

10th GEORGIA NASA STEM CONFERENCE

Presenters

Dr. Samuel García, Jr., Keynote Speaker and Presenter



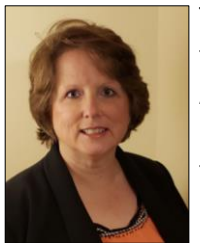
Dr. Samuel García Jr. serves as an Educator Professional Development Specialist at Kennedy Space Center and Assistant Professor of Practice for the LBJ Institute for Education and Research at Texas State University. Prior to his position at Kennedy Space Center, Dr. García worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. As an education specialist, Dr. García works to help develop STEM educational mindsets, tools, and resources for teachers to implement in their classrooms that respond to diverse student needs and increase diversity in STEM fields. He also works with faculty serving in Minority Serving Institutions (MSI's) in developing STEM educational tools and resources for teachers to implement in their classrooms. Prior to working in higher education, Dr. García served as secondary school educator in Rio Grande Valley in Texas for seven years. Dr. García's research agenda is geared towards community and educational change by creating healthy, equitable, and culturally responsive STEM learning experiences for traditionally underserved populations. Dr. García earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas Río Grande Valley, formerly University of Texas Pan American and holds a doctorate degree in School Improvement from Texas State University.

Becky Busby, Frank Long Elementary, NASA Space Educator Crew, NASA Solar System Ambassador



Becky has dedicated her teaching career to the Liberty County School System for 22 years. In her current position as a Gifted Resource Specialist, she works with kindergarten through fifth grade gifted students. Becky is an advocate for students in her school by serving in many different leadership roles. She has trained and certified teachers to assist with getting their Georgia Gifted Certification. In the classroom, Becky is a powerhouse. She has written grants to obtain STEM resources for her school, facilitated school climate activities for staff and students, and has personally brought the first robotics program into the district. Becky was selected to work with NASA on the Year in Space mission to bring NASA resources and STEM education to Georgia. Through this experience, she has implemented professional development courses for teachers and parents to enrich the Liberty County School District. Becky works diligently to bring her passion and enthusiasm to teachers throughout Georgia using NASA resources and materials. She was recently named Georgia STEM Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Year for Liberty County School System. Her work with Solar System Ambassadors and Teacher Liaison programs has provided opportunities for outreach with teachers.

Tami Daniels, STEM Instructor, National STEM Academy, Museum of Aviation



Tami has been with the Museum for more than 3 years as a STEM Instructor. Her daily focus is ECE and Elementary Education, leading Pre-K through 5th grade STEM classes for ACE Field Trips, Homeschool Programs and Saturday STEM Labs, and providing professional development workshops for the NASA RERC. With a diverse background in formal and informal classroom and workshop teaching, Tami especially enjoys writing lesson plans and hosting professional development training. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and holds several national healthcare certifications.

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Zachary Stier, Children's Services, Ericson Public Library, Boone, Nebraska



Zachary Stier (Mr. Z) has been a public librarian for over 10 years, and he is currently the head of children's services at Ericson Public Library in Boone, Iowa. In 2017, his library was one out of seventy-eight public libraries in the nation to receive the NASA@ My Library program grant allowing his community interactive opportunities to learn about NASA. Stier holds a Masters in Education from Concordia University Portland and a Masters in Library and Information Science from Drexel University and his EdD from Concordia University Chicago. He also completed post-graduate work at Erickson Institute and Library Leadership in a Digital Age certificate from Harvard University. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Concordia University Portland. He is an active member on local, state, and national boards and committees including serving as a director for the Iowa Library Association Executive Board and Community Contributor for MIT's Public Library Innovation Exchange. In 2014, Stier founded, *Mr. Z and Company*, with a mission to harness the power of storytelling by engaging all learners to make learning fun.

Michael Kuenlen, Education Outreach Specialist, GPB Education



Michael serves as an education outreach specialist at GPB. In his role, he provides support and training to educators on GPB's digital resources, including the Georgia Studies digital textbook. Michael graduated from Appalachian State University with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Studies Education and attended a joint graduate program at the College of Charleston and the Citadel to study developing world history. Michael taught high school economics, government, and Advanced Placement United States history for five years; he continues to teach U.S. history at a local college.

Tina Perkins, Member Mid GA Gem & Mineral Society, Retired Science Teacher



Born on an Air Force Base, her dad's last station was of course, Robins AFB. Tina graduated from Georgia College with a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and courses in Physics for Engineers and Calculus. She holds a Masters of Art in Teaching and a Masters of Science; and is certified broad field science 6-12 in Georgia. She began her teaching career in 1986 as a K4-8th grade environmental educator through the cooperative extension service covering parts of Georgia and North Carolina. Moving back to Warner Robins in the fall of 1988, Tina began looking for another teaching position. She took on the challenge in January of 1989 of a 2nd grade class and fell in love with the classroom. In August of 1989 she was hired as a 9th-12th professional educator and found her calling. After almost 33 years in education Tina retired May 31, 2018. She taught IB Physics, Biology (AP, IB, Gifted, Reg. Ed), AP/Reg. Environmental Science, Forensics, Physical Science, Earth Science, Botany, Chemistry (Gifted, Honors, Reg.), Research I and II, and Astronomy. She has been involved in Project Astro, STEM, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, and with the NASA RERC. Tina was a Teacher Support Specialist from 2007 to 2018, IB Coordinator (2017-2018) and CAS Coordinator (2001-2018). She has presented at High Schools That Work and Gifted Conferences. Tina is also a certified handler of NASA Lunar and Meteorite Samples! If not working with teachers or students, then Tina is in the field looking for rocks, gems, minerals and fossils with the Mid GA Gem and Mineral Society.

