



Tammy May, an MIT (Mathematics Intervention Teacher) at Lebanon Elementary in Marion County is one of seven recipients of the Northern Kentucky University Trailblazer Award for Mathematics Education. Since 2008 she has worked hard to diagnose and address the needs of primary grades students having difficulty with mathematics.

Through intensive Math Recovery training provided by the KCM (Kentucky Center for Mathematics), she has learned to pinpoint student progress and make targeted instructional decisions so students have learning experiences that are challenging, but attainable. Tammy claims that this training has transformed her practice as she now better understands how young children think, whereas in the past she did not know exactly how to help those who were struggling. As her students are successful, they gain confidence and are better able to embrace new learning opportunities.

Tammy's students have shown exceptional gains on the 2013-2014 MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment. On average her students scored 20 RIT (Rausch Unit) points higher in the spring than in the fall and most students increased their percentile rankings by 10 percentage points or more.

Tammy is an innovative, insightful teacher leader who thinks deeply about her work and its impact on others. She has shown a strong commitment to teacher leadership, as she serves as an EERTI (Enacting Effective Response to Intervention in Primary Grades Mathematics) Leader and has completed rigorous requirements to become certified to provide training for both Add+Vantage MR and SNAP (Student Numeracy Assessment Progressions). In addition, she willingly shares resources and ideas during collegial meetings with other MITs in the KCM statewide learning community.

As a front-line “go-to” mathematics education expert, Tammy collaborates and co-teaches with teachers at her school, models lessons, and shares strategies and tools for developing strong number sense among primary and intermediate grade students. Most recently, Tammy worked with third grade teachers at her school to implement Number Talks, in which students engage in advanced quantitative reasoning and explain their thinking to others. She has influenced teachers at her school to move beyond just teaching procedures to teaching for understanding. Lebanon Elementary Principal Donna Royse said she is proud of Tammy's true leadership and that her work with teachers across district, which has been well received: “They have always raved about her knowledge and are excited about the information she shares that they can use in the classroom.”

Tammy's position as an MIT has been made possible by Kentucky's Mathematics Achievement Fund, paying \$41,000 per year to her school (and 109 other schools). Tammy's dream is to have a continuing opportunity to help at-risk students become successful, confident learners, working with other teachers to do the same.

