GeoLatinas in Space: Fostering scientific literacy in an inclusive environment C. Guerra, G. Gonzalez Arismendi[1], H. Carvajal-Chitty[1], P. Nowajewski[1], C. Rodriguez[1], R. Caballero-Gill[1], F. Rivera Hernandez[1], [1*] (guerraguevara@mines.edu), [1]Geolatinas virtual community

Introduction: Space-related careers are increasingly relevant with the exponential growth of the new space race. The future is now, and while technological developments are becoming critical, they remain centralized and bounded by language barriers. Furthermore, as the new space race is underway, there will be a need for literate scientific specialists from different fields. GeoLatinas in Space aims to facilitate literacy and communication in planetary sciences by creating a community that fosters knowledge exchange, making it approachable and ensuring this multi-language diffusion.

Here, we present the objectives and roadmap of our initiative, which are focused on creating a baseline knowledge of space-related geoscientific fields in Spanish and English by addressing these key questions: What should we know about space? Which careers would be relevant? What would I need to study in college? Where do I apply for funding (i.e., grants and scholarships)? We also make our content accessible. We proactively seek collaboration with like-minded organizations in the region and internationally with the same mission while functioning as a platform to network and information about funding and career-related opportunities.

We aim to show and amplify initiatives, opportunities and projects in space that are happening right now involving the Latinx community, separating the science-fiction for tangible and fruitful careers that involve government, industry, academia, and general society.

Objective & roadmap: Our vision and efforts focus on filling in existing knowledge gaps in developing countries, mainly Latinamerica, by providing and enhancing accessibility to space literacy content and promoting the visualization of professional profiles dedicated to space projects and the cosmos. We reach a general audience and seek to inspire new generations by demonstrating that space careers are possible today and within reach of those who would like to pursue them.

We want to create a platform that fosters collaborations and networking through our working spaces, connecting a wide network of professionals and the general public interested in the space. Since language remains one of the main barriers to knowledge access, we promote a virtual community for amateur and specialized audiences, both in Spanish and English (and Portuguese

in the near future)(Fig. 1). Thus, producing a compilation of videos and a forum of easy access organized per discipline and complexity, intending to cover fundamental knowledge.

Figure 1. The publicity of our first webinar and launch focused on space-related resources, technology and opportunities.

Our community and advances: GeoLatinas is volunteer-driven organization that fosters collaboration, and equity in an inclusive environment. We focus on inclusion and seek to create a common and solid foundation that fosters the sharing of innovative ideas. Many initiatives focus on geoscientific literacy, as well as leadership skills and professional development, such as: coding, writing, peer-review of projects, funding opportunities, and many others. GeoLatinas in Space operates under the GeoLatinas umbrella, and some of the ongoing activities include the creation of a database of cosmos-, space- and human resources.