

NASA/State Education Cooperation

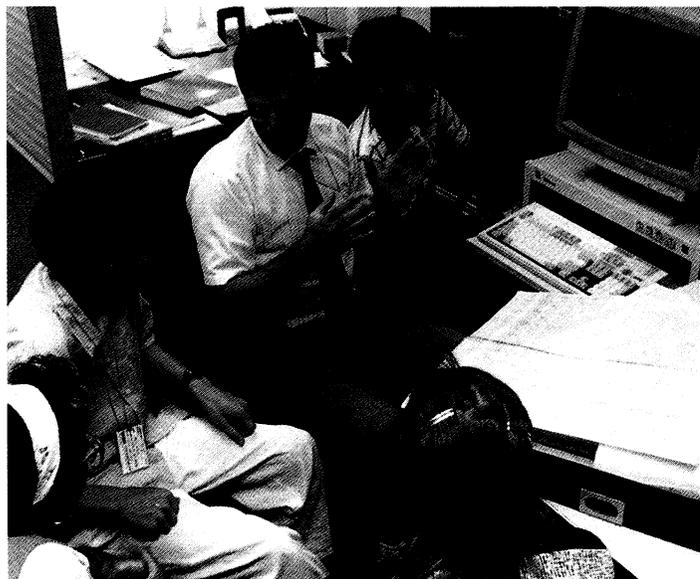
NASA is cooperating with state departments of education in a number of special education programs. An example:

The Maryland State Department of Education sponsors the Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students, a program that offers intensive, advanced-level learning opportunities for students who have demonstrated outstanding academic or artistic abilities. Some 2,600 students participated in the 1990 program.

One of the 12 centers is the Center for Space Science and Technology at Goddard Space Flight Center, which provides instruction to students of the 9-12 grade level. This center is operated by a three organization partnership that includes the Maryland State Department of Education, the University of Maryland and Goddard Space Flight Center, which hosts the instructional program and provides volunteer scientists and engineers as instructors. A typical two-week space intern program includes panel discussions, lectures, tours, field trips and hands-on activity focusing on such space science topics as astronomy, geology, planetology, relativity and cosmology, and on such areas of technology as laser applications, robotics and structural design and analysis. In addition, senior high students benefit from a one-to-one mentor relationship with a volunteer scientist or engineer.

Another example of NASA/state department of education cooperation was the Paducah (Kentucky) NASA Community Involvement Project, a joint educational effort of Langley and Lewis Research Centers, Marshall Space Flight Center, the Kentucky Department of Education, the City of Paducah and Paducah Independent Schools. This was a 16-day exposition/symposium featuring seminars on space subjects, appearances by astronauts and other NASA personnel, and a wide range of exhibits. The event drew 107,000 people and NASA aerospace education specialists visited and interacted with students and teachers of 145 schools in 19 school districts.

NASA also provides assistance to the Kentucky Department of Education on 120 ongoing space education programs, helping teachers develop curricula and materials for space science courses.



A Goddard Space Flight Center engineer explains to a group of students how a computer conducts a structural analysis of a space component. The session was part of the Goddard-hosted Center for Space Science and Technology, a summer instructional course held in cooperation with the Maryland State Department of Education.



Shown above is the grand opening of NASA's space exhibit, part of the Paducah (Kentucky) NASA Community Involvement Project that included participation of students from 145 schools.