As the development bank that seeks to promote the sustainable development and well-being of the population, the multilateral supports an innovative program of the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC), which has already benefited 31 young women.

Honduras faces several challenges in education, lack of adequate infrastructure, limited use of technological devices and internet connectivity, among others, are some of those that contribute to deepen the gaps of inequality and inequity in access to quality education, which is reflected in figures such as literacy in the population that reaches 11.8% and that at least 310,000 students left the school system between 2021 and 2022 for various reasons such as violence, economic and family difficulties, teenage pregnancy, among others.

In the case of university education, only 17% of students enter tertiary education, which is below the region as a whole, where it reaches 25% according to UNESCO.

In this context, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), in an effort to create a region of opportunities is supporting initiatives in Honduras to reverse the aforementioned figures and stipulate the new generations. Thus, for the second consecutive year, it is supporting the development of the innovative project "CIPOT@S: Studying STEM" at the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC), which seeks to encourage Honduran students in the last year of public schools to study a university degree related to Science, Technological Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

This collaborative project, to which CABEI has contributed US$30,000, has benefited students from the departments of Francisco Morazán and Cortés in its 2021 and 2022 editions. Students participate in a virtual and face-to-face boot camp focused on developing competencies and skills in STEM areas, they are provided with a laptop, software and platforms, an artificially intelligent learning and evaluation system (ALEKS), internet service and a program with an artificial intelligence, modern, internet service and a program with an artificial intelligence, learning and evaluation system (ALDEIS).

All of this facilitates their preparation so that they can later enter their university careers, and the young women who achieve the best grades during training obtain full and partial scholarships provided by UNITEC to complete their studies.

"We want to motivate talented young women to train in areas that have historically been occupied by men, so that they can specialize and together we form a more equitable region. Their inclusion also enables the social and economic development of Honduras, so we are happy to be part of this educational project." CABEI Executive President Dr. Dante Mossi.

“Women are capable of anything, but we have to prepare ourselves because the world and opportunities are for the people who prepare. It’s all about not giving up and moving on, never let anyone tell you that you can’t.”

Francis Posadas

"We received a soft skills course and that motivated me because I could see that the instructors were women capable of many things and so I decided to take on a career in engineering" expressed Francis Posadas, one of the 31 young beneficiaries who is currently studying Computer Engineering at UNITEC with a 100% scholarship.

"I am grateful to the project because I am fulfilling my dreams and advancing in my personal development," says Helen Aruba Sorto.

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