

# David C. Leake

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## Education background:

B.S. (Physics) and Ed.M. (Secondary Education, Science focus), both from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

## Employment History:

1989-2019 – Professor of Physics/Astronomy at [Parkland College](#) (Champaign, IL), [Planetarium](#) director since 2000. Retired: July 1, 2019.

## Skills & Responsibilities:

- Budget – monitoring, planning and revenue generation
- Marketing/Media relations – working with marketing department on posters and print ads, many TV appearances (CI Living, WCIA Morning Show, etc) and radio interviews (see samples at <http://starguy.us/>)
- Publications – write & distribute two quarterly newsletters and a monthly astronomical society newsletter in addition to press releases. Write a weekly newspaper column (see samples at <http://starguy.us/>)
- Curriculum Development/Programming – working with local school districts and scout groups to plan content. Also responsible for weekend public schedule.
- Host/Presenter – presented public programming, and education programming for visiting school groups plus hosted kid’s birthday parties and all rental events.
- Management – supervised team of two plus student workers. Conducted performance evaluations.

## Teaching/Planetarium Highlights:

- Worked with the [Champaign County Forest Preserve District](#) to secure “Dark Sky Park” status from the International Dark Sky Association for the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, the first Dark Sky Park in Illinois (2018)
- Elected to prestigious “Parkland (College) Society” (2017)
- Received the [North Central Region of the Astronomical League](#) award for contributions to amateur astronomy (2017)
- Presented Parkland College Convocation keynote speaker (spring, 2017)
- Selected for the Parkland College Library READ poster (2016)
- Appointed [“Solar System Ambassador”](#) (NASA/Jet Propulsion Lab volunteer) (2014 to present)
- Elected 24<sup>th</sup> president, [Great Lakes Planetarium Association](#) for 2012-2014 (president-elect in 2010, past-president for 2014-2016). Served as Development Committee chair, (2016-2019), working as vendor liaison at the annual conference.
- Received the Convention & Visitors Bureau inaugural [Tourism Award](#) (2013)
- Chosen by the Parkland College president to co-lead the college’s 2012 re-accreditation effort.
- Awarded the [Outstanding Faculty Member](#) in the state of Illinois by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (2005) (first Parkland faculty member to win the state award)

- Served as Audio/visual curator for the Great Lakes Planetarium Association in charge of image bank and show kit distribution (2002 to present)
- Served as an educational consultant to the local Unit #4 school district in assisting with new science curricula, including “Our Place in Space” for 4th grade (1994), “Living and Working in Space” for 5th grade (1997) and “Patterns of Earth & Sky” for 5<sup>th</sup> grade (2019) . Conducted workshops for local teachers in support of new science units.
- Host: “Live & Learn” television show on PCTV (2003-2007) and host of “Surrounded by Science” TV show (25 episodes, 2006-2013) (see samples at <http://starguy.us/>)
- Wrote and recorded an astronomical radio spot for the syndicated Midwest Today Radio Edition (2005-2016). (see samples at <http://starguy.us/>)
- Write a “This Week’s Prairie Skies” newspaper column for the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette (2006 to present).
- Co-host with WILL’s Ed Kieser for the “Sky Guys” radio call-in show (2008-2010). Many appearances on “Penny for Your Thoughts” (WDWS), SJ Broadcasting, WCIA “Morning Show” and “CI Living.” (see samples at <http://starguy.us/>)
- Served as past-president & maintain active membership, [Champaign County Museums Network](#). Coordinated a “Museums at the Mall” exhibit in 2004.

**Other:**

- Campaign chairperson, Champaign County Forest Preserve District “Yes to Forests” tax referendum (2020) <https://www.yestoforests.org/>
- Committee member, “Restart Committee,” New Horizon Methodist Church, Champaign (2020)

**References can be provided upon request**