include the critical task of feeding the world, not only focused on food production but also from a nutritional perspective, while respecting the environment and human rights in the process.

The project seeks to advocate for university transformation by supporting and sharing innovative educational models - focused on student learning and that systematically incorporate experiential and active learning, entrepreneurship, community engagement and the education of values and ethics - and that are demonstrating a positive impact on the student learning environment and the students' capacity to think critically and proactively contribute to the challenges from the moment the students start their career.

We have created this newsletter with the intention of bringing to you the outstanding advances that these institutions are achieving for their graduates that will lead to the transformation of their communities and the lives of many people.

We'll meet every two months!

A NEW TRANSFORMATION HUB, CHECK OUT OUR BRAND-NEW WEBSITE

Also, to expand our communication channels and strengthen our alliances with different actors around the world, we are launching our new website, which will be available from December 4th, 2020 at www.transforminghigher.education.

The site features testimonials and experiences from our partners and pilot universities, evidencing the work we do to bring transformative change to universities and their communities through actively involving the university. In addition, it includes a knowledge exchange section, where presentations, documents, videos, webinars and other material of interest will be available for download.

We want to keep in touch with you, share useful material, and, above all, exchange information between our network of contacts and other institutions that want to join this process of creating positive change in the world.



BRINGING AGRICULTURE TO ITS ROOTS: THE AMAZING EXPERIENCE OF ITESCAM

The Calkiní Technological Institute of Higher Education is located in the Mayan indigenous influence zone in the state of Campeche, Mexico. It has 19 years of experience in training professionals, serving an approximate annual population of 1500 students. It currently offers nine academic programs, including Engineering in Sustainable Agricultural Innovation (IIAS).

Around 85% of the students in the IIAS are from rural communities, and some of them are even the first in their families to attend university.

The adoption of the principles of the Transforming Higher Education project in the educational model of the Sustainable Agricultural Innovation program has had important results after one year of implementation. These results can be divided into four areas: institutional, educational, student and community.

INSTITUTION



The enrollment of new students at IIAS has ranged between 20 and 22 students each cycle since its inception, however, on September 21 2020, when the new academic year began, there was a noticeable increase of 40% in the enrollment of first-time students. This is really important considering that IIAS is now being considered as the first choice of studies by these students.

The success of the Transforming Higher Education model applied at IIAS has been such, that other educational programs of the institute have been interested in replicating it, gradually integrating key components promoted by the project.

EDUCATION



It has been observed that the teacher's workload has decreased, as preparing the lessons in advance allows a more fluid interaction between the teacher and the student and offers the student a more amicable way of taking the course. On the other hand, the field work and community work have made it possible to address real and specific situations enhancing meaningful student learning.

STUDENTS



Working with communities and their families gave students the opportunity to apply a combination of theoretical knowledge acquired at the university to real world problems and complement it with ancestral knowledge and techniques learned from the community as used and transmitted from generation to generation, which allowed the recovery and strengthening of traditional knowledge that they denote as an empowerment of their culture.

COMMUNITY



Each of these achievements brings the students closer to the objective of improving sustainability in the development of social, economic and environmental well-being of the communities in the area of influence of the Yucatan Peninsula. For example, the promotion of self-production and self-consumption using agroecological techniques and producing their own organic vermicompost, together with the management and care of their orchards can improve the health conditions of the local populations.

We wish all of the best to TESCAM's Sustainable Agricultural Innovation team, students, and its (IIAS) educational program, committed to training professionals who are ethical leaders and agents of change.

We congratulate you for this incredible work!

CHECK OUR LATEST WEBINAR:

The webinar *Community Engagement in times of COVID 19: Is it Possible?*, was held on December 2nd, 2020. Visit our website to relive the conversation about community outreach in times of pandemic

CONNECT WITH OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY:

We have created our own Facebook groups to share and discuss important information and updates about our work related to the Elements of Success. Click on the links below and become a member!

[Experiential Learning Group](#)

[Entrepreneurial & Business Development Education Networking Group](#)

[University Engagement with the Communities](#)

Contact us



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