

Archived Information

California Mathematics Council

Goal area of the activity: Improving Teacher Quality

A brief summary: The CMC mission statement speaks to our commitment in this area:

... “*The California Mathematics Council (CMC) is committed to...
Promoting professional activities that will ensure continual improvement
towards excellence in the teaching of mathematics...*”

Purpose: Professional organizations have a responsibility to the membership to maintain a standard of excellence for every conference, symposium and communication.

Accomplishments/Results:

- Distributes a professional journal. The ComMuniCator addresses current challenges and provides teacher tested activities that promote learning.
- Hosts annually an Algebraic Thinking Symposium and two other Conferences which reach over 8000 parents and educators, public and private, annually.
- Developed a suggested format for follow-up at the school site after attendance at CMC sponsored events.
- Participates in the Mathematics Education Collaborative, an NSF Initiative, and sponsors 20 teacher leaders in order to scale-up outreach to local communities.
- Partners with CA Subject Matter Projects, Institutions of Higher Learning, County Offices of Education, CA Department of Education, individual districts and community organizations in projects that are mutually beneficial.
- Provides financial support for teacher sponsored Student Activities funded through the CMC Student Activities Trust Fund.
- Encourages teachers to apply for National Board Certification by providing a network opportunity and a National Board Certified Teacher in Mathematics coach.
- Manages the annual California Presidential Award Nominations for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching in collaboration with the CA Department of Education.
- Enlists teachers to work on the Curriculum Commission and other committees of the State Board of Education, as well as other state governmental agencies (e.g.: Commission on Teacher Credentialing).
- Recognizes outstanding teachers with the George Polya Memorial Award. Those deemed outstanding teachers of K-12 mathematics over a sustained period of time are eligible.
- Published the informative *They're Counting On Us* for parents and teachers; distributed over 100,000 copies in English and Spanish throughout the state and country.
- Publishes a series of articles in the CMC journal to increase professional understanding of complicated topics. Examples: *Have You Every Wondered about the Use of Multiple Measures in Mathematics?* and *Have You Ever Wondered about the Meaning of Standardized Tests?*
- Supports an exceptionally effective network of Affiliates throughout California.

Plans for the next 12 months: January 2003, CMC State Board established three areas of focus for emphasis 2003-04. A plan of action was developed, committees were established, leads were identified and a timeline established.

Areas of Focus: Professional Development, Communication, and Research.