

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

THEME:

Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now

MEMBERS OF LATINO ORGANIZATIONS INSPIRE YOUTH TO CONSIDER SCIENCE FIELDS

MAES - Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists

Many cultures, one familia.

www.maes-natl.org



JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ, MAES ALUMNI AND FORMER NATIONAL PRESIDENT ON SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY

José Moreno Hernández is an Electrical Engineer and NASA astronaut. He is currently assigned to the crew of Space Shuttle Mission STS-128 that was launched in August. Hernandez was the MAES President from 2002 to 2004. Hernandez received his M.S., in Electrical & Computer Engineering in 1986 from the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 1999, he received the MAES "Medalla de Oro" award for professional and community contributions. He calls Stockton, California, his hometown, a place where he formed a "Reaching for the Stars" foundation. The foundation works to inspire youth in the fields of math, science, engineering and technology. His family is originally from La Piedad, Michoacán. As a child, he worked alongside his family harvesting crops and moving from one town to another. He attended many schools and didn't learn to speak English until he was 12 years old.

SACNAS - Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

SACNAS is a society dedicated to fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists - from college students to professionals - in attaining advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership.

www.sacnas.org



DR. AARON VELASCO IMPLEMENTS GEOSCIENCE TRACK FOR SACNAS STUDENTS

Dr. Aaron Velasco is a professor of Geoscience at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is the past president of SACNAS and was instrumental in having SACNAS participate in International Polar Year (IPY). As part of IPY, Dr. Velasco and his colleagues led a research trip of minority science students to Antarctica. Dr. Velasco grew up in LaHabra, the Los Angeles area of Southern California. He said it wasn't until his fifth year as an undergraduate at the University of California, Los Angeles that he took a Geophysics class and realized he had an interest in the field. He received his Ph.D in Seismology from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1993 and has been a SACNAS member since 1989 when he was a graduate student. He is very instrumental in expanding the physical science base with SACNAS and in recruiting and monitoring minority Geoscience student participation at SACNAS.

