Center for integrity: Reflection, commitment and actions

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Abstract:
Corruption in Mexico is a serious and widespread problem, it affects different spheres of society and education is no exception. Aiming to change this discouraging scenario, the University of Monterrey founded the Center for Integrity in 2016, first in its kind in Latin America. The Center seeks to strengthen the habits of academic integrity to achieve an honest campus and thus contribute to the development of a culture of legality in the country. This paper describes the evolution of the effort of this Mexican university from its beginning to its current state, emphasizing the most relevant historical milestones: the recognition of the problem; the formation of a special Committee; the conceptualization of a System of Integrity; and the constitution of the Center for Integrity. Different practices have been adopted along the way, many of them arising from successful experiences shared by other universities around the world: the diagnostic evaluation; the Code of Honor; the inclusion of the topic in the First Year Programs; the updating of the policies and procedures; the formation of an Honor Council; the deployment of a Seminar; the organization of Conferences addressed to other educational institutions of Mexico and Latin America; and the establishment of an "endowment"; are only some of them. The strategy is getting more complete and the stakeholders are increasingly aware of the urgency of undertaking this effort, but there are still many challenges for the future. It is necessary to continue increasing the level of engagement and commitment on the part of students and faculty, so that they assume their decisive role to excel with integrity.

Keywords: Academic integrity, institutional commitment, Latin America, practices.