

## Featured Member: Anna Zuccarini

Anna Zuccarini is proud to support FFSE with her annual membership, largely because she credits Fermilab with molding her into the teacher she is today. Anna, a graduate of Cook College, Rutgers University in New Jersey, began teaching in District 204 in 1988 after moving from a teaching position in St. Louis. She went on to receive her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Benedictine University.

In 1991, Anna participated in Fermilab's Summer Science Project, a three-week session to introduce teachers to the wonders of science at Fermi and the Greater Chicago Area. This program and others like *Beauty and Charm* captured her attention and Anna was hooked! According to Anna, the opportunities Fermilab provided enriched her teaching and she chose to share this knowledge with others. Anna was instrumental in developing a middle level, science education networking group for area teachers and wrote the Middle Level Science Teachers Network newsletter monthly. Fermilab facilitated this effort through the publishing and distribution of the network newsletter. Later, they were the hosts for its website.

Before long, Anna found herself teaching Science Adventures classes and serving as a leader in the Pre-Service Teacher Program. It was through this program that Anna truly began to realize the power of Fermilab in science education. She recognized the work of the scientists and understood what it was to be a teacher, but the process of guiding these pre-service teachers through real-world scientific discovery awoke a different kind of spark in her that transferred into her classroom. "Fermilab forever changed me as a teacher!" Anna exclaimed with passion.

Soon after, Anna began working with gifted classes in her 7th and 8th grade gifted science classroom. Her students participated in the Illinois Junior Academy of Science Fair every year. The pre-service program experience proved invaluable as she guided her students through the exciting but often arduous process of experimental design and implementation. Having experienced firsthand the potential pitfalls of scientific experimentation, as well as the tremendous satisfaction of a project well done, Anna was able to nurture curiosity and encourage fledgling scientists while providing them with just the right amount of independence.

As happens in education, curricula change and opportunities to bring student classes to Fermilab shift. Such has happened to Anna, but she continues to use Fermilab for student enrichment and program support. She encourages students to partake in Science Adventures, educational programs, FFSE Family Open Houses and Wonders of Science. Anna speaks highly of the programs offered and enlightens teachers not familiar with Fermilab education resources.

Visits to the Lederman Science Education are also touted to her students. Since middle level students need parents to take them, more exposure to the educational aspects of Fermilab is possible. Anna also is thankful for the Fermilab scientists who serve as guest judges for Science Fair and at her school programs like STEM night. She specifically refers teachers to the advantages available at the Lederman Teacher Resource Center when curriculum decisions and questions arise.

Anna Zuccarini continues to support FFSE and its efforts as a resounding THANK YOU for all she has received professionally and personally through her 25-year association with Fermilab. FFSE congratulates Anna for her dedication to her students, her profession and FFSE.