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As the year comes to a close, it's clear that this has been one of the most transformative years for our team, Blockbit Uruguay.

We participated in Uruguay's National Robotics and STEAM Olympiad, a nationwide educational program led by **Ceibal** that challenges students to solve real world problems through technology and innovation. We competed in the Advanced STEAM category, which emphasizes project development rather than robot performance.

The theme was Treasures of the Past. Instead of focusing on objects or artifacts, we came to a different conclusion, the most valuable treasures are still alive older adults and their stories. From that idea, we developed a project aimed at preserving family memories by recording conversations, organizing them by family member, and ensuring these stories are not lost over time. With consent, these memories can also be anonymized and shared in a public repository of local stories from Artigas, creating a free and reliable resource for future generations.

(You can learn more here: www.blockbit.uy/sumate)

This year looked very different for us internally as well. Blockbit evolved from a team of five to working mainly as three: Belén Vianna, **Felicia Millán**, and myself, while balancing multiple responsibilities. We worked without institutional backing, reached out to sponsors, presented our project to our city, learned to manage resources, and built everything from the ground up.

Thanks to the support of local companies such as Cerramientos del Norte, COPAC, and Comaja, along with teachers from our high school, the Mayor of Artigas, Emiliano Soravilla, who also provided financial support, and many members of our community, we were able to set up our own small lab with tools and a 3D printer. We were also invited by **UTEC - Universidad Tecnológica** to visit their facilities. That experience made us feel supported and motivated, and reinforced the idea that opportunities appear when you work seriously and stay committed.

Another highlight of this year was our participation in Entre Pares, a Ceibal program that allows

former competitors to support new teams. Through this experience, we established our first real connection with the organization behind the Olympiad. We moved from being participants to actively supporting teams inside the competition answering questions, offering guidance, and sharing what we had learned. Experiencing the Olympiad from this perspective was incredibly meaningful.

The national finals took place on November 5th and 6th at Antel Arena in Montevideo, an unforgettable milestone for us as 16-year-old students and as a team. We didn't win the competition, but we gained something just as valuable which is experience, perspective, responsibility, and a deeper understanding of what it means to create real impact through technology and education.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our city. This project will continue because people trusted us, and that trust matters.

www.blockbit.uy

TESOROS DE ARTIGAS: ESTUDIANTES PROMUEVEN UNA CAJA DE RECUERDOS

28 de agosto de 2025 | Virginia Vega



Un grupo de jóvenes liceales de Artigas trabaja desde hace varios años en proyectos vinculados a las Olimpiadas de Ceibal, certamen en el que han obtenido diversos reconocimientos y que les ha permitido incluso viajar al exterior. Este 2025 vuelven a presentarse con una propuesta diferente, que combina tecnologías avanzadas,

