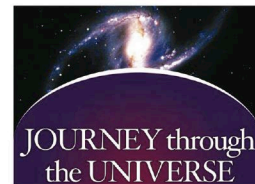


Visiting Educator Profile



Cathy Williamson

Educational Coordinator
Sci-Port Discovery Center
Shreveport, LA

Bio

Cathy Williamson has taught for 34 years, and is currently the Educational Coordinator at Sci-Port Discovery Center. Her responsibilities include writing and delivering middle school and high school programming, professional development for teachers, and educational outreach. Previously Cathy has taught Biology I, Biology II AP, Scientific Research, Earth Science, and Physical Science in several area high schools in Shreveport, LA. Cathy has been actively involved in teacher professional development since 1991 when she helped organize a district-wide professional development initiative that trained over 900 K-12 teachers. She has also presented workshops annually on the state and national level at the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, the National Science Teachers Association, and the National Association of Biology Teachers since 1994. These workshops have addressed a variety of topics in life and Earth sciences. Cathy has been chosen as the Byrd High School, Caddo Parish, and Louisiana Region I Teacher of the Year. She participated in the 1996 Woodrow Wilson Neurobiology Institute at Princeton University and has attended the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Molecular Biology Program held at Princeton University. In 2005 Cathy helped Broadmoor Middle Lab School and Byrd High School become a NASA Explorer School (NES) and serves as the Team Lead on the NES Team. Last summer she participated in the Amgen Leadership Institute hosted by the Dolan DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor, NY. In 2006 Cathy was chosen as a MESSENGER fellow and has conducted 5 MESSENGER Educator Workshops to train over 100 teachers across the nation on NASA's MESSENGER mission to Mercury. Cathy believes her job is to encourage the growth and development of critical thinking skills in all of the individuals she teaches. She feels everyone must have hands-on experiences in science through discovery, laboratory activities, and projects to make each person's learning a personal experience that is applicable to his or her daily life. Cathy tries to provide her teachers, students, and parents with a motivated atmosphere where learning can be rewarding and fun.