

# Armando Caussade, GCSc, BS

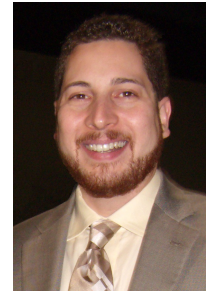
## Short Bio

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

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## Summary

I am an astronomy educator with 30+ years of leadership involving public science initiatives, along with teaching experience at all levels. *Ana G. Méndez University*, where I established a flourishing astronomy extension program, has been my home institution since 2014. I regularly serve 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.

My career includes 20+ years as a computer systems administrator. I polished myself using Microsoft and Unix server platforms at federally qualified health centers, where I worked extensively with healthcare informatics. Seeking a change, in 2015 I switched to the Linux operating system and open source technology in general, which led me to become a Linux trainer and to start educating the public on its use as a desktop computer environment.

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

My leadership roles include chairing for 6 years the *Puerto Rico Astronomy Society*, a NASA Space Grant-affiliated group that I joined at its founding in 1985, and where I started large projects of public outreach. In 2018 I established and became president of the *Puerto Rico Linux Users Group*, the first of its kind to achieve incorporation status 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

Master of Science (MSc) in Astronomy, *in progress* — Swinburne University of Technology (Australia).  
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.