

On the Significant Role of Private Education Institutions on Philippine Astronomy Education

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Abstract

We consider the seminal work of Celebre and Torres, on the history of Astronomy and Astronomy Education in the Philippines. An updating in the history of Philippine Astronomy was done in the light of the recent event by which the Philippine Government granted New Era University (NEU), a non-stock, non-profit, private institution, a recognition to offer an undergraduate course in Astronomy, the first for a private Higher Education Institution (HEI) in the country. In the introduction, we discussed the origin of Astronomy Education in the Philippines thru a private institution. Then we discussed the role of government institutions like PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services and Administration) and Rizal Technological University, a state-owned university, in the promotion of Astronomy Education in the Philippines. Then we discussed the history of the establishment of NEU Astronomy Department, its vision, mission and goals (VMGO), its future plans and acquisitions and its significant role in the progress of Astronomy Education in the Philippines.