



EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH 2024



ECUSA
ESPAÑÓLES
CIENTÍFICOS
EN USA

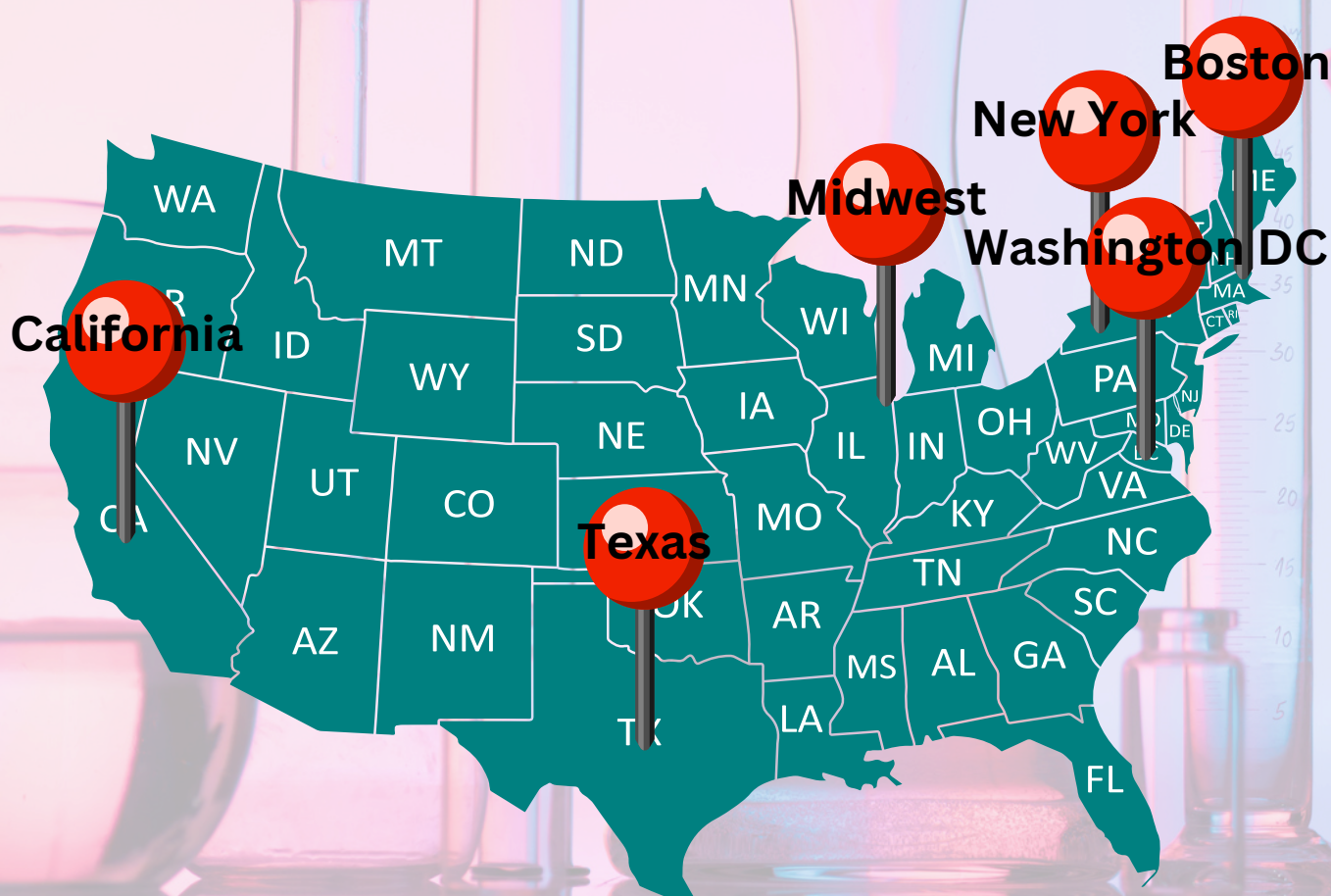
ECUSA

Spanish Scientists in the USA (ECUSA) is a nonprofit organization of Spanish scientists, founded in 2014, with the goal of promoting and disseminating the role of science, technology, and its professionals.

ECUSA seeks to contribute to the knowledge of science through the organization of scientific and technological outreach activities, as well as to assist Spanish scientists in their personal and professional development.

