

ON THE ROAD FOR EDUCATION: TURNING BUSINESS TRAVEL INTO E/PO OPPORTUNITIES

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One seemingly universal characteristic of the research scientist and their associates is the necessity for travel. Members of the joint NASA/CNES TOPEX/Poseidon/Jason-1 (T/P/J) Education and Public Outreach Team are promoting a concept that benefits both the scientist on business travel, and the general public.

"On the Road for Education" is a program whereby members of the Project take a few hours in their travel schedule to visit a school, informal education venue, or a community group located in the destination city. Formal and informal educators, and civic group officers always welcome visits by professional scientists to give lectures on their research activities, do some hands-on demonstrations in a science center, or just talk to a group of students about career opportunities in science and engineering.

The T/P/J outreach team has an educator mailing list that includes members across the country. When contacted in advance of a science team member's travel schedule, outreach team members are happy to locate a school, museum or science center in or near the destination city and arrange an outreach opportunity for the scientist. We can also provide support with handouts for both public and educational uses. It is a goal of NASA to inspire the public and the next generation of explorers. "On the Road for Education" provides an easy mechanism for involvement by any scientist, and may help to make that next business trip even more enjoyable.