

Dr Edward Gomez - Annie Maunder Medal

Dr Edward Gomez is honorary lecturer at Cardiff University and currently serves as President of the IAU Division C, Education, Outreach and Heritage.

He is most renowned for creating LCO's Global Sky Partners, an initiative that empowers educators, community groups, and citizen scientists around the world to embed observational astronomy into their public engagement through free access to research-grade telescopes, reaching tens of thousands of people around the world, including traditionally underrepresented groups and the Global South.

Through this scheme, Dr Gomez has built a thriving community of global educators, who meet monthly to share knowledge and experience. There are currently 40 partners around the globe, with an annual reach of roughly 60,000 individuals. He also developed a collection of public resources to enable educators to deliver astronomy to classrooms worldwide.

Alongside this work, Dr Gomez has created citizen science projects (e.g. Asteroid Tracker), interactive educational web apps (e.g. Star in a Box), and online celebrity events (e.g. Show Me Stars). He is also the author of the popular science comic book series "Ada's Adventures in Science", available in 19 languages with over 15,000 physical copies donated to people in 20 countries.

Dr Gomez's work exemplifies how innovative outreach, remarkable dedication over a long career, and empowering educators to do real science in the classroom can have a truly international impact, and has thus made astronomy accessible to thousands who might never have otherwise engaged with the field. His work and dedication are a true inspiration.