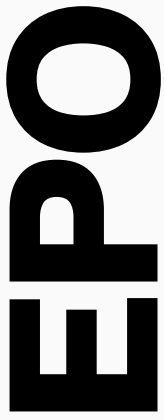
ECUSA aspires to be a leading organization in the world of science and technology, as well as a platform of scientific knowledge that inspires society to build a better world.

Where are We?



FOLLOW US





The **Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Committee**'s mission is to foster scientific interest and raise awareness of various aspects of science and technology.

To achieve this, EPO organizes a wide range of activities, such as science fairs, workshops, talks, as well as educational projects and programs in schools, high schools, and community centers, both in English and Spanish in the U.S. These initiatives are aimed at attracting children, teenagers, and students of all ages to STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), promoting scientific and technical knowledge and bringing the scientific career closer to new generations.

Additionally, EPO seeks to raise awareness among the public about the importance of science and its benefits in everyday life.

www.ecusa.es/epo

Contact: epo@ecusa.es



TEAM



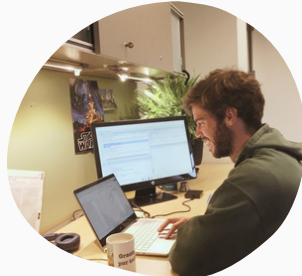
LAURA RAMAJO
CHAIR



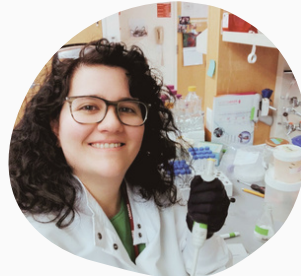
SUSANA MARTÍNEZ
CO-CHAIR



JUAN RODRÍGUEZ
EPO NEW YORK



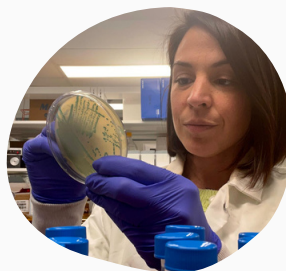
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EPO NEW YORK



NURIA LAFUENTE
EPO BOSTON



MIGUEL MARTÍNEZ
EPO WASHINGTON DC



IRENE FALCÓ
EPO WASHINGTON DC



ACTIVITIES 2024

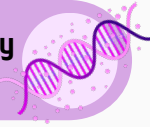


13th February
DC

Science Week: Observation of the Moon and Jupiter and its Four Largest Moons

Science Week:
DNA and Blood Types

15th February
DC



16th February
DC

Science Week:
Water Cycle and DNA

10th Anniversary of
ECUSA

14th March
National



26th March
NY

Getting to Know the
Human Body

Kenilworth Park &
Aquatic Gardens Visit

11th May
DC



25th May
DC

Smithsonian National Air
and Space Museum Visit

Exploring Science:
Getting to Know
Scientists and Their
Work

29th May
NY



8th June
NY

Bird Watching in
Central Park

American Museum of
Natural History Visit

22nd June
NY



2nd
November
NY

New York Hall
of Science Visit

Astronomical
Observation Night

9th
November
DC



13th
November
NY

World Science Day: Visit
to the HoLa Bilingual
Learning Center in
Hoboken

World Science Day:
Visit to Monsignor
McClancy High School

22nd
November
NY



10th ECUSA Anniversary

Climate and Science

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of ECUSA, the “**Climate & Science**” event was held on March 14, 2024, in Washington DC. The goal of this event was to create a space for discussion about the essential role of science in studying climate change and in finding effective solutions.

Throughout the event, professionals from various fields—research, public policy design, conservation, and industry—had the opportunity to exchange ideas on the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change, as well as the strategies for continuing progress in researching this global threat.

The organizing committee was made up of **Teresa Nieves (Chair and ECUSA founder)**, **Laura Ramajo (Co-Chair and Chair EPO)**, **Ana Muñoz (ECUSA President)**, **Naroa Giménez (ECUSA-DC President)**, and **María González (Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain)**. **ECUSA thanks all the panelists** (Anna Stewart-Ibarra, Cesar Terrer, Sarah Coley, Milagros Rivas, Kendra McLauchlan, Carol O'Donnell, Frances Colon, Walter Hufford and Vanessa Jaklitsch), **ECUSA members**, **Embassy of Spain and its Cultural Office in Washington, D.C**, **FECYT**, **Fundación Ramón Areces**, and **Fundación Consejo España-EE.UU.**



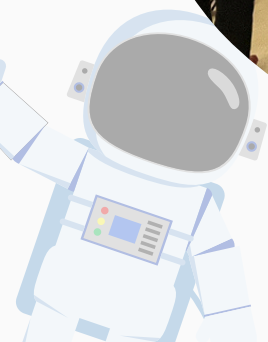
10th ECUSA Anniversary

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Visit

ECUSA's 10th Anniversary was accompanied by a visit to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, organized by **Teresa Nieves (NASA Researcher and ECUSA Founder)**.

