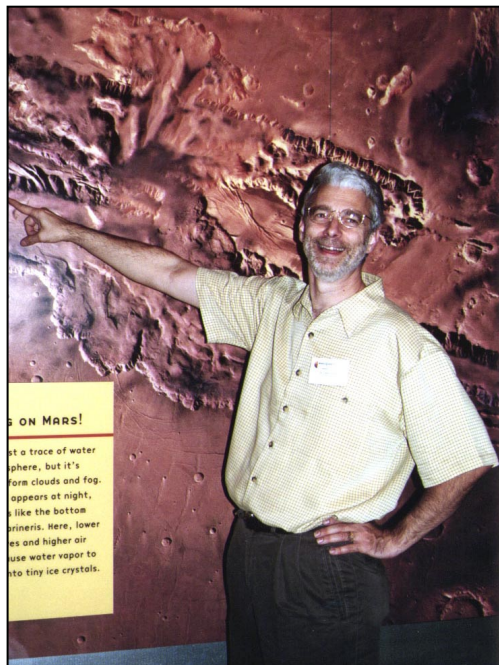


PROFILES OF SCIENTISTS IN EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

This profile is based on an interview of **Dr. Todd Clancy** about his involvement in the creation of a traveling science exhibition called *MarsQuest*. Todd is a scientist who supports education and public outreach (EP/O), but who does not want to compromise his primary research interests. The interview was conducted by Dr. Cherilynn Morrow at the Space Science Institute of Boulder, CO in September 2000.



Dr. Todd Clancy of the Space Science Institute, pictured here in front of the Valles Marineris mural during *MarsQuest*'s visit at the Catawba Science Center in Hickory, NC.

Current professional position:

I'm a research scientist with the Space Science Institute (SSI) of Boulder, CO. I'm actually a remote researcher - I conduct my research from my home, a small island off the coast of North Carolina. I study the atmospheres of the Earth, Mars, and Venus. Lately my work emphasis has been on Mars - studies of clouds, temperatures, water vapor, photochemistry - the general behavior of the atmosphere of Mars.

Description of EP/O role :

I collaborated with SSI on a major Mars traveling exhibit [5,000 square feet] called *MarsQuest*. Initially, I helped with the NSF proposal and conceptual design. After that, I served with the science advisory group, reviewing text or video segments, or answering questions to support the *MarsQuest* educator workshops.

Comments on his time commitment

My *MarsQuest* involvement has been all voluntary - a public service in a sense. The proposal development required perhaps a month of my time all together. After that, my time contribution became much more limited.

I'm not particularly focused on doing education and public outreach. I'm really a full time researcher - it's a very demanding job, more than 40 hours per week. I simply cannot afford the time and the dedication it takes to become a truly professional EP/O person. So my role in *MarsQuest* has been a very nice fit for me.

His most valuable impact on MarsQuest:

In large part, the overall theme of the exhibit was strongly influenced by my suggestions. It was my idea to view Mars as a wilderness - like a national or international park - an unspoiled natural preserve in which there are different regions to explore, such as there are in Yellowstone Park. The exhibit is now a reality, and although my involvement has been largely advisory, it would not exist if I had not been involved. That's very gratifying.

Todd describes how he got involved:

I happened to be at SSI when our director, Dr. Paul Dusenbery, was looking for a theme for his next big traveling exhibit project. He and I agreed that the upcoming series of missions to Mars was a very good focus.

Todd's words of wisdom about EP/O:

Keep an open mind about whether or not you will ever be involved in EP/O. It certainly wasn't on my radar. I had no intention of going that direction - nothing against it - it simply wasn't one of my ambitions. My experience with *MarsQuest* made me realize that I am capable of contributing, even though I didn't consider education and outreach one of my skills. So, when an EP/O opportunity comes along, give it a try!