

## **Presenter Biographies: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### **Dr. Malcolm Butler, Associate Professor of Science Education, University of Central Florida**

A former middle and high school mathematics and science teacher, Malcolm B. Butler, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Science Education in the School of Teaching, Learning and Leadership at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando. His teaching and research interests include multicultural science education, science and underserved populations, pre-service and in-service science teacher education, and physics education. His scholarship has been published in journals such as the Journal of Research in Science Teaching, the Journal of Science Teacher Education, Science Activities, the International Journal of Environmental and Science Education, and the Journal of Multicultural Education. His work has been generously supported by the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Education. Dr. Butler is one of the authors of National Geographic Learning's National Geographic Science, a national elementary science curriculum program. He is co-author of the book, Teaching Science to English Language Learners, and co-editor of the book, Multicultural Science Education: Preparing Teachers for Equity and Social Justice.

### **Mr. Jim Clamons, VP Design Engineering, Harris Corporation**

Mr. Clamons is a Vice President of Design Engineering Harris Government Communications Systems (GCS). He is responsible for talent management and professional growth of over 3000 GCS engineers. He joined Harris in 1977 and has held positions of increasing responsibility throughout his career in the areas of planning, organizing, managing, and directing and plays a key role in successfully achieving financial and business objectives. Mr. Clamons received both bachelor and master of science degrees in mathematics and computer science, respectively, from Purdue University.

He is a member of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), Board of Directors on the Central Florida STEM Education Council (CFSEC), Florida State University College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council, the FSU Computer Science Advisory Council, and Purdue University's Computer Science Corporate Partners Program. Mr. Clamons is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Space Coast Early Intervention Center (SCEIC).

### **Dr. Kevin Smith, Electrical Engineer, Harris Corporation**

Dr. Kevin H. Smith has been with the Photonics Department at Harris Corporation Government Communications Systems for 10 years. At Harris he has worked in the fields of optical communications, fiber-optic sensors, laser radar (LADAR) systems, quantum enhancement of LADAR systems, and quantum key distribution. He is a coauthor on five patents. He also serves as a group leader in his department. Prior to coming to Harris, Dr. Smith earned a B.S. degree in Physics and a PhD in Electrical Engineering, both from Brigham Young University in Provo, UT.

His graduate research dealt with using D-shaped fiber to create optical sensors and communication devices.

**Ms. Susan Schleith, Program Director K-12 Education, Florida Solar Energy Center**

Susan Schleith directs the K-12 education programs at the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), leading a very dedicated and hardworking team of educators. Together they strive to increase energy literacy throughout Florida by informing K-16 educators and the public of the Center's research. This is accomplished through curriculum and instruction, professional development for teachers and student programs and events.

Through her efforts, eight K-12 curriculum units have been compiled, covering the areas of solar, hydrogen, biofuels, energy efficiency, conservation, climate change and environmental issues. Most recently, she was Principle Investigator on the Sunsmart Schools Emergency Shelter program, a "SpeakerBio">0 million statewide effort that resulted in the installation of 117 solar electric bi-modal systems on schools that double as emergency shelters. As part of this effort, over 450 teachers and school facility managers were educated about solar technology through workshops and webinars. She co-managed Sun Academy, an NSF initiative to increase understanding of renewable energy technology among pre- and in-service teachers. With her team, she developed the EnergyWhiz program, which showcases energy-related student projects. Activities include Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) Hydrogen Challenge, Energy Innovations, Solar Energy Cookoff, Critter Comfort Cottage and Electrathon. Ms. Schleith is a founding member of the Space Coast Science Education Alliance (SCSEA). The group has developed numerous programs including: Exemplary Science Teacher Awards, Free Speaker Series, Brevard Research Rules and Aspiring Scientist Award. She has also co-managed the following programs: Florida Space Coast Clean Cities Coalition, Alternative Energy Banner Center, Florida Middle School Energy Education Project, East Central Florida Environmental Education Service Project. Ms. Schleith has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from George Mason University and is working on a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from UCF.

**Dr. Lester Morales, NASA KSC Education Specialist, NASA Kennedy Space Center**

Dr. Lester Morales is the Education Professional Development Specialist at Kennedy Space Center and serves the states of GA and FL and the US territories of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.

