

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
On Track - Undergraduate Space Education (3)

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AEROSPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH IMPACT ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN  
COSTA RICA: CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Abstract**

Investment in technical education and the promotion of scientific development are momentous catalysts of growth in an emerging nation. The Costa Rican government has decided to focus, as one of the critical areas of national significance, in the aerospace sector. The joint work of nonprofit organizations, government and academia, has led to an increasing growth on an educational level in the aerospace field. This paper deals with fundamental aspects around the development of initiatives, actions and challenges that revolve around education and outreach of aerospace technologies in Costa Rica, focusing on the role of the Central American Association of Aeronautics and Space (ACAE) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Costa Rica, with its current and long-term projects at an undergraduate level. It is discussed the progress and completion of hot air balloon experimental loads, rover development with the Arduino platform and undergraduate outreach through student mechanisms, as well as ongoing projects that will be held in a nearby future.