DEMOCRATIZING SCIENCE EDUCATION AND CAREERS FOR PUERTO RICO
Who We Are

A global community of >15K scientists, students, educators and allies who believe that science can empower individuals with the knowledge, capacity, and agency to improve their lives and society.
Our Vision

A society where individuals are empowered by science to think critically, solve problems, and be agents of change in their communities.

Our Mission

To democratize science and transform science education by engaging and empowering a diverse global community of scientists, students, educators, and allies.
Our Difference

COMMITTED EXPERTS
We leverage our rich and diverse community to fuel solutions that democratize science, and transform science education and career training.

CULTURAL RELEVANCE
By making science more engaging and culturally relevant, our goal is to enable people to become critical thinkers and problem solvers.

IMPACT
Focus on evidence-based interventions to ensure we are transforming how people relate to and learn from science.
Our Programs

Audience
- General Public
- K-12
- STEM Professionals

Focus
- Science Communication
- STEM Education
- Professional Development, Leadership & Outreach

Initiatives
- COVID-19, books, media collaborations
- Seeds of Success
- PRSPAN

Our Programs
- Ciencia Al Servicio
- Yale Ciencia Academy
STEM Leaders

Our programs provide STEM experts with professional development, and science outreach and communication training, and with platforms to put those skills into practice.
Yale Ciencia Academy

Read more:
www.cienciapr.org/yca

NIH-funded program that provides career development for doctoral students in biomedical and behavioral sciences. Fellows participate in virtual conversations with successful scientists; define academic and professional goals; and receive training in communication and leadership skills.
Projects have included articles, podcasts, op-eds, lesson plans and school visits, public lectures, career workshops and panels, and the Puerto Rico Science Policy Action Network, a science policy and advocacy initiative.

In 2020, several students used their outreach projects to respond and contribute to COVID-19 science communication or education.

Yale Ciencia Academy

190 outreach projects

30,000+ people impacted

As part of the program, YCA Fellows complete guided outreach and public engagement projects, through which they practice science communication and leadership skills and impact their communities.

Puerto Rico has been affected by three hurricanes in the last six years, the 2020 pandemic, and an economic crisis. The community of Puerto Rico has been fighting for its survival and striving to rebuild.

Aunque muchas veces venimos a la salud mental suena algo separado de la salud física, nuestros cerebros sofre cambios físicos con experiencias traumáticas. A pesar de todas las consecuciones en las consecuciones en las regiones de nuestro cerebro que regulan nuestra respuesta al estrés y al miedo—la ampliación y la retroalimentación—ambos, estos cambios hacen más difícil controlar al miedo. Por esta razón, puede ser difícil mantener la calma al enfrentarse a circunstancias como el COVID-19. Teniendo esto en cuenta, hay acciones que podemos tomar al respecto.

A continuación, comparto unas recomendaciones dadas por los servicios de salud de la Universidad de Harvard y otras fuentes:

- Manténgase informado. Puede mantenerse informado a través de fuentes confiables como el sitio web de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS). Use

- Practique la distinción entre el estrés normal y la ansiedad. Es importante recordar que el estrés es una respuesta normal a la vida diaria, mientras que la ansiedad es una respuesta excesiva a situaciones estresantes.

- Haga ejercicio regularmente. El ejercicio puede ayudar a reducir el nivel de estrés y ansiedad en el cuerpo.

- Manténgase ocupado. Mantenga su mente activa y ocupada con actividades que le gusten, como leer, dibujar, cocinar o practicar deportes.

- No olvide la importancia de dormir lo suficiente. La falta de sueño puede aumentar el estrés y la ansiedad.

- Búsqueda de soporte emocional. Hable con amigos y familiares sobre sus sentimientos y preocupaciones.

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Established to empower and activate Puerto Rican scientists—in Puerto Rico and the US—to contribute their knowledge and diverse perspectives to science policy and advocacy discussions and ensure policies for Puerto Rico are evidence-based.

The initiative has trained >100 scientists in science advocacy, published >30 blog posts and policy alerts, launched a campaign to preserve the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics, and has resulted in several articles and op-eds in newspapers and a presentation at a US House Committee hearing.

K-12 Science Education

We create culturally relevant STEM education resources and experiences to increase interest in STEM among Puerto Rican youth.
Seeds of Success: STEM Girl Ambassadors

A program to give middle school girls the chance to experience the excitement of STEM through workshops (online during COVID-19) and interactions with Latina STEM mentors.

Girls are also given leadership training and the chance to work with local nonprofits to complete STEM Ambassador projects that impact other students and raise awareness and exposure to STEM.
Each year...