Previously, Dr. Morales worked with the NASA Aerospace Education Services Project and the INSPIRE project. Dr. Morales taught middle school science, anatomy, physiology, algebra, and geometry for the Miami Dade County Public School System in Miami, FL. He holds a current Florida teaching certificate in Mathematics and Biology.

Dr. Morales received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Florida International University and a Medical degree from American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine.

### **Jack Colpas, "The Rocketman", Reach for the Stars ~ National Rocket Competition - STEM Educational Outreach**

My teaching career began in 1971 and has predominantly been in science with experience ranging from fourth through eighth grade with a year as an adjunct Professor of Photography at the college level. I taught in Massachusetts, Virginia and Florida. While teaching in Manatee County, Florida I was nominated several times for Teacher of the Year, have been involved with the school and county Science Fair, assembly programs, Earth Day activities, the National Estuary program and Mote Marine Institute (Jason Project and Sea World programs), and have worked on several curriculum committees (including Science and Human Growth and Development).

Whenever possible in my 33 years as a classroom science teacher, I included rocketry in my lessons. Over a decade ago, I started the rocketry summer camp at G.WIZ the Hands-on Science Museum in Sarasota, Florida. That earned me my nickname, "The Rocketman."

After retiring from classroom teaching - my wife and I founded the Reach for the Stars ~ National Rocket Competition and continue to serve as co-directors. The program is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Educational Outreach that honors the memory of Christa McAuliffe, the first Teacher-in-Space.

National winners of the competition have celebrated at the October Sky Festival, Coalwood, West Virginia (2007 - 2012), Astronaut Hall of Fame / Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex (2008 – 2013), Space Camp / US Space & Rocket Center in 'Rocket City', Huntsville, Alabama. (2012 – present)

\*Our goal is to give kids the educational experience of building and launching a solid-fuel powered rocket.

\*Our purpose is to foster an interest in model rocketry, STEM subjects and aeronautics.

\*Our mission is to keep alive the memory of the first Teacher-in-Space, Christa McAuliffe.

Since 1996 I have done rocketry workshops for educators. I have presented at the Astronaut Hall of Fame / Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, the Florida Association of Science Teachers (FAST) conventions, the Florida League of Middle Schools (FLMS) conventions, the Florida Engineering Education Conference, the Challenger Learning Center national conference, the World Space Expo and at teacher in-service programs in 12 Florida counties. Join me in - Helping Kids Reach for the Stars!

### **Ms. Jessica Eson King, Vice President, The Maker Effect Foundation**

Jessica King loves to see new connections and creations made through the sharing of ideas and equipment. With a BA in Psychology and Sociology from Flager College and a Master's of Arts in Applied Sociology from the University of Central Florida, Jessica works to bridge education and creativity. She encourages innovation and collaboration through her roles as Producer of Maker Faire Orlando and Vice President of The Maker Effect Foundation. Jessica also serves as a volunteer photographer at Orange County Animal Services and was honored to speak at TEDxOrlando 2013.

### **Mrs. Candy Cole, President, The Maker Effect Foundation**

Passionate about STEM education, Candy works with educators and makers to empower future generations by helping them incorporate hands-on projects into their curricula. In addition to being on the production team for Maker Faire Orlando, she has focused her passion by helping teachers and schools through the maker community. With a BS in Accounting from the University of Central Florida and an MBA from the Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College, she also provides business coaching for maker start ups.

### **Mr. James Jones, Robotics Instructor, Trainer, Consultant, Ocoee High School**

James Jones has 18+ years teaching K-12 and College, in STEM and currently: high school robotics at Ocoee High School. James is a Roboticist & Robotics Educator; a National LEGO® Education Academy Teacher/Trainer; member of the LEGO® Education Advisory board; runs a robotics camps and afterschool program(s) company: iBrick Academy; won three Disney Teacheriffic Awards; Outstanding Program Award and the W.E. Werner Award (EPT). James presents/trains and consults across the country; has three beautiful Grand Daughters, collects LEGO® and loves trains.