During the visit, participants had the opportunity to tour various NASA facilities, such as the **integration building**, where satellites are assembled in specialized rooms, including the vacuum and vibration chambers, among others. They also had the chance to learn about NASA's research to better understand the functioning of our planet. In particular, the **PACE mission** was highlighted. Its satellite, launched on February 8, 2024, studies the ocean, aerosols, clouds, and ecosystems. Finally, information was provided about the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**, a project currently under development by NASA.

ECUSA thanks the support of NASA researchers and engineers during the visit, especially **Victor Ruiz, Begoña Vila, Violeta San Juan**, and **Alex Young**.



10th ECUSA Anniversary

Art Contests "My Happy Planet", and Stories "A Sustainable Tomorrow"

In line with the theme of ECUSA's tenth anniversary, the EPO committee organized an art and storytelling contest aimed at children and adolescents from ALCE Schools (Spanish Language and Culture Group) across the U.S. and Canada.

The goal of the contest was to engage youth in the central theme of the event, capturing, through artistic expressions, the importance of sustainability and environmental conservation. The call for entries received around 80 pieces of artwork and 4 stories.

During the anniversary event, an awards ceremony was held, where the winners had the opportunity to explain their works and read the award-winning stories.

The activity was organized by **Laura Ramajo (ECUSA-EPO Chair)** and **Ana Muñoz (ECUSA President)**. ECUSA acknowledges the valuable collaboration of multiple **ECUSA members**, who served as judges for both contests. We especially appreciate the backing and sponsorship of **NTTData** in making this contest possible.



Outdoor Science

Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens Visit

Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens is a national park located in Washington, D.C., that features a unique collection of lily and lotus ponds, wetlands, and natural trails along the Anacostia River. It is the only aquatic garden in the U.S. National Park System and is renowned for its biodiversity, particularly its birds, amphibians, and aquatic plants.

Originally a private waterlily farm in the 19th century, it was incorporated into the park system in 1938. Today, it is a popular destination for birdwatching, photography, and environmental education.

The activity was organized by **Laura Ramajo (ECUSA-EPO Chair)** for the students (and their families) of the **ALCE Classrooms in Maryland and Virginia**, it provided a valuable opportunity to learn about the history of the **Anacostia River Basin** and the ongoing restoration process that this precious ecosystem is undergoing.

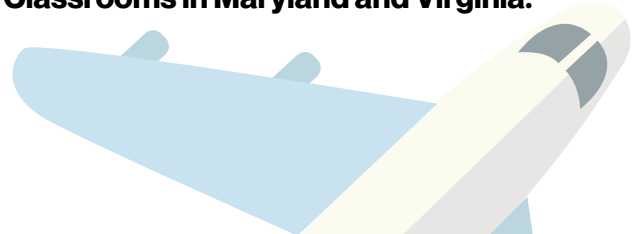


Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Visit

The **Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum**, located in Washington, D.C., is one of the most visited museums in the world. It houses an enormous collection of aircraft, spacecraft, and historical objects related to aviation and space exploration. Some of its most notable exhibits include the Wright Brothers' airplane, the Apollo 11 lunar module, and a variety of artifacts that tell the story of the evolution of air and space travel. It serves as an educational and cultural center that inspires visitors to explore human achievements in the sky and space.

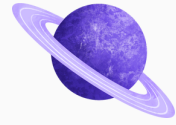
The activity, which featured the valuable participation of **Teresa Nieves** and **Miguel Martínez** (NASA researchers), engineer **Víctor Ruiz** (ECUSA member), and **Paco Moreno** (Airbus engineer), offered the opportunity to learn about advancements in space science and aeronautics.

The activity was aimed at the students and families of the **ALCE Classrooms in Maryland and Virginia**.



Outdoor Science

Astronomical Observation Night



Astronomical observation is a powerful educational tool that fosters curiosity and critical thinking, allowing young people to connect with the vast universe. By observing stars, planets, and other celestial bodies, they not only learn fundamental scientific concepts but also develop an interest in science and the cosmos. This activity, held in November at Gravelly Point (Arlington, Virginia), was aimed at the students (and their families) of the **ALCE Classrooms in Maryland and Virginia**.

