



Kentucky Center for Mathematics Numeracy Conference

LOUISVILLE, KY. – The Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM), housed at Northern Kentucky University, recently hosted a numeracy conference focused on helping teachers of students in all grades develop a deep understanding of how numbers work. On March 5th and 6th, 2009, more than 300 mathematics educators from across the state gathered at the Downtown Hyatt Regency in Louisville, KY to participate in a diverse array of sessions with topics ranging from the mental images young children use in early mathematics to making algebra meaningful for high school students. In all, 47 sessions were conducted by 74 presenters from Kentucky and beyond. Coaches, mathematics intervention teachers, other Kentucky experts, and distinguished educators and researchers from around the nation shared their passion and knowledge to an enthusiastic audience. Among these, Cathy Fosnot (*City College of New York*), Mark Thames (*University of Michigan*), Sally Moomaw (*University of Cincinnati*), Patty King (*US Math Recovery Council*), and Janet Tassel (*Western Kentucky University*) each led presentations on different aspects of mathematical learning. Among the most popular presentations were 6 consecutive sessions led by skilled specialists from the Partnership in Mathematics and Science Education Reform (PIMSER) that addressed student development at all grade levels.

The conference concluded with a luncheon for attendees and closing remarks by Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary, Helen Mountjoy. In this talk, Secretary Mountjoy underscored the importance of meaningful mathematics as well as the opportunities ahead for Kentucky educators and their students as a result of the KCM intervention and coaching initiatives.

A primary focus of the KCM is the training and support of mathematics intervention teachers and mathematics coaches. Currently, KCM coordinates programs in 68 counties with plans for future expansion. This was the first conference that the KCM has hosted, and responses from the attendees indicate that this was a successful event. Denise Justice, a math coach for the Raceland-Worthington School district (Greenup Co.), remarked, "I feel it was a successful conference in many ways. The sessions were informative, thought

provoking and very hands on for the participants. Many of the activities from the sessions could be taken back to the classroom and used the next day." Similarly, Stephanie Gastauer, assistant principal of Tollsboro Elementary School (Lewis Co.), stated, "I found that the information provided served many audiences which helped those of us in a particular educational setting to network and glean many helpful ideas from others. Last, and certainly not least, I gained a much better understanding of the progressions of mathematical thinking." Anonymous survey responses revealed that nearly 95% of attendees were either satisfied or very satisfied with the conference sessions, materials, organization, and presenters. In light of this response from the mathematics education community, the KCM is currently exploring opportunities for similar events in the future including the possibility of co-sponsoring an event with the Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics.



Secretary Mountjoy addresses mathematics educators at the KCM Numeracy Conference

