

ABSTRACTS

RECA: PROMOTING CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ASTRONOMY TO STUDENTS OF COLOMBIAN INSTITUTIONS

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Collaboration

The Network of Colombian Astronomy Students (RECA) is a student-led association formed in 2014. It seeks to support the astronomy student community with the aim of 1) Connecting the astronomical community with the main goal of supporting early career astronomers in Colombia, and 2) overcoming systematic barriers in academia and research. Early career and senior Colombian astronomers conform to this collaborative community. We will highlight the work from 3 nodes. The RECA education program works with schools from all regions of Colombia, providing tools and interaction with Colombian professional astronomers, using virtual chats, connection to remote observations in large telescopes, or personal counseling. The RECA mentoring program connects undergraduate students with astronomers in advanced career stages. They have personalized tutoring one-on-one, for career advice and guidance for applying to graduate programs in astronomy. Furthermore, the RECA summer internship program provides the opportunity for Colombian undergraduates to participate in astronomy research projects led by professional astronomers around the globe. All the programs are running their third version, and their successes have been seen with the positive impact of synergies within the Colombian student population of all academic levels. Funding for some programs has been obtained from national and international entities. The work of the RECA nodes highlights the importance of a student-led community both in connecting the astronomical community, and supporting beginning astronomers.

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