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BULLETIN

HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER FOR ETHICS, EQUITY AND TRANSPARENCY (CESEET)



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SUMMARY

This bulletin describes the main achievements and activities in the framework of the implementation of the Center for Higher Education for Ethics, Equity and Transparency (HECEET) in Paraguay during the second and third quarters of the third year of project execution.

The work focused on the implementation of programs, reforms, training, dissemination, and institutionalization of HECEET as an integral strategic unit of the UNA. Priority areas focused on:

- The continuity of work with TSE Ambassadors and the development of a Trainer's Manual to train Ambassadors to become trainers for the TSE Leadership program.
- The institutional commitment of the academic units of the UNA through the active involvement of its deans and academic leaders in the framework of the inclusion of Ethics, Equity and Transparency as cross-cutting values in the curricula of the undergraduate and graduate programs offered.
- Academic exchange between Rutgers University and UNA faculty and students through inter-institutional collaboration projects, bidirectional courses, and experimental visits.
- The development of audiovisual materials and dissemination of activities in traditional and digital media to share the impact of HECEET with the Paraguayan society and, in particular, with collaborators of the center that contribute to its sustainability.
- Promote research in the different levels of the UNA on issues related to ethics, equity, and transparency.

GLOBAL TRAINING IN ETHICS, EQUITY AND TRANSPARENCY

On February 7, 2022, the official launch of the compliance tool called "Global Training in Ethics, Equity and Transparency" was held, aimed at the educational community of the National University of Asuncion, an institution considered key in the development of Paraguay, to strengthen the knowledge and practices of ethical, equitable and transparent values in all the strata of the house of studies.

Initially, teachers and officials from the 14 faculties of the UNA will take the course, to later expand this opportunity to all students. This training is free of charge and will provide certification. To date, almost 800 people have effectively completed the program.

The training content is accessible through the Skillssoft distance learning platform, a world leader in corporate digital learning, which offers cloud-based learning solutions. It serves more than 160 countries and more than 45 million learners worldwide.

THE LEADING ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE PARAGUAYAN UNIVERSITY

On March 28, 2022, the second Virtual Institute for Young People was held, focused on "The Leading Role of Young People in Paraguayan Universities, from the perspective of ethics, equity and transparency". The objective of this initiative was to train students from different universities and cities of the country, to contribute to the human and social capital of Paraguay and invest in the development of leaders of Ethics, Equity and Transparency who are committed to and defend the Culture of Legality and the Rule of Law in Paraguay.

The 98 university students who participated in the event were protagonists in the process of building a new university model through workshops and discussions. This meeting counted with the active participation of Prof. Dr. Zully Vera de Molinas, Rector of the UNA, talking with the students about the challenge of the new university model and Dr. Andrea Picasso, general coordinator of the National Program of Postgraduate Scholarships Abroad "Don Carlos Antonio López" (BECAL), who presented the current training opportunities for young people.





RUTGERS UNIVERSITY DELEGATION VISITS UNA IN PARAGUAY

From April 18-21, 2022, representatives from Rutgers University visited Paraguay to strengthen institutional collaboration with the National University of Asuncion within the framework of the Higher Education Center for Ethics, Equity and Transparency; and to identify new opportunities for cooperation.

The Rutgers delegation was composed of the Dean of the School of Nursing, Dr. Donna M. Nicki-tas; the Director of the Center for Computational and Integrative Biology, Prof. Dr. Nir Yakoby; the Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Administration, Dr. Patrice Mareschal; the Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Administration, Dr. Patrice Mareschal; and the Director of the Center for Integrative and Computational Biology, Prof. Dr. Nir Yakoby. Patrice Mareschal; the Director of Academic Programs Abroad, Prof. Cal Maradona; the Coordinator of the Research Department, Dr. Jeannie Garmon; the Associate Director of the Center for Community Development, Mag. Wanda Garcia; and the Director of HECEET, Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago.

The Rutgers delegation met with the highest authorities of the 14 faculties of UNA and with Dr. Andrea Picasso, general coordinator of the BECAL program. After extensive days of meetings, dialogues and analysis, the following priority areas were defined to consolidate and expand the collaboration between Rutgers University and UNA:

Strengthening of faculty and graduate students: Rutgers offers a variety of graduate programs in different fields of knowledge. A Memorandum of Understanding between BECAL and Rutgers, to be signed in the coming months, will seek to facilitate access to graduate and doctoral programs for faculty and students from UNA and other universities.

Academic exchanges for professors and students: the aim is to foster collaboration between UNA and Rutgers professors and students through multidisciplinary cooperation projects, re-search, virtual and on-site training courses, and academic scholarships.

