

## Mexican students collaborate with MIT on legal initiative



They created a statistical index to identify people sentenced to life imprisonment in the U.S. for having committed a crime three times, regardless of the type of crime

24/02/2025

Pexels

COURTESY OF SOFÍA MORENO

Engineering **students** from [Tecnológico de Monterrey's](#) Santa Fe campus **participated** in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ([MIT](#)) **Policy Hackathon**, aiming to develop a **technological solution** to **support prisoners** through various legal resources in the United States.

These students **developed** a statistical **index** to **identify** and **classify prisoners** who are eligible for sentence reductions.

The [Policy Hackathon](#) aims to **address** these kinds of **social challenges** by **analyzing data** and **public policy**. It's organized by MIT's [Institute for Data, Systems, and Society](#) and the [Technology and Policy Program](#).

***“It wasn’t just a technological project; it was also political. We used technology to work together with the law and the government,”*** says Sofía Moreno, a student at the [Tec’s Santa Fe campus](#).

The **team** from the Santa Fe campus **traveled to Boston** to participate in the competition **after winning** first place in MIT challenge **HackMX 6**, a **student hackathon** held on the [Tec’s State of Mexico campus](#).



Five students from Tec Santa Fe traveled to Boston, U.S.A., to participate in the MIT Policy Hackathon. Photo: Courtesy of Sofía Moreno

## **Tec student index aims to support prisoners**

Do Han, Eduardo Porto, Nicole Dávila, Omar Sánchez, and Sofía Moreno, **Computer Technology Engineering students** at Tec Santa Fe, **participated** in the **Redo.io business challenge** during the MIT *Policy Hackathon*.

[Redo.io](#) is a **legal technology company** from California. Its databases and analysis tools are designed to help prosecutors, public defenders, lawmakers, and academics **study** the **prison population**.

During the challenge, the **students** worked to **support** [Stanford Law School's Three Strikes project](#), which aims to help **people incarcerated under** California's **Three Strikes Law**.

This law mandates **life imprisonment** for **any crime**, regardless of its severity, **if** the **accused has two previous convictions** for crimes defined as serious or violent, according to the Stanford project website.

Stanford Law School developed the **Second Look Reform** through the *Three Strikes Project*, legislation that allows **sentences** to be **reviewed** after a person has served part of them.

***"We used technology to work with the law and the government." -  
Sofía Moreno***

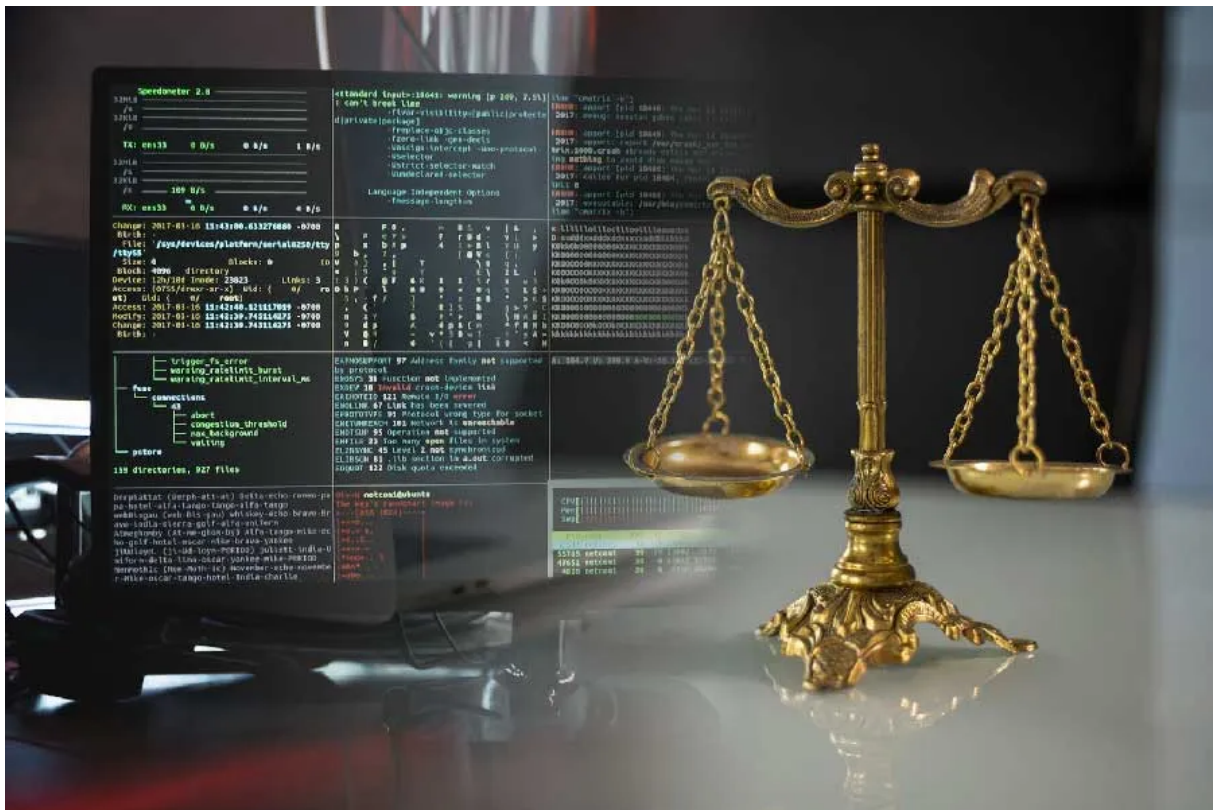
***"If someone is convicted for stealing food and is sentenced to life imprisonment, they can request a new reduced sentence or even be released. They asked us to find a way to help these people,"*** says student Sofía Moreno.