### **Ms. Heidi Brennan, K-5 STEM Program Specialist, Florida Dept. of Education**

Ms. Brennan has been a STEM leader for the state of Florida for many years as a teacher, coach, professional developer, and State specialist. Her background in STEM success is rooted in her “hands-on” philosophy as seen by her involvement with the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Florida Engineering Society, The Boston Museum of Science, The Imaginarium Science Center, Florida Gulf Coast University, and others. In 2008 Ms. Brennan pioneers intensive engineering practices in the elementary classroom through the collaboration of engineer volunteers and the Calusa Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society: effectively bringing real-life STEM education to students in Lee County and participating in the initial creation of the STEM Team of Southwest Florida. Since then, Ms. Brennan has used her corporate and science expertise to help develop and drive STEM programs across the state of Florida. Ms. Brennan consults with statewide organizations regularly, including the Florida Association of Science Teachers, the Florida Association of Science Supervisors, the Florida Association of Mathematics Supervisors, and the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Currently, Ms. Brennan serves

as a STEM Specialist for the Florida Department of Education. Within this capacity, Ms. Brennan has been actively engaged in finding ways to bring STEM education to Florida teachers and students, while working to develop a statewide definition for Florida STEM.

**Mrs. Michelle Pace, STEM Resource Teacher, Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School**

Michelle Pace is a graduate of the Lockheed Martin K-8 Mathematic and Science Academy. Currently, she is serving in the role as a STEM Resource Teacher at Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School located in Sanford, FL. She teaches a K-5 mathematics problem-solving lab. She is in charge of creating and implementing project based learning lessons with a real world context. Michelle is a published author in the national magazine, Teaching Children Mathematics.

**Ms. Mary Lynn Hess, K-5 STEM Resource Teacher, Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School**

Mary Lynn Hess is a K-5 STEM Resource Teacher at Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School. She has spearheaded many programs including a 750 square foot garden on the school campus, raising over \$20,000 in grants to enhance the programs she organizes. Her accomplishments include speaking engagements on many topics at state and international conferences. She was a featured speaker at EPCOT's Flower and Garden Festival and also appeared on PBS for "How Kids Learn in the Modern World."

**Mrs. Amy Monahan, STEM Teacher on Assignment, Volusia County Schools**

Amy Monahan is the STEM coordinator for Volusia County Schools. She was appointed this position in 2011 with goals of improving STEM education in the secondary classroom. She has a STEM Cadre of Math, Science and Technology teachers that create lessons that are aligned the math and science standards. Amy holds a Master's Degree from Florida Atlantic University. Her focus is to provide engaging, relevant and rigorous STEM initiatives for the district of Volusia. As a recipient of the National LEGO Education School District Grant, robotics have been incorporated into the secondary classroom to enhance the new mathematics standards and provide the engineering practices of the NGSS standards.

Amy has collaborated with colleagues to provide STEM lessons for Project Wet Curriculum, Satellites in Education and the Literacy Design Collaborative. In addition, Amy along with STEM Cadre teachers, presented at FCR-STEM for the last three years as well as Satellites in Education Conference in Madison WI in 2014.

### **Alyssa Stagaard, Mathematics Teacher, Deltona Middle School**

Ms. Stagaard is currently teaching 8th grade Mathematics at Deltona Middle School. Shortly after earning her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from University of Florida, she attained her teaching certification for middle grades mathematics. She is in her 12th year of teaching and has experience teaching all grades from preschool through college. She holds her Florida Teacher Certifications in Mathematics (6-12), ESE, and Gifted.

Ms. Stagaard serves on both the school and district (Volusia) STEM committees. She is also an Independent Educational Consultant who contracts for private, public, state, and national organizations. As a consultant, she has worked for Pearson, ETS, ACT inc., North Carolina, Texas, Florida on scoring, writing, and reviewing assessment items. She has also served as a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards portfolio assessor.

Ms. Stagaard is creative, energetic, and has a passion for mathematics education. She is a mother to a beautiful 7-year-old. She enjoys crafts, the beach, and writing in her "free" time.

### **Ms. Stephanie Schnettler, K-12 STEM District Resource Teacher**

Stephanie Schnettler has been a science educator since 2000. She started her career in education at the Orlando Science Center and has been with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) since 2005. She has taught hands-on science to students in grades K-12 with a passion for making science fun and interesting to students creating an intrinsic motivation to learn. Since 2013 she has served as a secondary science district resource teacher for OCPS. This year she was appointed the K-12 STEM resource teacher. She graduated with her BS and Masters degree from the University of Central Florida. In 2008, Stephanie was chosen, as part of a team of teachers, to attend Perdue University's summer INSPIRE (Institute for Pre-College Engineering) academy which focused on studying and improving pre-college engineering education. She has since been a champion for project-based STEM education in K-12 classrooms.

