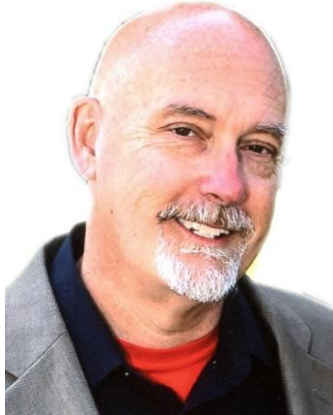


In memory of *Michael Cummins*

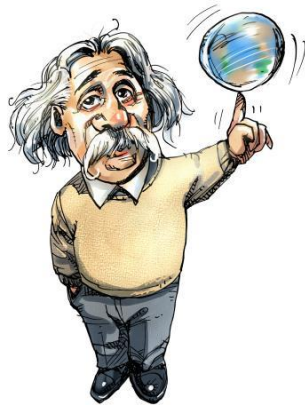
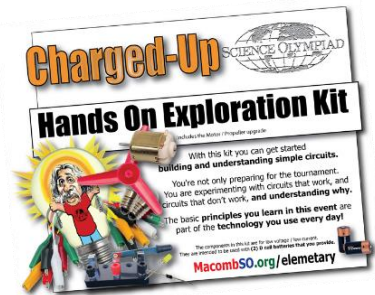


Mike Cummins was a remarkable member of Macomb Science Olympiad, who we lost to cancer in March 2020. He and his wife Ruth were involved since the very beginning in 1985. Today there are so many things that you see about the quality of our program that were the result of Mike's creativity and passion.

If your family has been participating for more than a few years, you undoubtedly saw Mike carrying a camera, snapping candid photos and also during awards. And within a few short days after the tournament, literally hundreds of photos of students competing and posing with medals would be posted to our Facebook page. If you watched a training video on our YouTube channel, chances are it was recorded and edited by Mike.

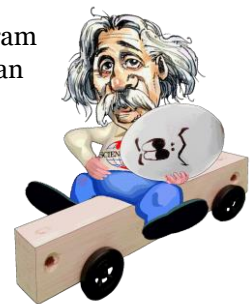
Did you use a Quick Start Kit this season? Those began as Mike's brainchild to give struggling teams a boost. The first Crime Buster kits were a mess to assemble! We now offer kits for half of the events. They look professional because of Mike's creativity and attention to detail.

Have you noticed our quirky Einstein character? Little by little Mike made him the indelible brand of our Elementary Science Olympiad program. We now have an award named after Einstein, which was also Mike's idea.



Have you enjoyed competing in the Crash Car Eggspert or the Precision Ping Pong Propulsion events? Those events are Mike Cummins original creations. Creating a new event is not easy. Creating a new event that people love and put on the top of their list when signing up for the team is unlikely. Creating two is, well, Mike.

Mike's attitude and behavior also set him apart. Our program is 100% run by volunteers and sometimes the long hours can create stress, frustration, and conflict. Mike always looked for the best in others, and just as important, he would tell others what he saw. You couldn't work with Mike without feeling appreciated and valued.



The Michael Cummins Rising Star Award

In recognition of Mike's many contributions to our programs, we are proud to rename the Rising Star award. This award recognizes the outstanding results which come from diligence and commitment. Those are characteristics which Mike exemplified.