

EDITORIAL

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The National Council for University Evaluation and Accreditation of Panama (CONEAUPA) is the entity responsible for requiring and accompanying the accreditation process of universities that offer higher education programs since 2006, but it was not until 2011 that the accreditation requirement began, which is why UMECIT decided to attend and carry out the accreditation process, which was successfully completed in 2012, which meant obtaining the institutional accreditation certification for 6 years (2012-2017).

But equally, in a responsible and consistent manner with the social task entrusted to us as an institution of higher education, UMECIT sought international accreditation in 2019, which it successfully advanced with the Academic Accreditation System of Central America and Panama (SIACAP), obtaining from them the international academic accreditation certification for 6 years (2019-2025).

In the year 2021, CONEAUPA called again to the universities with presence in the Panamanian territory, to advance the process of institutional reaccreditation for those who already had the accreditation and to those who did not, to initiate the process. UMECIT complied with this call, starting the process that year and culminating it with resounding success in October 2022, thus obtaining the institutional reaccreditation certification for the second time, for the next 6 years (2022- 2028).

For UMECIT and the entire university community, institutional reaccreditation is of great importance, as it demonstrates to society the excellence and quality of the academic and administrative processes that are carried out, meeting not only national but also international standards. Therefore, the certification of institutional reaccreditation is a message of strength and commitment of our university to education, to the whole society in general, thus generating confidence in it.

This institutional reaccreditation transcends national borders, since the higher education regulatory bodies of other countries have as one of the factors for the recognition of degrees, the institutional accreditation of the university where the degree comes from. This is why our students and educational regulators in other countries see institutional accreditation as an indicator of UMECIT's academic quality.

One of the aspects of special importance in the current reaccreditation matrix is research management and within this, the generation of spaces for the dissemination of knowledge to academia and society in general.

The Cathedra Journal is an example of perseverance and commitment to such demands. We have been continuously offering the scientific community this valuable means of dissemination, which undoubtedly provides elements of fundamental importance for the updating in the field of law and forensic sciences.

Today we offer our 18th issue and what a joy to close a year of such importance for UMECIT, with this important publication that we make available to everyone from virtual spaces that transcend borders. Enjoy it!