### **Mrs. Shayla Mark, Founder/Executive Director, STEMchicks, Inc.**

Shayla Mark is the Founder and Executive Director of STEMchicks, a nonprofit organization aimed at empowering girls in STEM. Girls involved with STEMchicks have an opportunity to take part in fun and engaging hands-on after school clubs, camps, and workshops -- encouraging a lifelong interest in STEM and ensuring them a future of success.

An educator for almost 10 years, Shayla also serves as the Founding STEM Academy Coordinator at Apopka Memorial Middle School and is a Project Lead the Way certified instructor. Shayla graduated from Florida State University and was recently nominated as Teacher of the Year by her peers. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership.

### **Jennifer Kinler, Education Specialist: Curriculum and Instruction, Orlando Science Center**

Jennifer Kinler is the Education Specialist of Curriculum and Instruction at the Orlando Science Center. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida and taught second grade at a local school. Jennifer has worked at the Orlando Science Center since 2011, facilitating educational programs with visitors. Currently, Jennifer helps develop and implement programs for field trips and camps in the education department. She also provides professional development workshops for Florida teachers, including hands-on trainings to prepare teachers to lead Engineering is Elementary (developed by the Museum of Science, Boston) with their students.

### **Ms. Michelle Perez, Teacher, Founder, CEO, TheBYODClassroom**

Michelle is an innovative educator and entrepreneur that has a passion for empowering all students in the learning process. She advocates for interactive classrooms that encourage hands-on engagement and active participation. During her years in college, she enjoyed playing lacrosse and staying involved with campus activities, now she enjoys long-distance running. Frustrated with the way students were learning in this advanced society, Michelle took the initiative to create an organization to help teachers leverage the power of technology to enhance the student's learning experience. Thus the birth of TheBYODClassroom. This new start-up is a reliable resource for teachers to learn how to make their classrooms device-friendly with value-based, easy-to-use information on technology. Michelle has spoken and continues to speak at local conferences and visits schools to facilitate educators with the transition into the digital age. Her ultimate goal is to reach as many learners as possible and to ensure teaching methods keep up with future innovation!

### **Mrs. Danielly Orozco-Cole, Curriculum Coordinator, FLATE - Florida Advanced Technological Education Center**

Background includes B.S and M.S. degrees in environmental engineering. Professional experience features more than 10 years as a researcher in University of South Florida. Currently working with the Florida Advanced Technological Education Center - FLATE for more than 5 years as a curriculum coordinator and subject matter expert contributing with technical STEM lessons and curriculum to middle and High School levels.

### **Mrs. Carol Unterreiner, Teacher, Milwee Middle School**

Carol Unterreiner teaches middle school engineering at Milwee Middle School. She currently teaches PLTW classes to 7th and 8th graders and has a SECME competition class. She has been teaching at Milwee for 19 years. Before teaching engineering she taught science, math and PE. Besides teaching engineering she is also the sponsor of the Beta club, the girl's engineering club, TSA and Vex robotics. Carol was a part of the engineering team from Milwee that won the prestigious ITEEA Program of Excellence award in 2014.

Carol has a BA in communication studies from Vanderbilt University, an MA in communication studies from UCF and she is certified middle grades science and gifted education. She is also GTT/PLTW certified.

When not teaching and taking students to competitions Carol helps coach her daughter's volleyball team, and proudly attends the events of her high school and college sons.

**Ms. Cristina Mrozek, District K-8 Curriculum Coach, OPCS - TIF STEM Grant**

Cristina Mrozek is the District K-8 Curriculum Coach for the TIF STEM Grant in Orange County Public Schools. She has published several Model Eliciting Activities and Engineering Design Challenges on CPALMS and worked with Purdue University's INSPIRE PK-12 Engineering Institute program as a Teacher in Residence. Cristina continues to collaborate with CPALMS, FCR-STEM, NASA and many other organizations to advocate for STEM education.

