

KCM Good News

Meet the KCM Faculty Associates

The Kentucky Center for Mathematics is proud to partner with these outstanding leaders in mathematics education, representing 4 different Kentucky Universities, who enrich and inspire Kentucky teachers through their expertise, passion, and love of mathematics and mathematics education. Read on to learn more about our exceptional faculty associates.



Dr. Bethany Noblitt,

an associate professor of mathematics and statistics at Northern Kentucky University, actively contributes to the KCM by organizing monthly Math Circle gatherings for K-12 math teachers. These meetings serve as a platform for teachers to indulge in their passion for mathematics and also offer valuable insights for program development and evaluation. Collaborating with Dr. Debbie Thompson from the KCM, Bethany played a vital role in identifying the Kentucky Academic Standards addressed in the Algebra 1 micro-credential modules. These modules are scheduled for implementation in various pilot districts across the state during the 2023-2024 academic year.

"One Monday evening a month, a group of lovers of mathematics hopped on Zoom to do some fun problems together. Throughout the year at the Math Circle meetings, I was constantly reminded of how powerful a mathematical community can be. Jamboard slides were filled, questions were asked, answers were conjectured and tested, connections were made, and time flew. Moments like these are what inspire me to strive to be the best mathematics educator I can be."

Dr. Sarah Kasten

is an associate professor of mathematics education at Northern Kentucky University, and has played a crucial role in supporting the KCM through educational mentoring, program development, and evaluation. She has offered valuable guidance and expertise in mentoring practices to various members of the KCM staff, including the executive director, director, program manager, and regional consultants. These mentoring sessions have provided a platform for the staff to engage in discussions and refine their mentoring skills. The KCM has utilized the educative mentoring training provided by Sarah to coach math coaches involved in the Mathematics Achievement Fund (MAF) and Kentucky Math Teacher Leaders (KYMTL) programs.





Dr. Funda Gonulates

is an assistant professor of mathematics education at Northern Kentucky University, and also serves as the Program Director for the KCM Kentucky Mathematics Teacher Leaders (KyMTL) cohort. In her role as a faculty associate for the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, she closely collaborates with passionate Kentucky mathematics teacher leaders who are dedicated to creating meaningful learning experiences for their students. Dr. Gonulates played a key role in co-developing and co-facilitating a professional development series titled *Creating a Culture of Mathematical Sense-making*. This series aimed to enhance the quality of mathematics instruction throughout the state by fostering a culture of deep understanding and reasoning. Furthermore, she actively contributes to content development, willingly sharing her expertise and knowledge with others whenever the need arises.

"Overall, I am fortunate to work in a role that allows me to make a positive impact on the education of mathematics students in Kentucky. Working with the KCM has been a rewarding experience for me."

Dr. Kanita DuCloux

holds the position of Chair in the Mathematics Department at Western Kentucky University. She has made significant contributions as a co-author of the widely recognized book *Catalyzing Change in High School Mathematics* which has gained national recognition and adoption. Dr. DuCloux plays a crucial role in providing expertise in equitable mathematics practices, ensuring fairness and inclusivity in math education. Additionally, she offers her knowledge and expertise in mathematics content to support the Kentucky Mathematics Teacher Leaders (KyMTL) cohort. Dr. DuCloux's vibrant sessions make her a beloved speaker at KyMTL, where her dedication to fostering equitable mathematics classrooms shines through. Through her work, she positively influences classrooms in Kentucky by designing tasks that promote equity and inclusivity.





Dr. Jonathan Thomas,

an associate professor of mathematics education and the chair of the department of STEM education at the University of Kentucky, holds multiple notable positions and accomplishments. Formerly a board member and chairperson of the USMRC (United States Math Recovery Council), he recently co-authored a book titled *Teaching Mathematics Conceptually: Guiding Instructional Principles for 5-10-year-olds*, which was published just last month. This book focuses on essential principles for effectively teaching elementary mathematics and has been selected as a primary resource by the U.S. Math Recovery Council.

In recognition of his expertise, Dr. Thomas was invited to deliver a keynote presentation at the annual Math Recovery meeting held in Spokane, Washington in April.

Within his involvement with the KCM, Dr. Thomas plays a vital role in facilitating professional learning experiences for teachers throughout the Commonwealth. He brings practical experience as well, having worked as a mathematics intervention teacher in a variety of educational settings, including public, private, and charter schools in the NKY/Greater Cincinnati area.

Dr. Thomas is deeply engaged in research, with a focus on investigating responsive mathematics teaching practices, addressing equity concerns in elementary mathematics classrooms, exploring nonverbal patterns of mathematical interaction, and studying the cognitive progressions of children's mathematical development.

Dr. Kate Marin

At the University of Louisville, Dr. Kate Marin serves as an assistant professor specializing in elementary, middle, and secondary teacher education. She actively contributes her expertise to the Kentucky Mathematics Teacher Leaders (KYMTL) cohort, providing valuable mathematics content and guiding them in mathematics pedagogy. Alongside her involvement with KYMTL, Dr. Marin plays a crucial role in the development and evaluation of programs at the KCM.

She conducts book studies and fosters inclusive math teacher communities, with her research specifically focusing on Kentucky teacher leaders. Dr. Marin plays a pivotal role in mentoring teachers, empowering them to drive positive change within their schools, districts, and the state.



"I have truly enjoyed my first year as a faculty associate at KCM. Working with the KY Mathematics Teacher Leaders group has given me an inside view into classrooms across Kentucky. I'm so inspired by the work the KYMTLs are doing and look forward to learning alongside them for years to come."



Dr. Jennifer Bay-Williams,

a professor of human and education development at the University of Louisville, holds a prominent position in the field. She is the author of the widely recognized book "Math Fact Fluency," which serves as the cornerstone for the KCM Math Fact Fluency professional learning course. Dr. Bay-Williams contributes her expertise to the Mathematics Achievement Fund (MAF) and plays a crucial role in program development and evaluation at the KCM. During the 2023 spring semester, Dr. Bay-Williams facilitated an Elementary Math Specialist course titled "Teaching Number Concepts, K-5." This course provided valuable insights and instruction to educators focusing on number concepts in elementary mathematics.

"Working with the elementary math specialists in my course gave me a lens on the bright, hard-working, creative, and caring math coaches in the MAF project, and the teachers and coaches in Louisville and beyond. These individuals are providing much-needed high-quality math learning to their students, teachers, administrators and families. So inspiring! We need this school-level math leadership in every elementary school in Kentucky!"



Congratulations to KCM Faculty Associate, Funda Gonulates, for winning the 2023 CINSAM award! CINSAM awards recognize those who have made extraordinary contributions to CINSAM's mission of promoting excellence, enthusiasm, and equity in STEM education and scholarship.



Congratulations to KCM Faculty Associate, Dr. Bethany Noblitt, for winning the 2023 Frank Sinton Milburn Outstanding Professor Award! The Milburn award recognizes outstanding achievement across the full spectrum of the Northern Kentucky University mission. Way to go, Bethany!

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