

Jennifer L. Kennedy
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Professional Objective

To create a caring and nurturing classroom environment, where students are valued and are empowered to strive toward excellence.

Educational Background

University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama
Master of Education – Special Education; Gifted Emphasis, May 2008

University of Northern Iowa: Cedar Falls, Iowa
Bachelor of Arts - Elementary Education, Science Minor, May 1995

Certifications

State of Alabama: Class A, Special Education, Expires 06/30/2023
Gifted, Grades P-12

State of Alabama: Class B, Elementary, Expires 06/30/2023
Elementary K-6

Honors

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow, 2013-2014
NASA Headquarters, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate

State of Iowa Teacher of the Year, 2002-2003

Professional Experience

Athens City School District, Athens, Alabama (July 2008 – present)

- Currently STEM Specialist at SPARK Academy at Cowart Elementary
- Served as elementary Gifted specialist and middle school robotics instructor
- Coached competitive robotics teams at intermediate and middle school levels

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, Washington, DC

NASA Headquarters: Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (September 2013-July 2014)

- Aligned NASA Aeronautics educational portfolio with the Next Generation Science Standards
- Led NASA community and educational outreach activities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area
- Presented NASA Aeronautics educational activities at national conferences and events

Madison County School District, Huntsville, Alabama (September 2003-May 2008)

- Served as elementary Gifted specialist and classroom teacher
- Developed and led concept-based Gifted enrichment units on rocketry, community development, drama and puppetry, crime scene investigations, and stop-motion animation

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Professional Experience continued

Iowa Department of Education (July 2002–June 2003)

- Served as Iowa Ambassador for Education
- Led professional development for best practices in hands-on science education, reading instruction, and elementary pedagogy
- Featured speaker at numerous school districts, colleges, educational, and community events

Marion Independent School District, Marion, Iowa (September 1995-June 2002)

- Taught self-contained first and third grade classrooms

Awards and Recognition

- 2017 Appalachian Regional Commission Educational Achievement/Attainment school grant recipient
- 2013 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship
- 2012 Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Grant Competition- national semi-finalist
- 2012 Toyota Teacher Leadership Award – BEST Robotics
- 2011 AUVSI Robotics Education grant recipient (four consecutive years)
- 2002 Iowa Teacher of the Year
- 2000 Certification from National Board for Professional Teaching Standards - Middle Childhood Generalist

Presentations and Workshops

Space Camp (2004, 2012 - 2015)

- Teacher Crew Trainer at *Space Academy for Educators*
- Presented multiple workshop sessions for educators on space-themed engineering activities

State Level Conference Presenter

- Alabama Association for Gifted Children, Birmingham, Alabama (2009, 2015): *Schoolwide Enrichment and Peeps in Peril: Unpacking NASA's Museum in a Box*
- Mega Conference, Mobile, Alabama (2010): *Schoolwide Enrichment*

National Level Conference Presenter

- National Conference for Teachers of Mathematics, New Orleans, Louisiana (2014): *Unpacking NASA's Museum in a Box*
- Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums, Washington, DC (2014): *The Next Frontier: Educational Collaborations and the Space Shuttle Program*
- Smithsonian Affiliates National Conference, Washington, DC (2014): *Liftoff! The Space Shuttle's Rebirth as a Vehicle for Learning*

Featured Presenter

- NASA's Space and Science Festival, USS Intrepid Museum, New York City, New York (2014)
- USA Science and Engineering Festival, Washington, DC (2014)

Professional Development Presenter

- Hoover City Schools, Hoover, Alabama (2016), *STEM Activities for Gifted Students*
- Tennessee Valley Air Force Association, Huntsville, Alabama (2013), *Aerospace Connections in Education*

Appleton Learning Corporation (2012)

- Developed curriculum for 80-hour robotics camp