KCM Programs in the National Spotlight

The Kentucky Center for Mathematics’ (KCM) effort to meet the needs of students at all levels, through extensive collaboration with faculty members, P-12 educators, and state agencies, is receiving national recognition at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) annual conferences.

Postsecondary Faculty Members: Kirsten Fleming, KCM Executive Director participated in a project sponsored by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The collaboration included the Kentucky Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, and the P20 Innovation Lab. The group developed and offered workshops designed to assist postsecondary faculty in learning about the impact of Senate Bill 1 (2009). Seven workshops, with 345 participants, were offered throughout Kentucky from February to November 2011.

Elementary Teacher Preparation: Jonathan Thomas, KCM Faculty Associate and faculty members from Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University have formed a research collaborative - Noticing Numeracy Now. The collaborative is designed to improve the mathematical preparation of elementary teachers. More than 400 pre-service teachers will be impacted over three semesters by providing tools and strategies, in alignment with the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

The Senate Bill 1 workshop project and Noticing Numeracy Now are being presented at the national AERA Conference. AERA is a prominent international professional organization, with the primary goal of advancing the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results.

In-service Elementary Teachers: Alice Gabbard, KCM Senior Director and postsecondary faculty at Eastern Kentucky University and Northern Kentucky University have designed a professional development course to demonstrate effective methods for implementation of Response to Intervention that will improve the teaching and learning of mathematics for students with learning deficiencies and disabilities. Their efforts and involvement with the Council for Exceptional Children workgroup is helping to bridge the early mathematics education and special education research communities.

High School Teacher Preparation: Laura Bristol, KCM Assistant Director, is collaborating with postsecondary faculty at Northern Kentucky University to enhance the preparation of secondary pre-service teachers. The work being done is in alignment with the newly adopted Kentucky Core Academic Standards and will provide insightful content and pedagogical knowledge to increase the effectiveness of future secondary teachers.

The professional development course for elementary teachers and efforts to enhance the preparation of secondary pre-service teachers will be presented by the KCM and its collaborators at the upcoming national NCTM Conference. NCTM is a global leader and authority in mathematics education that works to ensure all students have access to the highest quality of mathematics teaching and learning.