



CABEI creates opportunities for young Honduran women by bringing them closer to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through the educational project "CIPOT@S: Studying STEM".

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 illiteracy 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 19% 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 specialize the new generations. Thus, for the second consecutive year, it is supporting the development of the innovative CIPOT@S Project: 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, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).



Helen Aruba Sorto, 19, was one of the first beneficiaries of CIPOT@S, and thanks to the scholarship she received, she is currently studying Industrial and Systems Engineering. "I am grateful to the project because I am fulfilling my dreams and advancing in my personal development," says Helen.

 [Click here to watch video](#)

This collaborative project, to which CABEI has contributed US\$30,000, has benefited 31 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, with software and platforms, a

modem, internet service and a program with an artificially intelligent learning and evaluation system (ALEKS).

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.**

Capable Women

The first edition of CIPOT@S: Studying STEM was held in 2021 and the second in 2022, both lasting 16 weeks each, during which time the participants were able to improve their knowledge and skills in mathematics and programming, in addition to strengthening their soft skills, such as leadership, planning, time management and teamwork.

"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.



Francis Posadas, 19, "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."

 [Click here to watch video](#)

Inclusion for a dignified life

CABEI, in light of the challenges that the global environment has imposed in recent years and the bridge that links the region with opportunities for sustainable development, growth and wellbeing, has a firm commitment to inclusive educational development, which is why it will continue to support and promote initiatives in Honduras that enable education with equal opportunities and gender equity, the eradication of poverty and the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting inclusive educational access.