Academic research: the continuity of this effort may be financed both in Paraguay, through CONACYT resources, and through the institutional support of Rutgers University. UNA has 4 re-search centers that can be used as platforms to sustain the efforts initiated in this area: the Institute for Health Sciences Research (IICS), the Multidisciplinary Center for Technological Research (CEMIT), the National Computing Center (CNC) and the Center for Technology Transfer and Re-search Results (CETTRI).

Civic commitment to vulnerable communities: the aim is to promote inclusion and facilitate development opportunities for indigenous and Afro-Paraguayan communities within the framework of strengthening equity, one of HECEET's central pillars.

GRADUATION CEREMONY AND RECOGNITION OF EET LEADERS

On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, the ceremony of awarding certificates to the 47 Ambassadors of the third cohort of the HECEET Leadership Certification Program for Ethics, Equity and Transparency was held, totaling 119 participants graduated to date. After the presentation of certificates and thanks to the authorities present, awards were presented to the researchers who participated in the special edition of the UNA magazine and to those in charge of its edition.

Deans, vice-deans, and general directors of the UNA, as well as representatives of other institutions were present. Prof. Dr. Zully Vera de Molinas, Rector of UNA; Dr. Gloria Bonilla, Director of CESSET, Dr. Adriana Casati, representative of USAID - Paraguay and Prof. Dr. Antonio Tillis stated that the values of EET are fundamental in the construction of a new model of university and country.

The ceremony took place at the Convention Center of the Rectorate of the UNA and included high-level artistic moments, such as: the singing of the national anthem by the Chamber Orchestra of the School of Architecture, Design and Art (FADA-UNA); the performance of the soprano Yennifer Gutiérrez, under the direction of Rodolfo González, a typical Paraguayan dance by the cast of teachers and staff of the School of Agricultural Sciences (FCA-UNA) and the Kamba Kua Ballet.



"More than 100 people have been certified by UNA and Rutgers in EET, to consolidate democracy in Paraguay. These values not only represent the academic sector, fundamental in its role as a train-er, but also the public sector, civil society and the private sector of the country."

Dr. Adriana Casati, USAID representative - Paraguay



IMPACT OF ZONE OF PRACTICE PROJECTS

Impact of the first and second cohorts	11.864
Impact of the third cohort	5.597
Total:	17.461 personas

COMMUNICATING HECEET'S EFFORTS

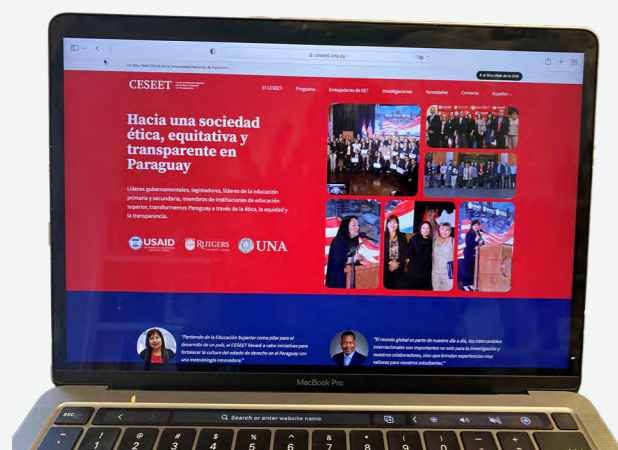
HECEET's initiatives have generated an important media impact in Paraguayan society. Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, Director of HECEET, and Ofelia Yegros, HECEET Coordinator in Paraguay, have participated in radio and television interviews in Paraguayan media. In addition, news has been disseminated on the social network Twitter and 29 articles have been published in the written and digital press.

HECEET's history, vision, mission, programmatic axes, and impact are summarized in an institutional video, which can be accessed at the following link: <https://fb.watch/deeZOCnvbl/>.

In addition, a video recounting the visit of the Rutgers delegation to Paraguay can be found at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v2SaeWCT5hyFMLXzn94uRATtwEBZ3wfU>



HECEET DIGITAL PLATFORM



The official website of the Center for Higher Education for Ethics, Equity and Transparency has been made available at the following link: <https://HECEET.una.py>. Here, interested parties can find information about HECEET; its purpose; objectives; collaboration with the National University of Asuncion; programs offered; Ambassadors for Ethics, Equity and Transparency; research projects; members of the Advisory Committee and Staff; and news about the efforts and initiatives carried out within the framework of the center.

NEW PARAGUAYAN UNIVERSITY MODEL



Higher education is fundamental to leading transformational efforts in Paraguay and addressing corruption issues to improve the quality of life of citizens and the efficiency of government structures. The values and principles practiced in universities significantly influence a nation's future leaders and its public and private structures.

