

Armando Caussade, GCSc, BS

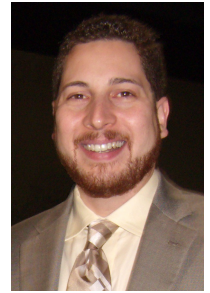
Short Bio

**Astronomer specializing in education and public outreach
Computer systems administrator and Linux specialist**

February 2019

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Summary

Armando is an astronomy educator with 30+ years of leadership involving public science initiatives, along with teaching experience at all levels. *Ana G. Méndez University*, where he established and grew an astronomy extension program, has been his home institution since 2014. He regularly serves as a speaker and star party facilitator (following the philosophy of John Dobson's sidewalk astronomy), with live audiences reaching 5,000 per year and wide media coverage.

Armando is also a computer system administrator with of 20+ years of experience. Having worked extensively with healthcare informatics at federally qualified health centers, he polished himself using Microsoft and Unix server platforms. Seeking a change, in 2015 he switched to the Linux operating system and open source technology in general, which led him to become a Linux trainer and to start educating the public on its use as a desktop computer environment.

After a competitive process Armando was accepted into the 2014–2015 Antarctic season of PolarTREC, an NSF-funded program. In 2015 he traveled to the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station where he successfully conducted 10 days of work at the *IceCube Neutrino Observatory*. He is likewise familiar with the Arctic, having visited and trained there twice under winter conditions.

Armando has held many leadership roles, notably at the *Puerto Rico Astronomy Society*, a NASA Space Grant-affiliated group that I joined at its founding in 1985. While chairing the group for 6 years he assumed responsibility for large projects of public outreach. In 2018 he established and became president of the *Puerto Rico Linux Users Group*, the first of its kind in the island.

Career milestones

- Affiliate representative at NASA Puerto Rico Space Grant Consortium (2017–present), and former member of the Solar System Ambassadors Program from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (2004–2006).
- Recipient of the *Antarctica Service Medal of the United States of America* (2015) from the National Science Foundation (NSF), a federal agency of the United States that supports fundamental research and education.

Higher education

Graduate Certificate of Science (GCSc) in Astronomy — Swinburne University of Technology (Australia).
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Computer Science — Inter American University of Puerto Rico.