According to the **students**, their **project** aimed to **complement** an **open-source model** from Redo.io that **identifies candidates** eligible for case review.

They worked for 24 hours to create a **statistical index** that **allows** the model to **classify cases according to the risk** to which each person is exposed.

***"We've developed an index that uses public data on prisons and prisoners to help Redo.io classify people who may be eligible for re-sentencing.***

***"If the candidate is an elderly person or is in a violent prison, they are listed as a high priority,"*** adds Sofía Moreno.



Students from Tec Santa Fe created a statistical index to support people deprived of their freedom through various legal resources. Photo: Pexels

Moreover, the Tec Santa Fe campus team produced a **memo explaining** how their **proposal will impact the law**.

**They presented** their **technological solution** to the **directors of Redo.io and Three Strikes Project** on the last day of the competition, held from November 15 to 17, 2024.

## Students traveled to MIT after winning the Tec hackathon

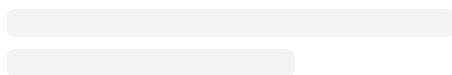
These Tec Santa Fe **students** were **invited** to participate in the **Policy Hackathon after winning** a challenge from the MIT *Low-Income Firms Transformation (LIFT) Lab* at **HackMX 6**, a student hackathon held at the Tec's Mexico State campus from October 25 to 26, 2024.

The MIT [LIFT Lab](#) aims to tackle poverty in developing countries by **helping small and medium-sized enterprises** to survive.

Their laboratory **challenge** in ***HackMX 6*** was to support the **development** of ***Lupita***, an **artificial intelligence** program from the LIFT Laboratory that aims to **help grocery stores** in Mexico improve their **inventory** control and **finances**.



[View this post on Instagram](#)



*“The **challenge** with the **most significant social impact** was the MIT LIFT Lab. We really liked the project, especially being able to **help small businesses**,”* says student Omar Sánchez.

According to the Santa Fe campus team, during the two days of the competition, they **created** a **prototype** of **Lupita**, a **tool** designed for **mobile devices** that controls store inventories and generates purchase receipts using voice and image recognition systems and **artificial intelligence**.

**Student** Eduardo Porto, who participated in his **first hackathon** at *HackMX 6*, highlights the **importance** of tackling **new challenges** regardless of the result.

*“Personally, what I recommend the most is that you pluck up the courage to participate in whatever you want. **It’s worth having this experience for the first time**, whether it results in your first failure or your first success,”* concluded Eduardo.

## YOU’LL ALSO WANT TO READ:

