

# OSU/NASA Education Projects: Aerospace Education Services Program (AESP) Archive

Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

**Summer of 1999 by Warren Edwards. Written 2001.**

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by Warren Edwards

In June 1999 I attended the UCEP Summer Workshop I, at Oklahoma State University. I had several other opportunities to attend the workshop but due to other commitments I was unable to attend. However, when Dr. Octavia Tripp, contacted me to attend the 1999 session, I told myself that no matter what came up I was going to attend this workshop. I was accepted to attend the first workshop. This workshop began the Sunday following the last day of school, which was on Friday. I caught my plane and landed in Stillwater, OK, one of many firsts to come.

I became involved in education for one main reason: to make an impact in the total education process. I had seen, heard, and experienced several situations that I found, in my humble opinion, needed improvements. I am under the opinion that if you see something that needs help or improvement don't just sit on the outside, come on in and get involved. That is what I did. I got involved in education. My prior background was Business – Marketing/Sales.

I was very excited and impressed to learn all of the new things that the workshop offered. I was ready to go back and get started. However, as I mentioned before, I wanted to make a change in the "system," so I was really ready to make another impact other than from the classroom. When I arrived at the workshop I had every intention of staying longer than the two weeks of the program. I made it known that I had "packed to stay." So when I was offered the opportunity to join the team and become "An Aerospace Education Specialist," "intense joy" can barely describe my feelings.

So, stay I did. I officially began employment on July 13, 1999. I started my first UCEP Summer workshop. The SECOND workshop!! From that point on my life as I new it had changed forever. I now have the opportunity to REALLY make a change in the "system."

My first program was with the Oakland Unified School District in Oakland, CA, where I had the opportunity to shadow my colleagues. I learned several things and acted as if I where a sponge absorbing everything that I could from the UCEP team. I continued my first months as an ASP with continued shadowing experiences and "sponge sessions" with Jim Gerard, Garth Hull, Tom Gates, Minot Parker, and Stanley Jones. I am deeply grateful for all of their time and input. It helped to make my transition very smooth. Additionally, a big thanks to Dr. Tripp. If she had not given me that opportunity to attend the workshop.... Well, I am just glad she did.