

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

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CNES IMMERSIVE WEEK FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (JANUARY 26TH - FEBRUARY
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Abstract

CNES stands as a pioneer in France, offering a groundbreaking opportunity to 15 year-old students for their mandatory training course during the final year of middle school. This innovative initiative, showcased during CNES's immersive week from January 26 to February 2, 2024, provided 130 participants with unparalleled access to the wonders of space exploration. Through engaging conferences, operational center visits, educational workshops, and employee interviews, students were immersed in a transformative journey into the cosmos.

CNES's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in space exploration education is exemplified through its innovative approach to student selection. Recognizing the importance of equitable access to educational opportunities, CNES collaborated with academic organizations to directly select 40 students from priority education areas and rural regions. This groundbreaking initiative aimed to ensure representation from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and parity between boys and girls. The 90 other students were selected through rigorous selection processes, including motivation interviews.

In a remarkable display of connectivity and collaboration, CNES orchestrated synchronized live conferences across its three centers (Toulouse, Paris, and Kourou) during the week. While each center hosted its own unique program tailored to the local context, the live conferences provided a shared experience that transcended geographical boundaries.

The impact of CNES's immersive week on the participating students was profound, as evidenced by their enthusiastic testimonials. Delighted by the rich and engaging experiences offered during the event, students expressed their gratitude and excitement for the opportunity to delve into the world of space exploration.

Many students testified that they had learned a tremendous amount during the immersive week, from gaining insights into the mechanics of rocket propulsion to understanding the complexities of satellite technologies. The hands-on workshops, captivating conferences, and exclusive visits to CNES's operational centers left a lasting impression on their young minds, igniting a newfound passion for space exploration.

In particular, some students shared their aspirations of pursuing a career in space, citing the immersive week as a pivotal moment in their decision-making process. With newfound clarity and conviction, they expressed their determination to embark on a journey towards a space-related career path.

These testimonials underscore the transformative impact of CNES's educational initiatives and highlight the agency's role in inspiring the next generation of aerospace enthusiasts. By providing immersive and enriching experiences, CNES is empowering students to dream big, reach for the stars, and contribute to the future of space exploration.