

Minnesota Solar System Ambassador Leaves STEM Job to be a Classroom Teacher



Ron in the JMO Observatory



Dee handing over the Observatory keys



Ron teaching his first class on Cassini

- Solar System Ambassador Ron Schmit was content with his job as technical support specialist for a Twin Cities-area nuclear instrument company, satisfying his love of astronomy and NASA exploration by conducting SSA events in his spare time
- When he learned Solar System Ambassador Master Teacher Dee McLellan was retiring as Jackson Middle School Observatory's Teacher/Coordinator, he thought this might be his chance to fulfill a lifelong dream, applied for the position and was hired
- On August 4, Dee handed over the keys commenting, "It's mighty hard giving up these keys, but having such a qualified replacement as Ron makes it a little bit easier!"
- As Dee had done for the past 4 years, Ron will be serving the 1,922 students at Jackson as well as the 37,880 students in Anoka-Hennepin District schools, incorporating NASA information and educational products into the curriculum; he is currently focusing on Cassini's mission at Saturn
- Said Ron, "I had a great job and really wasn't looking to make a move at the time. But then this came around. It was tough letting go of that private-sector paycheck, but I'm not sure you can put a price tag on having an absolute blast at work every day, firing kids' imaginations."