

Public Education and Outreach at the NAIC / Arecibo Observatory

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As the site of the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, the Arecibo Observatory is recognized internationally as one of the most important centers of research in radio astronomy, solar system studies and space and atmospheric sciences.

As part of its overall mission, "NAIC contributes to the general understanding and appreciation of science by initiating and participating in public education and outreach programs. NAIC strengthens scientific and engineering research potential by supporting activities that provide undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to further their education".

The Angel Ramos Foundation Visitor Center at the Arecibo Observatory was inaugurated in early 1997. It is the only facility of its kind in Puerto Rico, an island of four million U.S. citizens. Since its opening, close to one million visitors have enjoyed the experience of its educational exhibit program.

Other education and outreach aspects at the Arecibo Observatory, either made possible or enhanced, by the Visitor Center include the teacher in residence program, summer teacher workshops, scientific workshops and special seminars, such as the "Comunicando Astronomía en Hispanoamérica" workshop held in September 2003, and numerous national and international media presentations related to the activities of the Observatory.