The vision for a new university provides the opportunity to expand and improve the resources necessary for the promotion of scientific research, a comprehensive academic curriculum, university extension programs, and public service, which are elements that define the programmatic axes of HECEET.

The National University of Asuncion, as the largest and oldest public university in the country, is at the epicenter of developing individuals who are capable of operating with the highest standards of ethics, equity, transparency, and public accountability. Therefore, it is the appropriate institution to institutionalize HECEET's efforts and integrate it into its mission, structure, and organizational culture.

HECEET STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan of the project to create the Center for Higher Education for Ethics, Equity and Transparency (HECEET) at the National University of Asuncion, aims to establish HECEET as a national resource to strengthen Paraguay's human capacity and contribute to the construction and sustainability of public and private structures based on transparency, ethics, and equity. It is intended to reach critical sectors in the country, including teachers and students at Paraguayan schools, colleges, and universities; young professionals; legislators and public officials.

This plan will act as a roadmap until the year 2025 guiding HECEET's activities already underway, in addition to establishing a plan of initiatives to be developed along with their respective timelines, organizational structure and corresponding financial projection.



ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT UNA



The Center for Organizational Leadership at Rutgers University will offer a series of workshops for leaders and authorities of Universidad Nacional de Asunción, within the framework of the collaboration between the two institutions. The program is comprised of seven virtual modules in which up to 25 members of the cabinet team of the Rector of UNA, Prof. Dr. Zully Vera de Molinas, will participate.

Topics to be covered include effective leadership in higher education, leveraging individual and collective strengths for the transformation of UNA, leadership principles, aligning organizational purpose with intentional and systematic project leadership, leading effective organizational change, cultivating a high-performance and people-centered organizational culture, performance metrics in higher education, developing a personal and organizational leadership plan. Facilitators are leaders in the areas of organizational and transformational leadership at Rutgers University



BEGINNING OF A NEW STAGE OF HECEET

In 2019, the Center for Ethics, Equity and Transparency Education project began as part of an international collaboration between Rutgers-Camden University and the National University of Asunción, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development, USAID. After almost 3 years, the center will culminate its initial stage on August 11, 2022, to begin a new one under the leadership of the Rectorate of the UNA.

HECEET is already institutionalized within the university, with training programs underway; social impact projects implemented; a special edition of a scientific journal; contributions to a new university model based on ethics, equity, and transparency; trained human capital and strengthened inter-institutional alliances.

HECEET continues to join efforts towards the construction of a Paraguayan society based on the rule of law and a culture of legality.

The new stage of HECEET is projected to the:

- Formalization of a new agreement between UNA and Rutgers to be finalized during the visit of Rutgers authorities to Paraguay from July 14 to 22, 2022.
- Execution of the agreement between BECAL, UNA and Rutgers that seeks to offer Paraguayan students opportunities for undergraduate and doctoral study through scholarships.
- Encouragement of student and faculty exchange as well as research projects between the above-mentioned universities.
- Development of academic leadership courses for UNA authorities.
- Articulation of efforts with the 14 academic units of the UNA to incorporate TSE in the curricula of the careers offered.
- Consolidate reforms based on TSE within the framework of the construction of the New University Model.

SPECIAL EDITION OF THE JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES OF THE UNA



On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, the special edition of the Journal of Research and Studies of the National University of Asunción was launched, which compiles the results of scientific research efforts that have been developed within the framework of HECEET. The collection of articles selected for this volume is the result of more than a year of collaborative work between UNA researchers and faculty mentors from Rutgers University.

This publication explores the results of multidisciplinary research projects with social impact that seek to offer effective solutions based on ethics, equity, and transparency for the resolution of complex problems. Topics covered include improving public health, higher education, landscape restoration, elder care, culture of lawfulness and indigenous peoples, among others. In addition, it seeks to promote scientific production in Paraguay

within and from the UNA. To access the journal, click on the link:

<https://revistascientificas.una.py/index.php/rdgic>



"This material seeks to contribute to the strengthening of our institutional life (...) vindicating the value and great importance of research work in order to consolidate the most relevant proposals."

Prof. Dr. Zully Vera de Molina - Rector of the National University of Asunción.

PARAGUARÍ: CRADLE OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Prof. Dr. Zully Vera, Rector of the UNA and Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago were declared illustrious visitors by Lic. Martín Pinto, Mayor of Paraguarí and Abg. Edgar Vera y Aragón, president of the Municipal Board of the city.

This act took place during an honorary session of the municipal board of Paraguarí on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, where, in addition, the visiting authorities received a recognition and the symbolic keys of the city. The visit to the city culminated with a historical tour narrated by Mr. Esteban Ar-guello, general coordinator of the Afro-Paraguayan community Kamba Kokue.



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