

PCSM members have been studying the *Core Curriculum State Standards (CCSS)* to understand them and to see how they compare and contrast with the NCTM *Principles and Standards for School, Mathematics (PSSM)* and also the Pennsylvania Standards and Anchors. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Henry (Hank) Kepner, immediate Past-President of NCTM, as a speaker for our fall conference to lead us in a discussion of comparing the *CCSS* and the NCTM *PSSM*. Following Dr. Kepner will be our own Dr. Jim Bohan updating us on Pennsylvania's endorsement of the *CCSS* and the actions Pennsylvania will be taking to update the Pennsylvania Standards in view of the *CCSS*, including the what and when of these changes.

The initiation of Mathematics Specialists was a strong recommendation of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (NMP). For a long time the idea of mathematics specialists and the certification for a mathematics specialist has been bounced around in Pennsylvania. Early this summer Past-President Jane Wilburne was part of a Pennsylvania team that attended a national conference on mathematics specialists and a state certification for this position. This conference was for state teams that were looking at or considering establishing the position of mathematics specialist. Jane Wilburne and Pauline Chow also met with Senator Piccola, his chief assistant, and legal counselor to discuss the need for mathematics specialists, focusing on research that shows mathematics specialists have a significant impact on student achievement and noting the future need for legislative support. PCSM has joined with PCTM, and PAMTE (Pennsylvania Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators) in writing a position statement to support the position and certification of mathematics specialist. (This statement is elsewhere in this newsletter.) PSMATYC (Pennsylvania State Mathematic Association of Two Year Colleges) has also voiced their approval of this statement. We are pleased to have NCTM Past-President, Dr. Francis (Skip) Fennell as a conference speaker to discuss the issue of mathematics specialist from the viewpoint of the NMP discussions and also from a program for mathematics specialists that is in place at McDaniel College in Maryland.

During the past year, PCSM has had the opportunity to partner with the REL Mid Atlantic in presenting several workshops on *Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics: Response to Intervention*. Two of these workshops have been held at a primary location with multiple satellite sites; other workshops were single-site workshops. All of the workshops have been very well received.

Our Annual Conference at the Radisson in Camp Hill will be held on a Wednesday afternoon/Thursday morning (November 10-11) so that PCSM members will be able to participate in and present at the PCTM Conference, which begins in full on Thursday. In addition to the sessions noted above, a breakfast session on coaching will be presented and chaired by Gen Battisto. **For the first time**, in an effort to involve more leaders in mathematics education throughout the Commonwealth, we are encouraging PCSM members to invite a colleague to join them as a guest to attend this powerful and informative conference. **Please be sure to preregister and to preregister your guest.**

**We are PCSM**, and PCSM's influence and success depend on the extent to which each of us, as a member, becomes the member described in our Vision Statement.

- How much do we **network and collaborate** with other leaders (and potential leaders) in mathematics education to ensure our and their growth and development?
- Can we . . . do we **communicate** current and relevant mathematics issues, research, trends, programs, policies, best practices, and use of technology to mathematics leaders (and potential leaders) and other stakeholders in education, business, and government?
- How strongly, how passionately do we **support and sustain** improved student achievement in mathematics through the development of effective leadership skills for current and future mathematics leaders?
- How do we **motivate** mathematics leaders to:
  - provide equity and access for all learners
  - recognize that leadership is a product of influence and not only a product of position or title
  - embrace a commitment to lifelong learning
  - look for and nurture leadership qualities in teachers with leadership potential?

Can we do it? We are all confident, strong, energetic educators! – and I am confident that we can!

Finally, *thank you* to each of you for all that you do to strengthen mathematics and student achievement in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania! And a very special **T H A N K Y O U** to Past-President Jane Wilburne, who has served PCSM tirelessly and incredibly well over the past four years, and who will be completing her term at the upcoming conference.

Enjoy the last few days of summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the conference in November.

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