The PAEMST Goes to an MIT—For a Third Consecutive Time!

Suzanne Farmer, MIT (Mathematics Intervention Teacher) at Toliver Elementary in Danville, Kentucky is the recipient of the 2012 PAEMST (President Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching) for grades K-6. This year marks the third consecutive biennium where an MIT from a Mathematics Achievement Fund school has received this award.

The PAEMST is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. Recipients of the award receive $10,000 from the National Science Foundation and participate in educational and celebratory events in Washington, D.C. Additionally, recipients gain the opportunity to be part of a growing national network of excellent educators who contribute to improving the mathematics and science achievement of students.

"Kentucky has come a long way to become a leader in terms of mathematics instruction and intervention, which is largely due to the work of the KCM," Farmer said. The MAF (Mathematics Achievement Fund), an investment made by the Kentucky General Assembly since 2006, provides funding for MITs who participate in ongoing professional learning facilitated by the KCM. "The [MAF] is some of the best use of education dollars I've seen spent during my experience as a teacher," Farmer said.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that the last three PAEMST winners from Kentucky in elementary were all KCM trained MITs when they applied. KCM has not only improved my mathematics content knowledge, but my instruction overall by helping me be better at assessment, analyzing student behaviors, designing instruction, and reflecting."

-Suzanne Farmer, MIT Toliver Elementary

Farmer has served as an MIT in the KCM's Primary Mathematics Intervention Program since 2007, and not only helps struggling students, but also helps other teachers improve their math instruction for all students through coaching and collaborating. "KCM has improved my professional reflection and ability to analyze student behaviors and assessments to drive instruction," said Farmer. "In addition, the KCM has provided me with the knowledge and opportunities to lead other teachers through the KCM Conference and EERTI [Enacting Effective Response to Intervention]."

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