The activity was led by **Iñaki Ugarte (ECUSA Founder)**, **Aliep Alvarez**, **Antonio Zugaldia**, and **Miguel Martínez (NASA Researcher and ECUSA member)**. Additionally, the event featured the participation of **Ana Muñoz (ECUSA President)**, **Teresa Nieves (NASA Researcher and ECUSA Founder)**, **Paco Moreno**, and **Víctor Ruíz (ECUSA Partner)**.



Science Week

Observation of the Moon and Jupiter, along with its four largest moons (Ganymede, Callisto, Europa, and Io)

In February, an astronomical observation activity was held with high school students, using an 11 cm telescope to view Jupiter, its moons, and the Moon. During the activity, we discussed the composition of the planets and the Sun, and how technologies are used to analyze the gases in celestial bodies. The students had the opportunity to enjoy a direct experience with the sky.

Iñaki Ugarte (ECUSA Founder)



DNA and Blood Types

ALCE students from Virginia became scientists by exploring the invisible world around us through hands-on experiments. They discovered DNA by extracting it from a banana, understanding its importance, and learning laboratory techniques. They also explored blood types, recognizing their crucial role in medicine.

Ana Muñoz (ECUSA President)

Water Cycle and DNA of a Strawberry

To celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the ALCE classrooms in Maryland were visited to talk about science and conduct experiments. The younger students learned about the water cycle and simulated rain in a glass. The older students extracted DNA from a strawberry and enjoyed being scientists for a while.

Susana Martínez (EPO-ECUSA Co-Chair, and ECUSA Founder)



Getting to Know the Human Body

On March 26, 2024, a science workshop was held at the bilingual HoLa Learning Center in Hoboken, where students had the opportunity to learn about the human body and the organs that make it up. The students isolated their own cells from the buccal epithelium and stained them to observe them under a microscope. In addition to viewing their own cells, the students were amazed to discover the different structures that form the various organs of our body, an experience that led many to change their minds about what their favorite organ is in the human body.

This activity was organized by ECUSA members **Juan Rodríguez** and **Adrián Vega**. ECUSA thanks the entire staff at **HoLa Hoboken** for their fantastic hospitality at the school, as well as the **Education Department of the Spanish Embassy** for their mediation and support in the workshops.

