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How the Formation of One Company Led To Many Global Optics Clusters

Bob Breault

Abstract

I took a circuitous, but planned route from a childhood of building small rockets (pre-Sputnik) in a small rural town, influenced by one keystone book on astronomy, received a BS in mathematics, but not to become a “mathematician”, just to have it as a tool to do space based research. Then after graduation I planned on going into the Air Force as a fighter pilot, get to Luke Air Force base (the fighter pilot initial training school), Edwards Test Flight School, and Nellis Air Force Base as a “top gun” instructor. In this 1953 plan I would get a PhD from the University of Arizona at age 36 in astronomy designing and working on space-based satellites and become an astronaut.

Take out going to Edwards Test Flight School, change the PhD in astronomy at age 36 to a PhD in Optics at age 38 analyzing many space based telescopes, include some academic challenges all along the way, add an invitation/request by NASA, immediately after receiving my PhD, to reapply for the astronaut program (that I turned down by not re-applying), add the founding of Breault Research Organization, becoming a regional economic advisor to multiple regions in 29 countries and 18 states, and building 25 Optics Clusters around the world, and you have a synopsis of my life in bullet form. How, is the topic of the presentation?

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