

Archived Information

The Space Foundation

Goal: Improving Teacher Knowledge

Brief Summary: As a leading non-profit organization advancing the exploration, development, and use of space and space education, the Space Foundation's approach is to leverage its resources to the maximum extent by investing in Pre-K-16 teachers, who in turn, will impact their students. The structure for implementing this is through professional development graduate courses, two Master's Degrees with an emphasis in Space Studies (one in collaboration of the University of Colorado and the second with Regis University partnership), customized National Teacher's Conferences and In-service training and monthly educator workshops.

Purposes:

- To expand teacher's knowledge base and skill sets in math, science, and technology
- To remove the fear many educators have in teaching math, science, and technology and replace it with confidence and credibility
- To provide support to teachers with researched pedagogy and models for effective teaching
- To help teachers transfer new knowledge into immediate application to the classroom
- To provide a multitude of resources for teachers to expand what they are currently doing in the classroom
- To provide on-going support to teachers via the web, face-to-face interactions, and a plethora of resources and materials
- To assist teachers with a support network of peers and mentors
- To assist teachers in developing research and analysis of data
- To suggest methods and support teachers in engaging the public, particularly parents

Accomplishment/Results: Over the last 19 years the Space Foundation has successfully trained minimally 30,000 teachers. Both anecdotal and quantitative evaluations support that (1) teachers learn a wealth of new content information, (2) teachers learn how to implement this new knowledge within their respective classrooms, and (3) students get so excited about space that they engage in math, science, and technology problem solving, hence increasing their achievement levels in these and other content areas.

Plan for the next twelve months: All education programs are above target for the number of teachers impacted through the above-mentioned programs and for the elevated quality of content and substance of learning. The Space Foundation requests for programs for the next year have quadrupled at the national and international level.

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