

**Virginia Association of Science Teachers
2024 Professional Development Institute**

**General Session III
Saturday, November 16, 12:45 PM**



Dr. George Hademenos, Richardson High School in Richardson, Texas

“Empowering Students to Make a Grade (and a Difference) in the STEM Classroom: The W⁵ + H of my Experience as a Global Educator”

I am a Physics teacher with 23 years in the classroom at Richardson High School in Richardson, Texas. I love teaching physics because, as I tell my students each year, I do not have to think long and hard to identify examples of real-world applications to draw relevance to content taught in class. In the past 10 years, these examples have provided me with opportunities to extend content and observations for students from a local perspective to incorporate instructional activities and projects with a global purpose.

But where do these examples come from? In short, they arise from my travel experiences — critical components that facilitated my transformation from classroom teacher to global educator. Becoming a global educator opened up a “whole new world” for me to extend STEM instruction beyond the four walls of my classroom to the four corners of the globe. I would like to share with you how travel experiences provided me with unique instructional approaches to empower students to drive action and make a difference on global issues and how you can do the same in your classroom.

Dr. George Hademenos - Biography

George has been teaching physics for 23 years at Richardson High School in Richardson, TX. He was awarded a BS degree in Physics from Angelo State University and MS and PhD degrees in Physics from the University of Texas at Dallas. He lives in Richardson with his wife Kelly who recently retired as a classroom teacher. They have a daughter, Alexandra, who graduated from Angelo State University with a degree in Elementary Education and is teaching Junior High ESL English in Dallas ISD, and two fur babies: Atticus and Jane, rescues from the local animal shelter.

George is always on the lookout for innovative approaches and creative strategies to help bring STEM alive for his students. One such approach involves global education. His interest in global education began in 2014 with an opportunity to fly aboard NASA's SOFIA as an Airborne Astronomy Ambassador and has continued with field experiences to Vietnam as a Fulbright DAST recipient, France as a Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms teacher, the Gulf of Mexico as a NOAA Teacher-at-Sea, and Papua New Guinea as a Fulbright Specialist. These experiences have provided him with instructional opportunities for students to learn about, propose solutions, and drive action on globally relevant STEM-related issues.