**Mr. John McHale, Principal, Deerwood Elementary School**

John McHale is currently principal at Deerwood Elementary School in Orlando, FL. The school serves a diverse community, and is dedicated to providing an environment that fosters creativity, builds confidence, challenges limits, and rewards excellence. Last year, Deerwood Elementary made awe-inspiring growth in their school grade, landing an A+. The school was particularly successful in the STEM assessments. The school had the single highest point gain in FCAT Science in all of central Florida and the Math scores jumped by nearly 20%. The school won the Florida Science Olympiad and placed second in the Orange Math competition. Prior to Deerwood, he was Assistant Principal of Instruction at Timber Creek High School, the only traditional high school to achieve all AYP goals as part of the No Child Left Behind initiative. He has presented to young educators on the future of education. He has run a sub 4 hour marathon, visited China on an educational exchange and will complete his EdD at UCF this summer. His wife is an accomplished attorney, and his three children are all attending colleges or universities (which determines his need for continued gainful employment). He believes children are capable of great things, and works to empower all. Finally, he has two loud and lovable hound dogs that challenge his patience more than any newly legislated educational mandates!

**Mr. Abdul Siddiqui, Software Engineer, US Army PEO STRI**

Abdul M. Siddiqui started working for the US Army as a Systems Engineer in 1991. He was the Software Engineering Manager for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System, TACOM from 1998 to 2004. He is currently the resident subject matter expert in software architecture development for systems and productlines at US Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI). He is the lead for Configuration Management and Information Assurance Security Officer for Program Manager Digitized Training and leads the effort to certify and accredit the Digital Range Training System since 2007. He is the Engineering Mentor and STEM Coordinator for PEO STRI. Mr. Siddiqui received his Master of Science in Software



Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, CA in December 2000. He is married and has three boys.

**Mr. Karim Alizad, PhD Candidate, CHAMPS Lab - Department of Civil Engineering - University of Central Florida**

Karim Alizad is a PhD candidate in civil engineering at University of Central Florida. He has earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Semnan University in Semnan, Iran; a M.S. in energy conversion from University of Tehran in Tehran, Iran; and completed his second M.S. in mechanical engineering at University of California Riverside in Riverside, CA. He is a member of Coastal Hydroscience Analysis, Modeling and Predictive Simulations (CHAMPS) lab, and is working on an integrated model for coupling hydrodynamics and salt marsh modeling to capture sea level rise effect on ecology. He has done research on analytical and numerical modeling of heat pipes and CFD modeling of flow in engines. He is a reviewer for Journal of Modeling and Simulation in Engineering, Journal of Advances in Mechanical Engineering, Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management, and Journal of Computational Water, Energy, and Environmental Engineering. He is a member of ASCE, ASME, AGU, and COPRI. He served the UCR community as a member of international committee of academic senate and the international affairs officer in the Graduate Student Association (GSA). He is serving his current community at UCF as a president of International Association of Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) student chapter at UCF, and advisory board member in the GSA.

**Ms. Sona Gholizadeh, PhD Student, University of Central Florida**

I am a second year PhD student in Science Education at UCF. Coming from an engineering background, I am interested in doing research in the field of Engineering Education. My Bachelor's degree is in Civil Engineering and my Master's is in Industrial Engineering.

**Mr. Lanny Wood, Director of School Engagement, Project Lead the Way**

Lanny Wood, native of Illinois and graduate of the University of Illinois, School of Architecture, has over 20 years professional experience at large multi-national organizations such as Ellerbe Beckett, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, CNA Insurance, and the World Bank in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Washington, DC. Wanting to bring real world experience into the classroom and serve as a mentor to students, Mr. Wood accepted a call to teach in Orlando, FL, in 2004, concentrating in mathematics.

Mr. Wood was then recruited by Timber Creek High School to become their drafting instructor, combining professional and educational experiences. Seeking an even more rigorous and integrated curriculum, Mr. Wood then transitioned Timber Creek's program into Project Lead the Way Pathways to Engineering. By building support of local industry, school administration, parents and students, Mr. Wood made Timber Creek's PLTW program one of the most successful in Orange County.