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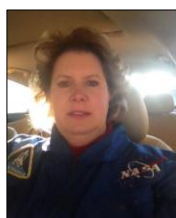
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Frank Lock, Member, NASA Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers (NEAT)



Frank Lock taught secondary physics and chemistry in public schools for 35 years. Since retiring in 2009, he has mentored high school physics student teachers at Georgia State University and will mentor twelve Georgia State Woodrow Wilson Early Career Teaching Fellows beginning this fall. As a member of the Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers he has made numerous presentations to teachers, students and the general public. He has been a human spaceflight enthusiast since 1961.

Dawn Hardy, Perdue Primary/NASA GLOBE and GALILEO Educator



Dawn is in her 26th year of teaching. She began her career with integrated Pre- K and has taught a very wide spectrum of students from Special Education, self-contained Autistic to Early Childhood for Abilene Christian University. She has taken NASA resource training since 1996 and has redelivered that training almost as long. Dawn has been a NASA GALILEO Educator since 2014 and a NASA GLOBE teacher since 2015. She also participated in the *Rockets to Racecars* with the Jimmie Johnson Experience at the Atlanta 500 in 2016. Dawn was selected to teach for NASA MEI at Kennedy Space Center in the summer of 2017 and brought back an array of outstanding experiences to share with other teachers. She currently teaches Gifted and Talented second graders at David A. Perdue Primary School in Houston County.

Laurie Orth, Music Teacher



In May of 2019, music education pioneer Laurie Orth published her first book, *Rocket Recorder: Volume One*, an innovative music workbook for recorder students that combines the contrasting disciplines of music with space exploration. Throughout her professional career, Laurie has taught music classes in a variety of school settings and has been a church choir director. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Hartt School, at the University of Hartford, in Connecticut and her Master of Music Education degree from Jacksonville State University in Alabama. In 2012, she began her own business, teaching general music classes to the homeschool community. She currently teaches on her YouTube channel, Laurie Orth Music Teacher. Laurie serves as the Vice President of Aerospace Education for the Savannah Air Force Association and served for four years as the team assistant to her son's high school CyberPatriot cyber defense team. Professional affiliations include Georgia Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Educators, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She serves as a Teacher Liaison for the Space Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and volunteers at her high school alma mater, Interlochen Arts Academy, in Interlochen, Michigan, where she studied bassoon, dance, musical theatre, and voice. In October 2019, Laurie was selected as a social media influencer by the NASA Headquarters Social Media Team to attend the International Astronautical Congress and have a behind the scenes tour of NASA HQ in Washington, DC. In June 2020, she was awarded the Air Force Association's Medal of Merit for the state of Georgia.

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Belynda Songer, Northside High School/NASA ENDEAVOR Leadership Program



Belynda Songer has been teaching since 2013. She has a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and a bachelor's degree in Education and is certified to teach Middle and High School Science. Ms. Songer is also SPED and Art certified. With NASA Education programs, she earned a NASA Endeavor STEM Teaching Certificate, Lunar & Meteorite Sample Certification and served as a Teacher Intern with the Launch Services Program at Kennedy Space Center. She currently teaches at Northside High School in Warner Robins, GA.

Lori Skillings, Georgia Space Grant Consortium, Program Manager



Lori Skillings has spent her career focused on supporting educators in providing the best engaging experiences in the classroom. While studying Middle Grades education in the mid 90's at Kennesaw State University (with a focus on Math and Science), Lori quickly became known for her creative and engaging uses of technology in her projects and lesson plans. Upon graduating, Lori was sought out by Cobb County Schools to take on an instructional technology position at McCleskey Middle School. One of the main goals was to assist the teachers with integrating technology resources in engaging ways into their lessons. Lori then had the opportunity to join the team at McEachern High School as their Technology Coordinator. She directed the implementation of an integrated computer network structure that is still in use there today. The technological growth at McEachern High School during her employment there, gained her positive notice at the district level. Within 4 years, Lori was offered a position at Dalton Public Schools as the Technology Director for the school system. Over the next decade, Lori moved on to assist Mitchell County Schools and Haralson County Schools as Technology Director. Today, Lori now works at the Georgia Institute of Technology as the Program Manager for the Georgia Space Grant Consortium. In this role, Lori utilizes her knowledge and experiences to continue to make positive impact in Georgia schools. The Georgia Space Grant Consortium is a statewide network of academic, industry, and non-profit partners dedicated to maximize the number of Georgia students from all backgrounds who are well-prepared in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and who are motivated to support space and aeronautics programs vital to this nation.

Check back for updated information!