



Ron Fortunato

Ron Fortunato, a United States Space Education Ambassador and a NASA Teacher in Space finalist, is an innovator in the development and implementation of educational technology.

In addition to his NASA and Christa McAuliffe Educator awards, he was

- Selected as Distinguished Educator by the editors of Electronic Learning Magazine
- Selected as the Technology Teacher of the Year by the Consortium for Interactive Instruction
- Finalist for the Smithsonian/Computerworld Awards.

Ron Fortunato is one of the original, five Christa McAuliffe Educators selected by the United States National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, where he co-designed and taught at the 2-week Christa McAuliffe Institute at Stanford University for a national group of educators to establish a lead educational restructuring group for the United States. Additionally, Ron Fortunato designed and implemented an international student space flight project for the National Space Sciences Academy that was taught at Stanford University. This prototype program was a joint business and education partnership involving Stanford University, the European Space Agency, Canada, Japan, NASA Ames Research Center, NASA Headquarters, and Lockheed Missiles and Space.

Ron Fortunato designed and was project manager for the NORSTAR Project, the first student-run space flight project ever flown on a space shuttle. The project included definition, design, fabrication, testing, and analysis work brought through to the final publishing of the results of an acoustical experiment for a space shuttle flight in partnership with the NASA Langley Research Center. The NORSTAR Project was selected as the prototype program for the National Space Sciences Academy. While in Norfolk, Virginia, Ron Fortunato also developed a robotics program featuring the instruction of robotics fundamentals, computer programming, and interfacing between microcomputers and industrial robots. He then served as Director of Instructional Technology for the Norfolk Public Schools.

Ron's current work includes a partnership with the Distance Resource Learning Network (DLRN) to develop an online Star Schools Showcase integrating metadata standards with interactive database technologies. He also is working with NASA to develop educational simulations and games.

As a senior partner in the Confluence International Group, Ron Fortunato designed and implemented exciting real-world project environments and business/industry partnerships in districts throughout the United States. He co-designed and facilitated strategic/vision planning workshops for the National School Boards Association, along with many, other national educational technology implementation activities. While a Senior Scientist at Bolt, Beranek and Newman (the company which created and developed the Internet), Ron Fortunato helped to design and implement Project-based learning in districts around the United States, as part of the America 2000/Goals 2000 initiative.

Ron Fortunato designed and implemented worldwide collaborative projects for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools during the Clinton administration to demonstrate the application of advanced technologies in educational programs to the staff of Vice President Gore, Secretary of Education Riley, Office of Science and Technology Programs (White House), and Defense Modeling and Simulations Office. Ron was the Project Manager of the Timeless Math product line for The Lightspan Partnership, Inc. As Project Manager he designed and developed interactive television and Internet products for education, including the international award-winning World Concept for Timeless Math. These products won the 1996 New York Festival of Animation World Medal Award for Interactive Media; the 1997 Telly Awards Film/Video Education Award for non-network programming; the 1997 Los Angeles International Animation Competition (finalist) for Best Animation Produced for Game Platforms; and were a 1998 Telly Award Finalist in the Multimedia Category.

While at Lightspan, Ron was also the Curriculum Field Liaison, Senior Manager of Curriculum & Instruction for Marketing Development, and the Director of Curriculum and Implementation for School Marketing Development. As Director for School Marketing Development, he was additionally responsible for managing partnerships including: United States Lieutenant Governors Association, Microsoft/Compaq's Windows School Connection, the U.S. Department of Education's Comprehensive School Reform Program, Federal Grants and Funding Initiatives, and was involved with Lightspan's research and evaluation programs. He also served as Executive Director of Special Internet Projects where he developed strategies for internet-based collaborative multiplayer products, so that students, teachers and parents may study, work and play together from homes and schools throughout the world.

Ron is currently President of Power Learning Solutions, a developer of educational curriculum, games and Internet portals, and which designs and implements powerful internet educational projects. These collaborative programs promote higher-order thinking skills in students around the world.

Ron received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Iowa State University of Science and Technology and a Master of Science in Oceanography from Old Dominion University where he also taught mathematics.