

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

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BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION THROUGH
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Abstract

As human space exploration pursues its journey to Mars, collaboration is a key factor for the success of large-scale goals. The Hispanic Employee Resource Group (HERG) of NASA-JSC has supported efforts to establish relationships with emerging space players through educational outreach initiatives. As a first step, the HERG's grassroots approach supported outreach to Mexico due to cultural connections, close geographical proximity, and opportunities to synergize with the newly-created AEM and growing private aerospace sector. Relationships emerged between NASA, AEM, and CONACYT with educational and public outreach as a common goal for both the United States and Mexico. Additionally, these efforts aligned with JSC's strategic goals to empower the next generation of innovators and explorers and champion the development of space exploration capabilities. The established partnerships have led to the implementation of several collaborative projects, including: the NASA Hispanic Engagement Campaign for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics; Espacio a Tierra, a weekly webcast on the activities happening aboard the International Space Station; and support of CONACYT's National Week of Science and Technology in Mexico City. The authors will share accomplished events, challenges, and lessons learned that could serve as a model to build foundations for international collaborations in the space realm, ignite research and innovation, and propel human space exploration of Mars and destinations beyond.