

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Lift Off - Primary and Secondary Space Education (1)

Author: Mr. Alex Blackwood
United Kingdom, alexblackwood@live.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS;
INTERNATIONALISING THE SCOTTISH EXPERIENCE

Abstract

At previous congresses the Scottish Space School has been demonstrated, its success over a 10 year period in reaching thousands of students and hundreds of teachers. The program demonstrated success in utilising space to inspire more young people to study science and to consider careers in STEM areas. The Scottish Space School offered schools the opportunity to propose students to work on NASA modules, submit them for consideration and, for some, be selected to attend either a residential summer school at a university in Scotland and for a smaller group attend a space school at NASA in Houston Texas. Over the period of 8 years, 13 schools have been held in Houston and 12 summer schools have been completed. An independent evaluation showed that the school demonstrated real success in positively affecting the career choices of many young people in Scotland. All participants, students and teachers, identified the effect their experiences had on their learning and the methodology of teaching. The International education business Partnership Network, (the IPN), with Alex Blackwood, its CEO, formally of the Scottish Space School, set out a plan to internationalise the experience. The IPN space school was established with the aim of offering these experiences to students and to educators across the globe. To date two highly successful programs have been delivered and the testimony of this success can be seen in the reports at www.iebnp.net. The presentation will outline the aims and objectives of the global program and highlight the successes to date and the proposals for the future. The presentation will also showcase the international network, its members and participating countries including our affiliate members in South Africa. The IPN intends to invite people at the IAC to consider participating in the IPN conference in Durban, South Africa, in October 2012. An event which will further showcase how space can be utilised, in partnership, to enhance the learning and teaching of science subjects across the world.