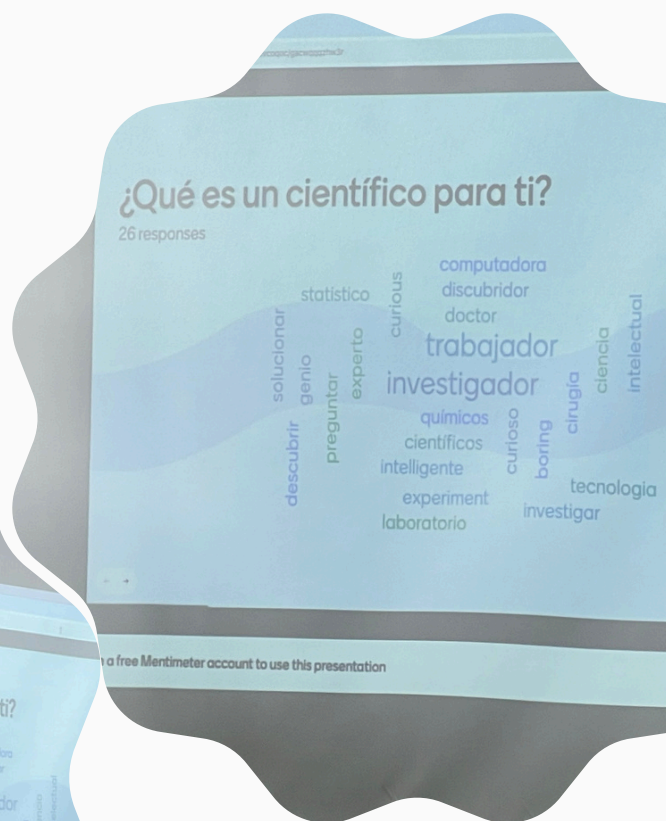
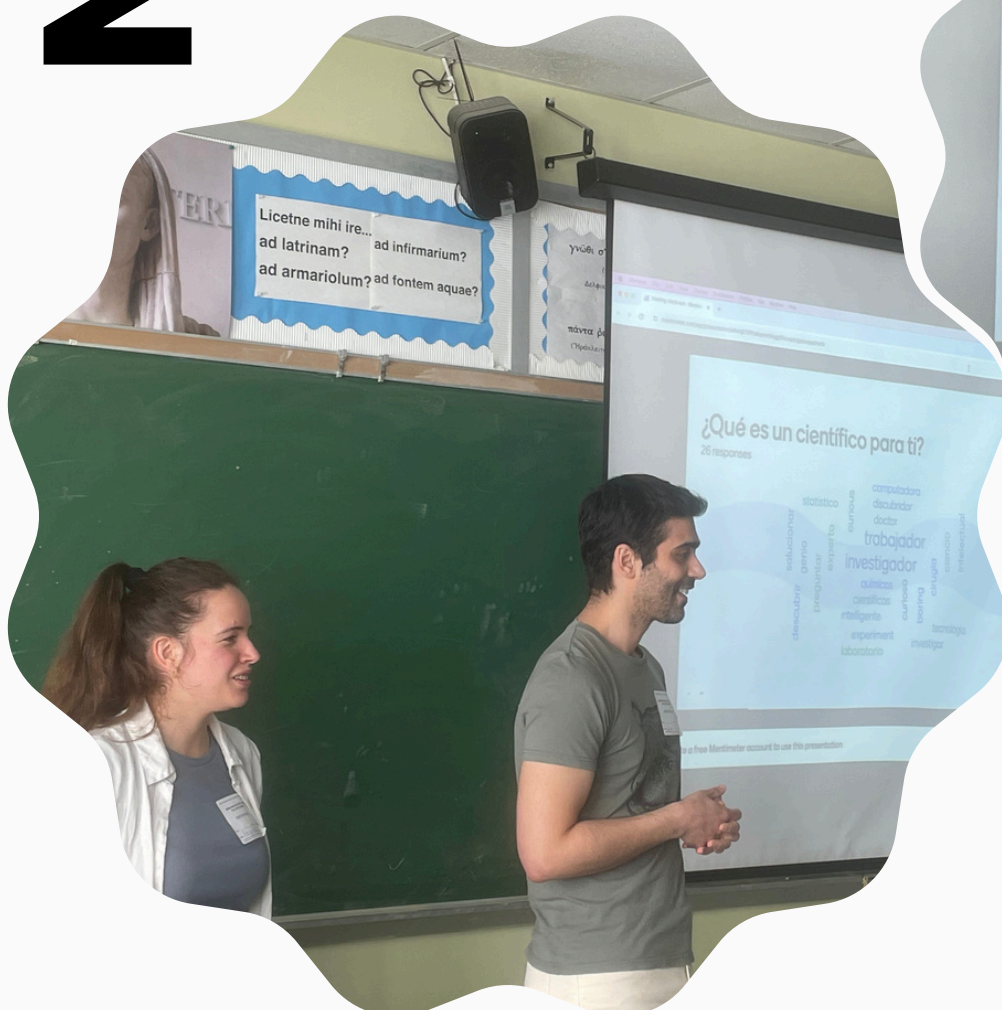


Exploring Science: Getting to Know Scientists and Their Work

The goal of this activity was to introduce high school students from **Bard High School Early College** in Queens, who are already taking some university-level courses, to scientific careers and the profiles of scientists.

During the session, ECUSA scientists discussed the research career, the importance of science, and the image of scientists in society. Each scientist shared their daily professional life and the topics they explore in their research. After the visit, the students reflected on the role of science in today's world and how science can shape society at various levels.

This activity was organized by ECUSA members **Alejandra Laguillo Diego** and **Juan Rodríguez Alcázar**. ECUSA thanks the staff at **Bard High School Early College-Queens**, especially high school teacher **María Ahmad Aparicio**.



NEW YORK

Bird Watching in Central Park

With expert guide **Jorge Almagro**, we explored various areas of Central Park, such as the lake, the dense forest areas, and the open spaces with trees and grass, successfully spotting a variety of bird species. To conclude the day, attendees enjoyed a picnic in the park, sharing experiences and reflections on the activity.

This activity was organized by **Imanol Miqueleiz (Tesorero ECUSA-NY)**.



NEW YORK

American Museum of Natural History Visit

ECUSA-NY members visited the **American Museum of Natural History in NYC**, where we explored the evolution of humans, admired the impressive dinosaur fossil collections, and discovered the diversity of gemstones and geological formations. To finish, we visited the butterfly exhibit, where we had the chance to observe and interact closely with different species of butterflies in their natural habitat.

