

Certify as programmers more than 100 children of Fe y Alegría

Sixth-grade students of the "Ciudad de los Muchachos School" started in the world of software creation, thanks to a community service project of the Andres Bello Catholic University in which Computer Engineering and Education students participated.



More than 100 children of the "Ciudad de los Muchachos School" of Fe y Alegría were certified on July 1st as "Introductory Level Programmers", in an event held in the Aula Magna of the Andres Bello Catholic University.

The event was headed by the Vice-rector of Identity, Student Development and Social Extension of the UCAB, Nestor Luengo de Andrade, who expressed the satisfaction of La Catolica for being part of this educational project, coordinated by the School of Computer Engineering of the UCAB together to the School of Education, as part of a Community Service project.

“The university feels honored to be part of this experience that today we not only recognize but also celebrate. This project fits perfectly with the principles and way of working of the university. It brings together fundamental virtues for us such as the innovative character, as well as involving the use of new technologies to train. And is clear that the competencies linked to new technologies are something fundamental in the 21st century”.

The project was carried out in partnership with [PROGRACADEMY](#), a network focused on the training of primary and secondary students for the development of skills in the areas of critical, creative and computational thinking as well as in communication, collaboration and character.

During the training course, more than 10 students of Computing and Education of the UCAB, gave virtual classes to teach the basic elements of programming and creation of software to children of the sixth grade of the "Ciudad de los Muchachos School", located in Guarenas, Miranda State.

“With this experience, we have managed to develop computational skills, but I am sure that we have gone further. These children have also developed citizen skills”, said Silvia Lobo, school director.

The initiative began in October 2016 with the training of the coaches, according to Germán Gil Alba, Academic Director of **PROGRACADEMY**. A pre-service period was started to instruct, in a virtual way, those who would be tutors and did not have any type of teaching experience.

“During this process simulations of the classes were made so that the children of the sixth grade had the best possible experience by the ucabistas”.

Three months to learn to program

The classes of the youths of the "Ciudad de los Muchachos School" began formally in the month of March of 2017 and culminated in June; the Introduction to Programming Course worked as a pilot program.

The dynamic consisted of two weekly sessions; one with the trainers, live through video conferences; and another completely free where the children, separated in randomly selected couples, moved forward with a work plan.

The project also relied on a platform that had not been used before in Venezuela: [CODE](#), a tool used successfully by thousands of students around the world. Through it, children had to overcome different challenges in game mode, with a progressive increase in difficulty in the activities.

“While they were playing, they were learning about computer science, and managed to handle cycles, conditional events (...) and could prove what they had done, and the system reported if they had had some kind of error”, added Germán Gil.

This course was also possible thanks to the support of the telecommunications company Digitel, which offered the necessary technical support to guarantee the connection, and ensure that the virtual classes of the course were carried out through the internet.

After this first stage, **PROGRACADEMY** has among its plans to continue the project in the fifth-grade of the same school, to then establish it in the "Jesus Obrero School", located in the sector of 23 of January, Caracas.



[Certify as programmers more than 100 children of Fe y Alegria](http://elucabista.com/2017/07/04/certificaron-100-ninos-programadores/)

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