

Dr. Suckley's Autobiography



Life began in 1942 in Cleveland Ohio. At the age of four, our family moved to a small town in northwestern Ohio named Wauseon. My brothers and I attended public school and while in high school the decision to become a science teacher was made due to a very *uninspiring* science teacher.

After graduation from high school I attended Bowling Green State University earning a B. S. degree. Upon graduation, in 1964, accepted a teaching position in Pettisville, Ohio, (another very small town) teaching science and coaching JV basketball. A year later I married my best friend Pat, and in 1965 we moved to Warren, Michigan to teach in the Warren Woods School System. While in Warren Woods, I was appointed science department head at Hickory Junior High and then science department head at Warren Woods High School. During that time Pat and I enrolled at Eastern Michigan University where we both earned a Master's degree and I earned an Educational Specialist Degree in the areas of physical and biological sciences. In 1970 I was asked to join the faculty at Macomb Community College and in 1972 completed a Doctorate from Wayne State University in Instructional Technology.

In 1988 I was selected by the National Science Foundation to become an "Operation Physics" trainer. The O. P. program was conducted at San Diego State University. As a result of this program I obtained a deeper interest in providing support for Physical Science teachers through empirically based workshops. These workshops were designed to clarify Physical Science concepts and eliminate misconceptions. From 1988 to 2018 a close friend and myself developed and presented approximately 200 workshops for public school teachers. In addition, we presented at the state and national annual conventions for more than twenty-five years.

In 2002 I retired from full time teaching at Macomb Community College but continued teaching online courses until 2014 completing 50 years of teaching (1964-2014). My teaching experience included Physical and Environmental Science at the middle, high school, and college levels. While at MCC I authored two student centered science textbooks, *Analyzing the Physical Universe*, and *Physics Is FUNDamental*. In addition to teaching Physical Science, I was asked to and taught classes for the biology, chemistry, and business departments. I was also the Manager of Academic Computing for three years.

During my teaching career the following awards were received for teaching excellence.

1969 Warren Woods Middle School "Teacher of the Year".

2001 Metropolitan Detroit Science Teachers Association's "Outstanding Science Educators Award".

2002 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development's "Teaching Excellence Award".

2015 Metropolitan Detroit Science Teachers Assoc. "Ellen Daniel-Jones Distinguished Service Award".

My wife Pat also an educator and I have two sons, Mark and Matthew and six grandchildren who keep us busy. I am writing this from Creekview, our home which we built in 2005, on the top of a glacial moraine, near Fenton Michigan, overlooking Denton Creek. WOW, the grandkids are here