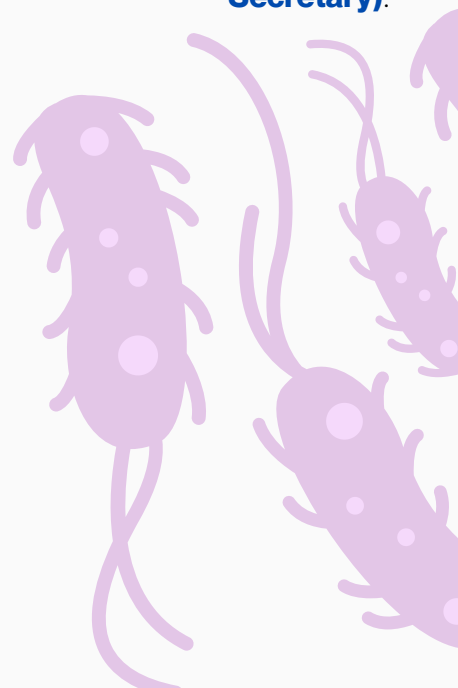
This activity was organized by **Imanol Miqueleiz (ECUSA-NY Treasurer)**.



New York Hall of Science Visit

ECUSA-NY visited the New York Hall of Science with the ALCE families from Queens and Brooklyn to introduce them to science in a fun and hands-on way. The children got to work on fashion design and structures, explored the microscopic world of everyday objects, learned how our actions can change an ecosystem, and had fun playing mini-golf while unknowingly applying principles of physics, among many other activities.

This activity was organized by **Juan Rodríguez Alcázar (ECUSA-NY Secretary)**.



World Science Day

On the occasion of **World Science Day**, members and volunteers from ECUSA-NY-EPO, in collaboration with the **Education Department of the Spanish Embassy**, brought science to the classrooms with exciting workshops at two educational centers.

During the visit to the bilingual **HoLa Learning Center in Hoboken**, fourth-grade students isolated and stained their own buccal epithelial cells to observe them under a microscope. They also explored the structures that make up the organs of the human body, which led many to reconsider what their favorite organ is.

At **Monsignor McClancy High School**, workshops were held for the students of the Queens classroom of the Spanish Language and Culture Group (ALCE) in New York. While the younger students saw the molecule of life for the first time, the older students discovered the physical and chemical principles behind the color change of leaves in autumn and how humans have domesticated their favorite fruits to make them tastier.

These activities were organized by ECUSA members **Miguel Santo Domingo, Alejandra Laguillo, Adrián Vega, Juliana Abraham y Juan Rodríguez.**





Acknowledgments

The "**Education and Public Outreach**" (EPO) committee of ECUSA deeply appreciates the support received from the various ECUSA partners, the ALCE program and its teachers, and all the families motivated to participate in the different activities. We would also like to thank all the ECUSA friends who, although not members of our organization, have been essential to the success of our educational and outreach activities.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the teachers from the different schools who made these activities possible.

ECUSA Members

Ana Muñoz	Adrián Vega
Teresa Nieves	Violeta Durán
Victor Ruiz	Ada Vernet
Iñaki Ugarte	Alejandra Laguillo
Noemí Arias	Miguel Santo Domingo
Pablo Jimenez	Juliana Abraham
Araceli Valverde	Begoña Vila
Alejandro Sevillanos	Antonio Cembellin

ECUSA Friends

Paco Moreno
Aliép Álvarez
Antonio Zugaldia
Marina Santos
Violeta San Juan
Alex Young

ALCE Program

Montserrat García
Maria del Mar Arranz
Almudena Moyano

Bard High School Early College-Queens

María Ahmad Aparicio

HoLa Hoboken

Alison Gil Acevedo

Our thanks go to the **Cultural Office of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D.C. (Miguel Albero, Paula Sánchez, María González, and Jose Luis Cejudo)**, and to the **Education Department of the Spanish Embassy (Nuria Algar and Diego Blázquez)** for their continuous and unwavering support throughout the various activities held during 2024.



Help us move forward: Donate to EPO ECUSA

The Education and Public Outreach (EPO) committee of ECUSA is committed to development, education, and science for all, especially for future generations.

Your support is essential for us to continue carrying out future activities and exciting projects.

If you would like us to continue this important work, please consider making a donation through the following QR code or by visiting the following link:

<https://donorbox.org/donation-to-ecusa>



After making your donation, we will send you an official donation certificate as a token of our appreciation for your generous contribution.

Your help makes a difference!



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