



A Memorable “Engage!”ment: The 2015 KCM Conference

The KCM (Kentucky Center for Mathematics) hosted its seventh annual conference on March 9 and 10 in Lexington, Kentucky. The theme of the conference “Engage!” encouraged attendees to both engage with their passionate and knowledgeable colleagues while also acquiring the tools and strategies to engage students in the learning of rich and interesting mathematics. And my, was it a memorable “Engage!”ment indeed!

Over 490 educators attended the conference, representing preschool through postsecondary education, from 83 different Kentucky school districts and 10 Kentucky postsecondary public and private institutions. In addition, 82 breakout sessions were offered throughout the two day conference with a total of 164 speakers and co-speakers presenting these sessions.

The KCM conference also played host to Dr. William McCallum, one of the lead writers for the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. Dr. McCallum participated in a panel discussion on Monday, March 9, titled, “Implementation of the Common Core,” where panelists responded to questions from audience participants as well as questions provided in advance from teachers and other mathematics stakeholders in Kentucky. One participant who attended the panel discussion stated, “[panelists were] very knowledgeable of Common Core; excellent communication to help teachers!”

The second annual “Celebration Dinner” was also held on Monday, March 9, where Kentucky educators were celebrated for their excellent work across the state, while reflecting on next steps for continued improvement. Attendees were joined by several special guests including Robert King, President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, who welcomed attendees and discussed the “Kentucky Rising” initiative; Dr. McCallum, who provided a fascinating look at how to analyze different student approaches to solving the same problem; and Dr. Katherine Frank, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Kentucky University, who shared her excitement about the KCM and the work of Kentucky teachers.

Conference attendees were eager to share their thoughts about the two-day experience. One attendee wrote, “I learned new ideas and strategies for meeting the individual needs of my students and received valuable resources to share with my staff.” Another attendee stated, “We sent four teachers to the conference, and they have come back excited to share new ideas with their teams and have already shared with me [ideas] they are [already] implementing in their classrooms.”

The 2016 conference is in the planning process! Mark your calendars for March 7 and 8, 2016 at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington to participate in this outstanding annual event. We hope to see you there!



MITs pose with Dr. Katherine Frank, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Northern Kentucky University and Alice Gabbard, KCM Senior Director.



Conference attendees engage with one another during a hands-on activity at one of the 82 conference sessions offered.



Robert King, President of the Council on Postsecondary Education, addresses attendees during the March 9 Celebration Dinner.