



# Teaching Mathematics Intentionally: The 2017 KCM Conference

The KCM (Kentucky Center for Mathematics) hosted its ninth annual conference on March 6 & 7, 2017 in Lexington, Kentucky. The theme of the conference, "Intentionality: Making Math Meaningful," encouraged attendees to interact with passionate and knowledgeable colleagues while also exploring tools and strategies for intentional mathematics teaching and learning.

The conference theme was chosen based on the NCTM's (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) landmark publication, *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Success for All*, which states, "Effective mathematics teaching



**Conference attendees enjoy one of the six featured speaker sessions offered throughout the conference.**

begins with a shared understanding among teachers of the mathematics that students are learning and how the mathematics develops along learning progressions" (p. 12).

A record number of 603 educators attended the conference, representing preschool through postsecondary education, from 93 Kentucky school districts and 6 Kentucky postsecondary institutions. In addition, 92 breakout sessions were offered throughout the two day event.

Teachers engaged in hands-on activities and shared ideas with standout mathematics educators from throughout the country as featured speakers including Cynthia Bell (Literacy Assistance Center), Douglas Clements (University of Denver), Sherry Parrish (Author & Mathematics Education Consultant), Kathy Richardson (Math Perspectives Teacher Development Center),

Greg Tang (GregTangMath.com), and Pamela Weber Harris (The University of Texas at Austin).

Teachers felt these featured speakers provided an amazing and transformational opportunity. One participant commented: "I attended Cynthia Bell and Pamela Weber Harris' sessions, and of course heard Greg Tang speak at lunch. All three had powerful, intriguing ideas that I am continuing to explore after the conference!"

Another participant wrote about the featured speaker sessions: "Phenomenal, outstanding



**Senator Mike Wilson and keynote speaker, Greg Tang, share a smile together during the March 6 luncheon.**

and inspiring. I felt so excited and rejuvenated in my teaching practice and learned so many practical tips and ideas!"

In celebration of KCM's 11 years of service and state-wide partnerships, the KCM conference provided two luncheons for attendees, which featured a multitude of special guests from across the state.

During the luncheon on Monday, March 6, Senator Mike Wilson, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, welcomed attendees and shared his vision for education policy in the Commonwealth. Afterward, conference keynote speaker, Greg Tang, NY Times best-selling author and TEDx speaker presented a compelling look at three skills students need to be proficient in mathematics: visualization, reasoning and number sense.

On Tuesday, March 7, conference attendees excitedly welcomed Commissioner Stephen Pruitt to the conference luncheon. Commissioner Pruitt encouraged teachers to use their voices to influence decisions that directly affect their profession. He also shared the progress being made on the new assessment system. In addition, Sue Cain, Senior Policy Advisor for the CPE (Council on Postsecondary Education), outlined the CPE's recent initiatives to improve postsecondary outcomes for Kentucky students. Northern Kentucky University Provost, Sue Ott Rowlands, provided closing remarks.



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Attendees were eager to share feedback about their two-day conference experience. One participant stated, "The KCM conference is always motivating this time of year and inspires me to keep teaching better and stronger. I always gain knowledge, games and resources to improve my math instruction."

Another attendee wrote, "The KCM conference impacted my practice greatly. I have already implemented several strategies/ games I learned in the sessions I attended. It allowed me the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of foundational math concepts."

The 2018 conference is currently in the planning process. We hope to see you for another record-breaking event!

March 2017