

William “Bill” Yucuis graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974 with a Bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Bill spent 20 years in the Air Force, primarily as a pilot, and flew F-4 and F-16 aircraft. In between F-4 and F-16 assignments, the Air Force sent him to Purdue University where he earned a Master’s degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. Bill then returned to the Air Force Academy where he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Astronautical Engineering. Bill retired from the Air Force in 1994 and moved to Orlando, Florida, where he began a second career in public school education.

Bill taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade math for six years in Orange County, where he was head of their Math Department for two years.

Bill was hired by Lyman High School in 2002 to start a four-year Aerospace track for the Seminole County Institute for Engineering Magnet program. The Aerospace track required students to take an Aerospace class as an elective each year. They spent the freshman year concentrated on basic engineering skills. The sophomore year focused on aircraft. The junior year emphasized astronautics, including orbital theory and mechanics, propulsion, and support systems. They used the textbook, *Understanding Space*, which is the introductory space text used at the US Air Force Academy. The senior year, students worked on engineering projects, many which included state or national level competitions. During this time, Bill was also an Adjunct Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for one year and Seminole State College (SSC) for five years. As an Adjunct Professor at SSC, his students earned two college credits for an Introduction to Engineering Careers course and an Engineering Concepts Methods course where they learned to use EXCEL and MATLAB software to solve engineering problems. Bill retired from public school teaching in June 2014.

Bill earned numerous outstanding teacher awards including the AFA State Teacher of the Year and Lyman High School Teacher of the Year. Bill was named by the USA Today newspaper to their 2007 All-USA Teacher Team, one of 20 teachers selected nationwide for their promotion of teaching in the Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering (STEM) fields. In 2007, Bill earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Bill has been active volunteer for many years in the Air Force Association (AFA), working at the local, state, and national levels. He has served as a Chapter President, a Chapter and State Education Vice President, the Florida State Executive Vice President and Florida State President. Bill has been a member of the AFA national Aerospace Education Council (AEC), which directs and oversees all AFA Education Programs, since 2012. In 2014, the AEC named Bill as Chairman of an AFA Space Task Force which developed StellarXplorers, the first national high school space competition, and continues today as the StellarXplorers Chief of Academics and Training.