120 middle school girls from across Puerto Rico

>60 Latina STEM mentors

>15,000 people reached through girls' STEM outreach projects

92% of girls are more self-confident in their STEM skills after their participation

96% of girls indicated they will follow a STEM career
New Digital Resources for Girls in STEM!

Largest digital collection of Latinas in STEM

Webinar series with inspiring role models
To address the need for better science education, in early 2018 we created Ciencia al Servicio de Puerto Rico.

Read more: bit.ly/CienciaAlServicioPR

We bring together scientists and educators to co-create science lessons relevant to the Puerto Rican context and that empower students to solve problems they observe in their communities.
STEM Education Continuity

STEM lessons developed through our programs have been distributed to schools affected by earthquakes and digitalized for the pandemic. We continued providing scientist lessons online throughout the pandemic and these have also been converted into a TV show.
Ciencia al Servicio by the Numbers - 2020

27 Online STEM professional classroom visits

58 teachers trained

96 STEM kits distributed

>400 STEM lessons downloaded

>3,600 students benefitted through lessons
Science for All

Through our website, communication initiatives, and media collaborations, we give voice to scientific role models and present science “in rice and beans” to make science content accessible and valuable to all.
Celebrating #CienciaBoricua

In 2011, we published ¡Ciencia Boricua! the first anthology of essays by Puerto Rican scientists for a Puerto Rican public.

Since 2006, we have published >700 scientist-written articles, through national and international media outlets.

Since March 2020, we have published >97 COVID-19 related articles and columns in local newspapers written by science and public health experts. We also facilitated >100 media interviews between scientists and local and international media.
We have leveraged our culturally-relevant communications expertise and STEM expert network to develop science-informed, audienced-targeted COVID-19 prevention campaigns. We are planning on expanding this model to other topics.

Cuídate Cuídate leverages influencers & applies differentiated messages

With support from the Simons Foundation, Aquí Nos Cuidamos uses participatory strategies to reach vulnerable communities.
A Platform for Impact

CienciaPR.org is the most popular science website in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rican audiences visit our website 40% and 157% more than the most popular “Science” & “Jobs and Education” websites in the world (Google Analytics)

**Virtual Impact**

- **Reach**
  - >45K
  - >150K
  - >15K
  - >25K
  - <27K
  - >20K

- **Followers**
  - >15K
  - <27K
  - >20K
  - 1.8K

Dec. 2021
Bringing it All Together

**Scientists**
- Are supported through training, community, and visibility
- Are engaged to contribute through science education, communication, and training programs

**Students**
- Are exposed to real and engaging science & scientists
- Can see themselves as future leaders & change agents

**Educators**
- Get project-based learning training & tools
- Collaborate with scientists to design new lessons and bring them to their schools or community centers

**Communities**
- Are engaged through relevant & accessible science communication & civic science
- Promote and are empowered by knowledge and evidence-based policies and practices
Recognition for CienciaPR

In 2015, CIENCIAPR was recognized by the White House as a Bright Spot in Hispanic education.

In 2018, CienciaPR was recognized as one of five “Science Defenders 2018” by the Union of Concerned Scientists.
In 2021, our civic science project "Aquí Nos Cuidamos" was selected as Science Breakthrough of the year at the Falling Walls Engage Conference in Berlin.

The initiative was selected for this recognition among 189 projects from 80 countries for "not only breaking the wall between science and society but also building community, solidarity, and new forms of expertise and knowledge," according to the Chair of the international jury.
Our Team

Giovanna Guerrero-Medina
Executive Director

Mónica Feliú-Mójer
Director, Communications & Science Outreach

Greetchen Díaz-Muñoz
Director, Science Education & Community Partnerships

Elvin Estrada-García
Science Education Program Specialist

Liz Hernández-Matías
Senior Science Education Program Specialist

Edmy Ayala-Rosado
Science Communication & Outreach Specialist

Andrea López-Merced
Rita Allen Civic Science Fellow

Ariadna Rubio-Lebrón
Americorps Fellow

Alondra Caraballo-Franco
Americorps Fellow
Our Board of Directors

In 2017, we announced a new Board of Directors composed of leading scientists, educators, innovators and members of the community.

This stellar group complements our existing expertise, and is helping us secure new sources of funding, and increase the visibility, recognition and impact of CienciaPR.

Read more: bit.ly/CienciaPR-New-BoD
Support Our Mission

CONTACT

Dra. Giovanna Guerrero-Medina
Executive Director, Ciencia Puerto Rico
giovanna.guerrero@cienciapr.org
(616) 643-7666

www.cienciapr.org
@CienciaPR
bit.ly/donate_CienciaPR
contact@cienciapr.org