

Please join us at the 240th meeting of the American Astronomical Society!

There will be a variety of Arecibo Observatory and ASAP-organized and supported events at the AAS 240 meeting! This meeting will be a hybrid event with the in-person component in Pasadena on June 12 - 16. **Héctor Arce will be giving an Arecibo Observatory focused plenary talk on Monday, June 13 at 3:40pm!** In addition, an **AO Splinter Meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 15 from 1 - 3pm, Live and on Zoom.** The title of this meeting is: *The Arecibo Observatory, An Engine For Science and Scientists In Puerto Rico And Beyond.* The meeting will begin with a summary and status talk by Arecibo Observatory Director Francisco Córdova. We will then transition to a lively panel discussion that will focus on the unparalleled impact of Arecibo's education and outreach programs, and its role in launching the careers of thousands of scientists worldwide. You can find a longer description of this meeting [here](#). There will be opportunities to participate in the discussion and all are welcome to attend! Please note that at approximately the same time, **NSF will hold a Town Hall** at the AAS (starting at 12:45 pm on Wednesday June 15). We also welcome folks to attend this Town Hall, to ask and learn about NSF's intentions for the Arecibo Observatory.

ASAP Advocacy Campaign - We Need Your Help!!

The Conference Committee members for the [US Innovation and Competition Act /America COMPETES Act](#) have been announced. You may recall these are the Senate and the House versions, respectively, of bills to provide funding to keep the US at the forefront of global science and technology development. Several of the areas supported by the current versions of these bills are in line with work conducted at the Arecibo Observatory. You can click on the links to find the list of Conference Committee members: [Democrat House list](#), [Republican House list](#), [Senate Democrat list](#), [Senate Republican list](#). Members of the conference committee will resolve differences from each chamber's bill into one final bill.

Now is the time for us to reach out to our Senators and Representatives to advocate for Arecibo Observatory's future! Although it will be **particularly important for constituents of the Conference Committee members to contact these members of Congress**, it will certainly be helpful for all of us to contact our Representatives and Senators and let them know the necessity of a future Arecibo Observatory. After stating the need for a future Arecibo Observatory, please ask that money be allocated for the AO in the COMPETES act. In particular, we are asking for \$12 million for a design study to be done to determine the best, most competitive and groundbreaking future instrument for the site.

A sample letter you can use is found [here](#), and a 1-page "leave-behind" document that summarizes our main points is found [here](#).