In 2014, Mr. Wood accepted the position of Florida Director of School Engagement for Project Lead The Way, a national non-profit and has the privilege to grow STEM programs across the state of Florida. In this capacity, Mr. Wood collaborates with statewide leaders, the Florida Department of Education, higher education leaders, and the K-12 community to create more pathways for elementary, middle and high school students in engineering, computer science, and biomedical sciences

Awards:

- Participated in Naval Carrier Distinguished Visitors Embark, USS Enterprise, January, 2012.
- Central Florida Chapter of the Air Force Association Orange County Teacher of the Year, Central Florida Teacher of the Year, and the Carole Denicole Award for achievement in STEM Education, 2013.

### **Mrs. Norine Quire, Kids Space Center Teacher, Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School**

Norine Quire is the Kids Space Center teacher and Project Lead the Way Lead Teacher at Goldsboro Elementary School in Sanford, Florida. Goldsboro is K-5 Magnet School of Math, Science, and Technology. She is a Master Teacher for Project Lead the Way and a robotics curriculum writer for the Seminole County School District. Norine's professional life began in the industrial engineering field working on superconductors and innovative government projects. The interaction with the clients, and helping them to solve problems ignited her love to teach and has led to a 22-year career in the field of teaching

### **Mr. George Bartuska, Instructor, Kathleen High School**

Mr. George Bartuska has a distinguished and diverse background in the fields of Engineering, Business Development and Geoscience, and is an advocate and practitioner of lifetime learning. While in the U.S. Navy, he served as an aircraft mechanic aboard the U.S. John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier and following his tour of duty, received his B.S. degree from a school well-known for its engineering programs - Purdue University. Over the course of a 22-year career, Mr. Bartuska has participated in a variety of engineering projects throughout Florida, including a project for NASA involving the Space Shuttle Orbiter and projects for Palm Beach International, Sarasota – Bradenton International, and Orlando International airports, addressing airport noise monitoring and radar upgrades. He has also worked and collaborated on projects spanning the globe, including places like Puerto Rico, Canada, Denmark, and the Mediterranean. Today, he proudly serves as an Earth Science teacher for Kathleen High School in Lakeland, Florida, where he instructs and inspires high school students in the subject areas of Meteorology, Oceanography, Geology and Astronomy.

In 2006, Mr. Bartuska gained national recognition as the recipient of the American Society of Civil Engineers' "Citizen Engineer Award", given in recognition of his creation and 15 year presentation of an "All About Bridges" program for students grades K-12. Former employers, Martin Marietta and Bruel & Kjaer, have also honored him with awards for being outstanding in his field. As a result of his lifetime avocation of studying weather and weather instrumentation,

Mr. Bartuska founded the “Project Weather” program, which provided teachers and students in Orange County, Florida with decommissioned weather instruments from the FAA and National Weather Service to be used for hands-on study. He also coached students in the “Odyssey of the Mind” program for 6 years and was honored when one of his teams qualified to attend the “World Competition”.

Mr. Bartuska has authored two published works (one publication, Career Fastrax offers tips for a successful career), several white papers and has pioneered some of the curriculum being taught in Polk County. Active in the community, Mr. Bartuska is a member of the Civil Air Patrol where he serves as a Safety Officer, the Coast Guard Auxiliary where he serves as a Weather Instructor, the American Society of Civil Engineers (2006-2008 served as Education Chairman), and a number of weather-related organizations. Over the past several years, he has been selected for:

- National Educator’s Conference Presenter, NASA’s 2011 Space Exploration Conference, NASA’s Johnson Space Center - Houston, TX - February 2011
- Physical Oceanography – United State Naval Academy – Annapolis, MD
- Astronaut Training; NASA’s Educator Space Camp – Huntsville, AL; July 2010
- Graduate-level Meteorology studies - The National Weather Service Forecast Center - Kansas City, MO; July 2010
- Featured Educator – Teachers.net Newsletter – a publication of the nationally recognized Educational speaker and author, Dr. Harry Wong, PhD. Education; 02/2010.
- Teachers’ Math and Science Training – NASA’s Kennedy Space Center – Cape Canaveral, FL; July, 2008.

An avid reader, Mr. Bartuska continues to further his education in the Sciences through his estimated 1,000 book collection of technology and scientific textbooks, scholarly publications and studies.